

[中文]

2. 我要写下这灾难¹

[美国] 马克·力文

抗疫心声

- 为什么我要写下这灾难？因为我要写下中国举国上下的万众一心。
- 抗击这次疫情，不仅是中国的责任，更需要全球范围内所有人的共同努力。

我在美国的亲爱的朋友们：

希望你们一切安好。我一直在阅读有关美国流感再次造成可怕后果的新闻报道。我在这里的朋友，有中国人和其他国家友人，希望大洋彼岸的人们都能渡过这次难关。据我所知，中国这几个月一直在应对由新型冠状病毒引发的肺炎疫情。在形势严峻的情况下，看着中国政府出台的各项措施以及每个中国人的积极响应，我不禁为之印象深刻。其实，这并不是中国人民第一次应对这样的让我印象深刻的危机。

自从我 2005 年第一次来到中国，我写的关于中国的歌曲中就有几首谈到了这里发生的灾难。《冻结的梦》与 2008 年冬季的异常天气有关，突如其来的暴雪在当时像现在一样冻结了春运大部分的交通运输系统。中国的春节是全球最大的年度大规模人口迁移。仅仅几个月后，我的歌曲《地震地震》就谈到了四川汶川的地震，这场地震造成约 7 万人死亡。2009 年，我又写了《雨，走开点》，它讲述了中国南方洪水造成的大规模破坏。

为什么我要写下这些灾难？答案很简单。虽然每首歌都在谈论当时特定的灾难和由此引发的可怕后果，但更重要的是，都谈到中国对灾难的应

¹ 本文选自《战“疫”：我在中国》(中文版)，刘利主编，伦敦：环球世纪出版社；南昌：江西教育出版社合作出版，2020 年。第 51-58 页。

对措施，谈到了中国举国上下万众一心对抗灾难。中国政府、人民、军队、警察齐心协力，共同应对这一局势。而且，尽管我还没有开始写这次疫情的歌，但是我发现以往所有的应对措施都出现在了这次新型冠状病毒的斗争中。通过以下几个例子我们不难看出……

湖北省武汉市是疫情严重的城市，除紧急调度外，政府对武汉所有人员限制出入，并出台了相应的隔离措施。同时，在北京，任何有症状的人或进城的人都必须进行14天的隔离，包括我本人在内的数百万人都在家自我隔离。

来自全国各地的200多支医疗队伍和近4万名医护人员已经抵达武汉，以帮助。仅用很短时间就在武汉建立了两所拥有上千张床位的医院，以治疗患者。

为了控制病毒传播，政府宣布春季延迟开学，学校线下停课，有2亿人开始学习线上课程，以确保他们可以足不出户继续接受教育。同时，我们收到了通知，要着手准备线上授课，这我没有一点经验。这个学期我被安排教三门不同的课程：英国文学史、公共演讲和“辩论”。接下来我花了三天时间来调整课程内容，并努力学习使用新的教学工具。这是很大的工作量，但正如我对同事们和朋友们所说的那样，我每次都很珍惜学习新事物的机会。我的课将于明天（2月24日）开始。

无论如何，很明显，14亿中国人的生活都因为这次疫情而被影响。以我为例，我本来计划在北京度过寒假，写我的新书《我在中国的5000个日夜》。此外，我本计划给一些青少年演讲比赛当评委，并计划在1月24日的除夕夜去我一位中国同事的家里过年。但是，新型冠状病毒的出现改变了我的计划。我取消了24日的计划，并开始在自己的公寓中进行自我隔离。演讲比赛和其他一些活动也被取消了，但隔离却有助于我专心写作。

除了写作和备课，我还与我的许多学生和朋友保持联系，了解他们在做什么。在这段时间里，我认识的许多武汉人中，没有谁或者他们认识的朋友感染了新型冠状病毒。同样，许多国家的学生和朋友也定期与我联系，询问我是否健康。另外，《北京青年报》和《人民日报》等多家媒体也与我联系，采访我有关当前情况的看法。

自隔离以来，我只去附近的一家超市买东西。在北京，尽管我周边的街区都仍然十分安静，但我还是注意到了一些变化。例如，当我1月28日去商场的时候，平常在上午8点就开始营业的商场还没有开门。我大约是在9:55到达商场的，那时外面大约站了30个人。5分钟后，门终于开

了，所有人都拥了进去，不一会儿，一半以上的蔬菜就销售完了。还有一个畅销货是口罩。我买了一些蔬菜和两个口罩。在从商场回家的路上，我注意到有几家餐馆，因为春节前备货充足如今却无人光顾，所以摆起了路边摊，销售自己的蔬菜。

没有过几天，我第二次再去购物的时候，来商场的人变少了。现在食物供应很充足，但口罩很紧缺（我后来从一个长期销售口罩的朋友那里订购了20个）。几周后，再去超市，就需要进行体温测量后才能进入了。到了2月19日我生日的那天，变化更大了。更少顾客自己来购物了，原因是商场工作人员都在为顾客打包邮寄。之前商场里的商品大部分是散装，很少会被打包。但现在大部分的商品都被打包并算好了价钱，这样顾客可以拿着就走，更快离开商场。

在过去的一周，这15分钟走到超市的路程也发生了变化。附近以小吃而闻名全国的店铺也开始陆续营业了，虽然不是大多数。在我隔离期间只有几家便利店在营业。大约两个星期前，一家著名的街坊面包店重新营业，奶茶店也有两家开始营业。截至目前，虽然大多数企业仍没有复工，但这条美食街开始变得活跃起来了。

中国现在正在极力地控制疫情的蔓延，但我仍然发现一件令人担忧的事情。除了写作、备课等，我每天都会花一些时间来阅读新闻，尤其是关于新型冠状病毒的新闻。我所关注的不仅是被外国媒体大量扩散的错误的信息，还关注这些歪曲的事实如何在美国和世界其他地区被反华势力所利用。

抗击这次疫情，不仅是中国的责任，更需要全球范围内所有人的共同努力，需要我们大家一起迅速战胜病毒。请加入我们的战斗，并鼓励更多的人一起加入我们吧！

中国挺住！一切都会好起来的！

马克

2020年2月23日于北京

马克·力文，1948年出生于洛杉矶，社会学博士，美国乡村音乐人，慈善事业组织者，专栏作家。现任中国社会科学院、中央民族大学教授。疫情期间正值寒假，他选择留在北京。在家自主隔离时，他撰写了新书，讲述在中国十多年的生活经历；他积极准备开学后的线上课程，调整原来的授课内容。同时他也随时看新闻了解疫情状况，问候在中国的朋友、学生，给他们加油打气。

[参考英文]

Let Me Record this Disaster¹

[USA] *Mark Levine*

Words for China's Combating COVID-19

- Fighting against this epidemic is not only China's responsibility, but also the joint efforts of all people worldwide.
- Why should I write down this disaster? Because I will tell you how Chinese people are united throughout the country.

Dear Friends in the United States,

I hope you are well. I have been reading news reports about the, once again, terrible consequences of the flu in the United States and my friends here, both Chinese and foreigners, hope that everyone there can remain safe. Here in China, as I presume you know, we have been dealing with COVID-19, the illness caused by the novel coronavirus, for the past few months. While the situation is serious, witnessing the aggressive actions of the government and the actions of individual Chinese people in working to control the virus, I cannot help but be impressed. And, this is not the first time that the Chinese response to such situations has impressed me.

Among the songs that I have written about China since I first arrived in China in 2005, there are several that speak about critical situations that have occurred here. Frozen Dreams was about the extraordinary weather during the winter of 2008 that shut down much of the transportation system at the time, like the current situation, of Spring Festival which features the world's largest annual mass migration. Only a few months later, my song Earthquake Earthquake talked about the temblor in Wenchuan, Sichuan Province that cost the lives of more than 70,000 people. The following year I wrote Rain, Rain Go Away about the massive destruction caused by floods in south China.

Why am I writing about all these disasters? The answer is quite simple. While each song talks about the problems and the terrible consequences of the specific

¹ This paper is excerpted from *Battling the Virus: Witnessing China Combating COVID-19* (English Edition), edited by Liu Li, published jointly, London: Global Century Publishing, Nanchang: Jiangxi Education Publishing House, 2020. Pages 64-71.

disaster, more importantly, they all talk about the response. They talk about the unified response. The Chinese government, Chinese people, the army, the police all joined together to confront the situation with great unity. And, although I have not yet written a song about it, what I have seen in all the other situations is what I am seeing in response to this coronavirus. Just to name a few we have seen...

Hubei Province, where the virus was first discovered in the city of Wuhan, has been closed off to all but emergency travel in or out. People there and elsewhere have been quarantined. In Beijing, for example, anyone showing symptoms or people coming to the city are in a mandated 14-day quarantine while millions more, myself included, have been in a self-imposed quarantine.

Hundreds of medical teams with nearly 40,000 medical personnel have arrived in Wuhan from all across China to help. Two over 1000-bed hospitals were built in Wuhan in only ten days to treat affected patients.

For controlling the spread of the virus, the government has delayed school start dates. 200 million are starting online classes so that they can continue their education while staying home with their families. Meanwhile teachers, like me, were asked to prepare for starting online teaching. But I have zero experience in providing this kind of education. This semester I am scheduled to teach three different courses: The History of English literature, Public Speaking and Debating. For the next three days, I adjusted the course contents and worked hard to learn new teaching software. It has involved a massive amount of work but as I told to my colleagues and friends, I cherish the opportunities to learn new things. My classes will start tomorrow (February 24).

One way or another, it is clear that no one's life in China is not being affected. In my case, I was already planning to spend my winter school break in Beijing working on my new book 5000 Days in China. In addition, I was scheduled to judge a few public speaking competitions for young kids and to visit the home of one of my Chinese colleagues for Spring Festival Eve on January 24. I cancelled all plans and began my self-imposed quarantine in my apartment. The competitions and a few other events were cancelled but the quarantine actually helped me focus on my writing.

Apart from writing and planning classes, I have made a point to keep in contact, with many of my students and other friends, checking out how they are doing. Throughout this time I have yet to find a single person, including among the many I know in Wuhan, who has been infected or knows anyone who has been infected with the novel coronavirus. Similarly, I have been regularly contacted by students and friends in many countries to inquire about my health and safety. Also I have been contacted by various media, including Beijing Youth Daily and Peoples Daily, for interviews about the current situation.

Since my quarantine began I have journeyed to a nearby supermarket for food and nowhere else. Although Beijing, and my neighborhood, is still very quiet, I have noticed some changes since my quarantine began. In the market, for example, when I went on about January 28th, the market which normally opens at 8 am had a crowd of about 30 people standing outside when I arrived at about 9:55. The market opened 5 minutes later. Everyone rushed and within the first 20 minutes more than half of

the vegetables had been grabbed up. The other thing that went quickly was masks. I got some vegetables and two masks. On the way back home from the market, I noticed a couple restaurants that had stocked up on supplies in anticipation of large crowds during the holiday had set up tables on the sidewalk and were selling some of their vegetable supply.

By the time of my next shopping trip, a few days later, the crowd at the market was a little smaller. The food was now plentiful, but still no more masks. (I later ordered a box of 20 from a friend who always sells masks.) A few weeks later entry into the supermarket involved having your temperature taken in order to enter by. There were even further changes by the time of my birthday on February 19th. Fewer customers were actually going shopping themselves as market staff were running around with supermarket baskets collecting items to be delivered to customers. The produce section used to have a small quantity of pre-packaged produce while the bulk was unpackaged. Now a larger percentage is already packaged and weighed to make it easier to grab items and get out of the store quickly.

Similarly, the 15-minute walk to the supermarket has changed over the past week. More restaurants in the neighbourhood, which is well known for its restaurants from all across China has opened, but still not a majority. Several convenience stores are open and have been throughout the time of my quarantine. A well-known neighbourhood bakery re opened about two weeks ago and two of the many small storefronts that specialize in beverages are now open. Most businesses remain closed as of this time but the neighbourhood is becoming more active.

While China is on a serious path to help control the spread of the disease, there is one thing that I find of great concern. In addition to writing, class preparation, etc., I do spend some time each day reading the news, particularly about the coronavirus. My concern is not only a significant amount of misinformation but how this is then used to convey an anti-China and anti-Chinese message both in the US and elsewhere.

The fight against this disease requires a unified effort by all, not merely in China but around the world, to defeat it quickly. Please join us in the battle and encourage others to do the same.

Stay strong and be well.

Mark
February 23rd, 2020 in Beijing

Mark Levine, born in Los Angeles in 1948, has PhD in Sociology and is American country musician, charity organizer, columnist. He is currently a professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Minzu University of China.

The epidemic broke out during the winter vacation, so he chose to stay in Beijing. While at home in quarantine, he wrote a book about his experiences in China over a decade; he was actively preparing for online courses after vacation and adjusted his teaching content. At the same time, he also read the news to understand the epidemic, and offered encouragement to friends and students in China to cheer them up.