Appendix C: The Chinese Context

M.J. Peterson Version 2: Revised November 2010

List of Background Readings

To more fully understand the context in which the Chinese government operated during the SARS outbreak, the following readings are recommended. To distribute these readings to your class, copyright permissions must be granted from the authors/publishers.

1.) People's Republic of China, Ministry of Health. Explanation on Regulations on State Secrets in Health Work and their Specific Classification and Scope (1991). Fei-Ling Wang, trans. *Chinese Law and Government* 36: (2003).

Abstract: Not Available

- 2.) Joseph Fewsmith, "China and the Politics of SARS," Current History 102 (665): (Sept 2003).
 - Abstract: "By challenging the Chinese to consider not only the accountability of their government, but also issues of openness, trust, responsiveness, and the 'right to know,' the SARS crisis seems likely to provide a major impetus to new thinking about relations between society and state."
- 3.) Wang Fei-lin, editor, "Special Issue on SARS in China," *Chinese Law and Government* 36(4): 12-98 (July-August 2003) and 36(6): 3-94 (Nov.-Dec. 2003).

Abstract: "This issue of Chinese Law and Government has four parts....Part one contains two official transcripts of press conferences by the Chinese Ministry of Health, addressing

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the SARS issue in April 2003....Part two of this issue collects the official speeches addressing the SARS epidemic by China's top leaders....Part three displays key PRC laws and regulations that constituted the pre-SARS legal framework governing disease control and dissemination of medical information in China....Part four collects new laws and regulations Beijing hastily made during the SARS epidemic that will likely have profound and lasting effects." From "Guest Editor's Introduction," p 3-7.

4.) Cong Cao, "SARS: 'Waterloo' of Chinese Science," *China: An International Journal* 2(2): 262-286 (Sept. 2004).

Abstract: "It was Mainland China where SARS first struck, and where ultimately there were the most cases. However, Mainland Chinese scientists and physicians failed to capitalize, in terms of research publications, on their advantages and resources. They could have been the first to identify the pathogen, sequence its genome and describe how it sickens its victims. This article examines the reasons why the country lost an opportunity to show off its growing scientific prowess to the international community — authoritative and institutional structures, scientists from different jurisdictions not collaborating, etc. — and concludes that nothing has since changed."

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