

# The Utility of Gatekeeping Theory in International Aviation under COVID-19 in China

keyan Wu

Jayang-Dong, Dong-Gu, Daejeon, South Korea, Woosong University

**Abstract:** If each country within the global is a point, the bridges that could join them could be aviation and navigation. While air journey has emerged as the desired manner for humans to journey, commercial enterprise and observe abroad. With the effect of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), many nations closed their air direction after February 2020. As a result, most of the bridges connecting the arena have been broken. In phrases of the shape and length of the present-day epidemic, how must international locations that rely upon tourism sales reply to this crisis? This paper takes the circuit breakers and incentives measurements for airways issued via way of means of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) as an instance to expect if the epidemic cannot be absolutely managed and removed in a brief length of time, what impact will this mechanism have on tourism improvement and epidemic unfold control. The secondary records may be used to analysis. Data on Chinese inbound and outbound vacationers amassed thru the internet site of applicable departments are used to demonstrate the significance of aviation enterprise to Chinese tourism earlier than the outbreak and the contribution of Chinese vacationers to tourism in southeast Asia and different international locations. In addition, the real instances after the promulgation of circuit breakers and incentives measurements also are amassed to demonstrate the significance the Chinese authorities attaches to this degree and its implementation strength. While this coverage has completed little to assist worldwide tourism, it gives a manual to how tourism will keep growing within the context of the worldwide epidemic within the destiny. This epidemic is the trouble for the complete global. At the give up of the article, a few guidelines on a way to expand within the destiny situation may be placed forward.

**Keywords:** Tourist Industry; Coronavirus Disease 2019; Circuit Breakers and Incentives Measurements; Future Development

## 1. Introduction

Aviation has come to be a vital hub connecting countries. The airline enterprise has grown gradually over the last few years, in large part because of extended call for journey and load across the world. Thus, in lots of regions, the aviation enterprise is a key improvement zone for social improvement and financial growth (Dube et al., 2021). Aviation is visible via way of means of most governments as a strategic region carefully related to financial development (Zhang & Graham, 2020). However, there is evidence that the aviation sector is susceptible to many external forces, such as Natural disasters, epidemics, economic recessions and so on (Said & Henderson, 2000). At the start of 2020, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) stated that the airline enterprise is anticipated to boom sales through 4.1% in passenger kilometers and 2.0% in freight ton-kilometers in 2020 (IATA, 2020).

The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has affected all components of social life, inclusive of mass shipping through air, rail, street, and water, in addition to passenger and load shipping because of complicated deliver and demand trends (Abu & Dincer, 2020). Unlike all other infectious diseases in the past, COVID-19 is contagious and spreads faster than SARS, H1N1 and MERS (Liu et al., 2020; Petrosillo et al., 2020). Because of previous experiences with and responses to those epidemics, governments have found out that aviation plays a key position within the spread of COVID-19, and plenty of have opted to shut borders or impose tour regulations to lessen the spread of the virus among countries (Daon et al., 2020).

The remainder of the paper is structured as follows: in section 2 is the literature review of the global aviation situation under COVID-19 and the policy executed by CAAC. Except that, the basic principle of this measure, gatekeeping theory, will also be introduced in this section. Section 3 provides the specific data to explain how circuit breakers and incentives measurements is implemented. Other industries affected by the outbreak in relation to aviation will be discussed in section 4. Finally, the section 5 with conclusion and discussion.

## 2. Literature review

### 2.1 Gatekeeping theory

The concept of gatekeeping is well explored since its evolution in the mid-twentieth century and covers many areas of research and practice (Bass, 1969; Lewin, 1951; Schultze & Boland, 2000; Sturges, 2001; Tushman & Katz, 1980). With the passage of time and the non-stop extension of researchers, the which means of “gatekeeper” has been implemented to each day lifestyles of the public.

Levin to start with used the own circle of relative's dinner desk for instance to demonstrate the function of gatekeepers: if we recognize who the gatekeepers are and the way they make selections from the factor of developing meals to the desk, we will recognize why humans consume sure foods. Later, Wade White (1950) prolonged the term "gatekeepers" to the sector of conversation primarily based totally on Raven, due to the fact White located that newspaper information editors also can be seemed like gatekeepers, and their technique of screening information without delay determines the content material that readers can read. In next studies, students in different disciplines additionally located many gatekeeping phenomena or gatekeeping mechanisms of their respective fields.

## **2.2 Circuit breakers and incentives measurements**

On March 26, 2020, in order to comprise the high risk of imported COVID-19 from abroad, CAAC issued a note on reducing international flights, which require each domestic airline company to maintain only one flight to any country, and each flight should operate no more than one flight per week; every foreign airline company can only keep one route to China, and the number of operation is not more than one flight a week (CAAC, 2020a). Following China's significant success in controlling the epidemic, to resume international traffic and meet basic international traffic, CAAC issued a new notice to step by step resume international flights.

On 4 June 2020, CAAC issued another notice concerning international flights, including circuit breakers and incentives measurements which would be implemented on 8 June (CAAC, 2020b). This notice replaced the notice published on March 26. If the number of infected patients on the flight is zero for 3 consecutive weeks, the number of flights per week will be increased to two, however if the number of infected patients exceeds 5, the flight will be suspended for a week, more than 10 people suspended the airline's route for four weeks, and after that, a weekly flight schedule will resume.

## **3. Date collection**

As one of the critical bridges connecting the world, the airline now no longer handiest includes the characteristic of transporting goods, however, additionally affords exceptional comfort for worldwide monetary and cultural exchanges. But in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the invisibility of the virus and using human-carried plane have rather come to be a vehicle for the unfold of the epidemic. The new notice issued by the CAAC in June 2020 ensure the most possible navigation service in the case of epidemic prevention and control.

Since June 8, 2020, the primary circuit breaker directive has regarded quickly after the implementation of flight incentives and circuit breakers. On June 11, China Southern Airlines flight CZ392 from Dhaka, Bangladesh to Guangzhou determined that 17 passengers with high quality VIRUS nucleic acid had brought about the flight circuit interruption, so CAAC took corresponding measures towards the flight and suspended the flight for four weeks beginning from June 22. (CAAC, 2020c). From the primary circuit breaker directive on June 14, 2020, to November 7, 2020, a complete of thirteen notices associated with flight circuit had been issued, in step with an information listing at the CAAC internet site approximately flight circuit.

The measures have been imposed on 39 flights over a complete duration of five months from June 8 to November 7. The above information shows the Chinese government's clear attitude and determination to enforce this measure, now no longer handiest for the prevention and manipulate of the epidemic, however additionally for the existence and fitness of its citizens. With the in-intensity implementation of the "the Belt and Road I" initiative, China's economic, exchange and cultural ties with the relaxation of the sector have emerge as an increasing number of close, and China's distant places advantages have unfolded all around the international.

## **4. Impact the related industry**

### **4.1 Tourism industry**

The improvement of the aviation enterprise on an international scale originated from the liberalization of air site visitors manipulate after the World War II (Liu & Yin, 2013; Bieger & Wittmer, 2006). Due to the fast, comfortable, and loose from the effect of terrain, air transportation performs an increasingly critical function withinside the tourism enterprise. Meanwhile, the improvement of tourism presents many passengers for the aviation enterprise, that is carefully associated with the tourism enterprise (Zuo, 2017). In addition, geography and time fee additionally make air tour a pinnacle choice.

In many cities, areas and nations, tourism performs a crucial function as a strategic pillar of financial GDP (Abbas et al., 2021). On a worldwide scale, travel and tourism are important contributors to job creation and main sectors of socio-economic and cultural development (McCabe and Qiao, 2020). For instance, tourism in the European Union accounts for 50% and half of the worldwide tourism industry (Naslund et al., 2016), and tourism in European nations accounts for nearly 48% of all global outbound tourism and tourism activities (Boluk et al., 2019). Among them, China and the United States are the primary market players of national tourism inside Europe and the primary individuals to the growth of tourism industry.

For one hundred misplaced traveler rivals, 14 jobs can be misplaced withinside the domestic (regional) tourism industry. Will bring about the lack of 18 million jobs worldwide (the whole contribution of worldwide journey and tourism to employment in 2018 became 5.67%). The effect of the pandemic has had a massive bad effect at the noticeably globalized tourism exertions market.

### **4.2 Airline company**

Tourism is an industry that cannot gain a foothold without mobile tourists (Sharma et al., 2021), and so are airlines. The Air Transport Action Group (ATAG) says 65.5 million jobs guide direct employment of various sorts of crews across the world, such as the aviation industry, airport operators, airlines, air navigation service providers are also indirectly employed, including fuel suppliers, production companies, aircraft organization providers and plenty of others (ATAG, 2020). Airports Council International (ACI) World Director General Angela Gittens talked about in the ACI Media Release (ACI, 2020) that it is able to absorb to 18 months for the restoration of the complete airline enterprise to attain pre-disaster site visitors' levels. ACI additionally highlighted the same worries about the need for a quick and correct reaction when it comes to worldwide monetary policy to protect essential airport operations, which means it will protect millions of jobs across the world. IATA additionally mentions that extra than 2.7 million jobs are presently at risk (Serrano & Kazda, 2020).

## 5. Conclusion and discussion

By analyzing the serious losses caused by COVID-19 to the aviation industry and the related tourism industry, this paper illustrates the important role that the resumption of international flights will bring to the global economic recovery. The circuit breakers and incentives measurements issued by CAAC can not only reasonably open international routes to meet the basic international communication, but also stop the loss in case of the importation of the epidemic to prevent the occurrence of more serious importation of the epidemic.

In addition to providing practical recommendations, this paper also contributes to the literature on the management of international flights. Much of the research has looked at the cost of COVID-19, the severity of the impact of the epidemic and how it could be improved in the future. But there has been little research on how to manage the measures that have made it possible to resume international routes.

However, the research in this article has great shortcomings. The actual situation in different countries and regions is different, especially the epidemic situation in different regions. Because China has relatively good epidemic control, rich experience, and sufficient ability to deal with the sudden situation of the epidemic, this measure can be well applied in China. In addition, the future trend of the epidemic is still unclear, but the development of vaccines and universal vaccination may improve the international aviation situation in the future.

This pandemic has almost brought the global tourism and aviation industry to a standstill, and the future situation is uncertain. However, after accumulating enough experience, each country can designate corresponding policies according to its own national conditions to gradually restore the aviation industry and tourism industry with serious losses. At the same time, it also brings a good opportunity for many industries to update equipment and transfer personnel.

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