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Chinese Law on SARS

By Chenglin Liu

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) is a viral respiratory illness that was first identified in Southern China in November 2002. During a 2003 outbreak in which it spread into more than 20 countries, nearly 8,100 people were infected with SARS, 774 of whom died. To date, no effective vaccination or treatment has been discovered despite worldwide medical efforts.

In all, the economic and social cost of combating SARS in China was enormous. The direct economic loss of the outbreak was approximately \$18 billion, while the loss of confidence by the public in the Chinese health care system was immeasurable.

Chenglin Liu's *Chinese Law on SARS* examines the political and legal aspects of the Chinese government's reaction to the SARS epidemic between November 2002 and June 2003. This latest addition to Hein's

Chinese Law Series traces the development of SARS and analyzes the contrasting responses of the government both before and after April 20, when the national campaign against SARS was officially launched and the government enacted laws that would play a crucial role in containing the epidemic.

An exceptional analysis of the legal and political reaction of the Chinese government to the SARS epidemic.

Liu's work will serve as a valuable resource for anyone interested in public health law in China. All of the major legislation on SARS and other infectious diseases have been translated from Chinese into English by the author and are included in the

appendices. By utilizing the primary materials and analyses in this book, legal scholars and public health experts can make contributions to establishing an effective surveillance system and medical network to prevent epidemic disease both in China and throughout the world.

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