

FIGHTING THE VIRUS: THE POLITICS OF COVID-19 RESPONSE IN TAIWAN AND BEYOND



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Confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic, all states have implemented a wide range of policies fighting the exogenous shock. Despite the same goal, pre-existing political institutions influence governments' responses to public health crises in different ways, creating national variations. While most nations struggle to keep the coronavirus under control, Asian countries are perceived as having more success in their COVID-19 responses. In particular, Taiwan's success stands out. As a small state that shares close geographical proximity to China where the first COVID-19 outbreak appeared, Taiwan has maintained its resilience in fighting COVID-19 with low fatality and infection rates. What is the political underpinning of Taiwan's and, more broadly, Asia's success? What explains the variations across Asia? What type of political institutions matter and how?



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Dr. Yen is Assistant Professor of Government at Franklin and Marshall College. Dr. Yen studies political economy issues and social policy development in the developing world. Her main research agenda of interest is to understand the demand side politics of how young democracies create social protection regimes for their citizens, the majority of whom have job insecurity and income instability.

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