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China

Lockdown and Political Repression in China

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— A letter from the mainland

In China, the repression of freedom of speech has become increasingly fierce, and now it has evolved into personal control. The Shanghai lockdown and Jilin lockdown due to the Covid pandemic have fully demonstrated the private usage of the state machinery underpinned by the mercantilism of public management and rising disputes between local and central state officials between various factions in the governments. This scenario has manifested at the expense of the interests of the people. For example, in Jilin, officials have secretly resold consumers basic staples that should be provided to the population for free. Some have even resold national-strategic Covid prevention and control equipment to private players.

PS:

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[1] An open communication protocol designed for instant messaging, presence information, and contact list maintenance (from Wikipedia).