

WEEK 23, 2019

# THE EPOCH TIMES

# CHINA

# INSIDER

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# CHINESE NETIZENS, GOVERNMENTS AROUND WORLD COMMEMORATE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE

TIANANMEN 30 YEARS

NICOLE HAO

Chinese citizens have found subtle ways to mourn the victims of the Tiananmen Square massacre on June 4, amid continued government efforts to censor any mentions of the 30th anniversary of the Chinese regime's brutal suppression of pro-democracy protests in 1989.

Meanwhile, the United States, European Union, and other international bodies have renewed their criticisms of the Beijing regime for the violent crackdown and continued human rights abuses.

**China Suppression and Resistance**

In the early morning of June 4 in Beijing, police cars and trucks were seen blocking roads around Tiananmen Square, according to foreign media outlets. Police were only allowing people to enter the square by foot or by bike.

Foreign journalists were barred from taking photos and told by police that special approval was needed to enter Tiananmen Square on June 4. AFP reported that one officer told journalists that engaging in "illegal media behavior" could affect their visa renewals.

Videos posted by Chinese netizens showed hundreds of police officers, plainclothes police, and security guards monitoring the square. In some places, police checked people's IDs, bags, and other possessions.

Meanwhile, the United States, European Union, and other international bodies have renewed their criticisms of the Beijing regime for the violent crackdown and continued human rights abuses.

Others said they were unable to send via text message an emoji of a candle, likely because Chinese censors believe it represents people mourning victims of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Some Chinese dissidents reported that they haven't been allowed to leave their homes, similar to previous occasions when authorities would monitor them closely ahead of sensitive dates. Others have been forced to travel to rural areas, as authorities fear that they would incite local protests.

In Shenzhen City of Guangdong Province, some people have had to present their IDs to ride the subway, according to a report by Radio Free Asia.

Some Chinese found clever ways to subtly commemorate the event.

A photo of a supermarket shelf has been spread-

Some netizens said they have begun a hunger strike for 24 hours in remembrance of the June 4, 1989, victims.

ing widely on the Chinese internet. In the photo, six bottles of juice are purposely arranged so that their labels would spell out a message. The first four labels show the numbers 8964, which represents June 4, 1989; the last two labels contain the Chinese characters for "students absent," alluding to the fact that some students who protested at Tiananmen Square 30 years ago are no longer living.

Another photo, which appears to be a doctored image of a page within a Chinese almanac calendar, has also been making the rounds. The page marked "June 4" has the message "do not speak." At the bottom, where there is usually a Chinese astrological forecast, it reads: "This is a big year. People with basic common sense are mourning inside their hearts."

Some netizens said they had begun a 24-hour fast in remembrance of June 4 victims, while others said they lit candles. Many posts were later deleted by Chinese censors.

**World Reaction**

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in a statement on June 3, called on Beijing "to release all



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Bellinzona, Switzerland, on June 2, 2019. Pompeo called on Beijing to give a public accounting about those who were killed or went missing in the Tiananmen massacre.

those held for seeking to exercise these rights and freedoms," noting that China's human rights record has failed to improve since the events of 1989.

He also urged China to make a full public accounting of those killed or missing in the Tiananmen crackdown.

The official Twitter account of the U.S. Mission in China posted a memorial video titled "China, 30 Years After the Tiananmen Square Massacre" on June 3.

Meanwhile, European Union foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini stated that on behalf of the 28 EU nations, she "strongly condemned the brutal repression" that had occurred at Tiananmen Square 30 years ago.

Ahead of vigils held at Liberty Square in Taipei City, Taiwan, President Tsai Ing-wen wrote on Facebook on June 4, "The Chinese government not only did not plan to repent for the past mistakes, but it also continued to cover up the truth."

Tsai vowed: "Please be reassured—Taiwan will definitely defend democracy and freedom. Regardless of threats and infiltration [from Beijing], as long as I'm the president, Taiwan would not bow to pressure."



REUTERS/ARTHUR TSANG/FILE PHOTO

A man stands in front of a convoy of tanks in the Avenue of Eternal Peace in Beijing on June 5, 1989.

CENSORSHIP

## CHINA TESTED INTERNET SHUTDOWN AHEAD OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TIANANMEN MASSACRE

OLIVIA LI

Several different regions in China encountered internet shutdowns from May 20 to May 31. The Epoch Times learned from an anonymous source that Chinese authorities were doing a test to temporarily shut down regional networks with a "one-button" operation ahead of the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre.

A Beijing-based journalist, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told The Epoch Times that in Guangdong Province, Shanghai, Chongqing and other places, netizens recently experienced internet shutdowns. He got confirmed information from relevant government departments that these were the result of a so-called "nationwide one-button internet shutdown test."

He added that the cell phone and network signals were very poor in Beijing in the past several days, "to the point we have to put off all live programs involving offsite communication," he said. Some journalists for foreign media outlets had to rely on network cards from some Southeast Asian countries

The 'one-button internet shutdown' could be seen as another censorship tool at times of emergency.

to communicate with their headquarters. Otherwise, they would have had difficulty sending emails back to their home countries, he said.

According to China Finance Online, Guangdong Telecom experienced a large-scale network failure around 11:00 am on May 31. Many netizens from Shantou, Jinping, Haojiang, Chaoyang and other areas reported that their metropolitan area network stopped working, and the result from network diagnosis indicated that DNS (Domain Name Server) resolution had issues, meaning, it was difficult to access certain sites that may have been blocked or censored.

China Economic Net reported a similar situation in Shanghai. On May 29, Shanghai Mobile collapsed around 11 a.m. Not only did 4G stop working, but even the basic functions of sending text messages and making phone calls were disabled.

Chongqing was likely the first city to experience network disruption. Netizens in Chongqing complained on WeChat, a Facebook-like social media platform, that the internet was down from about 11 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on May 20.

China has taken a series of actions to tighten internet censorship ahead of the 30th anniversary of Tiananmen Square Massacre.

On June 4 of 1989, Chinese soldiers opened fire at unarmed civilians in the early morning on Tiananmen Square to end the pro-democracy protests. Chinese authorities announced the next day that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had successfully "suppressed the riots," and "not a single person died" during the whole process.

The bloody crackdown has always been a taboo topic in the past 30 years. Starting in late April, before the anniversary this year, the censorship has reached an unprecedented level and accuracy. For instance, any picture showing the Tiananmen Square would be removed from social network by robot censors; Wikipedia was blocked in all languages; video-sharing sites Bilibili and AcFun suspended real-time comments with the excuse that they needed to perform "system maintenance."

The "one-button internet shutdown" could be seen as another censorship tool at times of emergency.

Even Twitter became part of the censorship



GREG BAKER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A paramilitary police officer stands guard in Tiananmen Square in Beijing on March 11, 2018.

campaign this year. It suspended more than 1,000 accounts of Chinese dissidents days before the anniversary. Twitter had to offer an apology on June 1, saying that these accounts had been suspended as part of routine operation to target accounts engaging in "platform manipulations."

Although Twitter promised that it would make sure to "overturn any errors," many Twitter users reported two days later that their accounts have not been restored and they had to register a new account.

SOCIAL MEDIA

## TWITTER SUSPENDS ACCOUNTS CRITICAL OF CHINESE REGIME DAYS BEFORE TIANANMEN ANNIVERSARY

JENNIFER ZENG

Just days before one of the most sensitive anniversaries in China, Twitter suspended a host of Chinese-language accounts, many of which identified as "anti-CCP [Chinese Communist Party]," in what the company said was an accident.

The action, which some say may have affected more than 1,000 accounts, occurred overnight between May 31 and June 1. It drew heavy criticism from China commentators on the platform, with many speculating that the timing of the suspensions three days before the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre was more than a coincidence.

On May 31, many Chinese dissidents, rights lawyers, activists, college students, and ordinary netizens reported that they had lost access to their Twitter accounts. While Twitter is banned in China, many netizens circumvent the internet blockade to use the platform.

One Chinese Twitter user, whose account is named "709 Inciter," said he suddenly found his Twitter account frozen on May 31.

"I cannot reply, retweet, comment, tweet, like or send private messages. I can see my tweets. However, all my followers and followings got cleared away. My friends cannot find me when searching for my username," the user told the Chinese-language edition of The Epoch Times.

Tang Baigao, a student leader during the 1989 protests and president of the Democracy Academy of China, posted on his Facebook account on May 31: "My Twitter account was attacked! I cannot log in now. Almost all the materials (in my account) have disappeared. Not only me, but also almost all Twitter accounts of other members of our organization were attacked, with their contents deleted."

Sasha Gong, a former Voice of America journalist, condemned Twitter's actions.

"So far, every suspended account I have located was critical of the Chinese government," she said in a statement about the suspension of her Twitter account.

"Twitter's action seems to be in accordance with that of the Chinese authorities, who launched sever crackdown against any criticism in the eve of the big anniversary [sic]. No wonder many Chinese call it 'the Twitter massacre.'"

Amid mounting reports of the account suspensions, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) voiced his concern on June 1, writing that "Twitter has become a Chinese govt censor."

In a statement on June 1, Twitter said that the suspensions were an inadvertent



LOIC VENANCE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Logos of social networking service Twitter displayed on computers' screens on Nov. 20, 2017.

Since last August, the Chinese regime has been clamping down on Chinese citizens' activities on the U.S. social media site.

result of its routine efforts to curb spam and "inauthentic" behavior.

"We suspended a number of accounts this week," it said. "However, some of these were involved in commentary about China. These accounts were not mass reported by the Chinese authorities—this was a routine action on our part."

"Sometimes, our routine actions catch false positives or we make errors. We apologize. We're working today to ensure we overturn any errors but that we remain vigilant in enforcing our rules for those who violate them."

Some users, however, weren't convinced by Twitter's explanation. One user, named Jack Blum, commented, "And this just so happened to occur right before the anniversary of Tiananmen?"

Other users, in response, posted an image of Twitter's bird mascot with a hammer and sickle—the symbol of the Chinese Communist Party—as its eye, on top of a red background.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the massacre of peacefully protest-

ing students in Tiananmen Square, which remains a strictly censored topic in China. In the lead-up to the sensitive date, China censors have gone into overdrive to scrub the web of content relating to the 1989 tragedy.

Meanwhile, many Chinese netizens, who use virtual private network software to circumvent China's "Great Firewall" to access foreign websites and social media, have complained on Twitter that it's become harder for them "jump over the Great Firewall."

The Great Firewall refers to China's internet censorship apparatus that includes blocking foreign websites and censoring content deemed undesirable by the Chinese Communist Party.

Since last August, the Chinese regime has been clamping down on Chinese citizens' activities on the U.S. social media site. Many Chinese dissidents and commentators have been forced by local police to shut down their accounts, while some have been detained and imprisoned.

In December, Twitter user Liu Hongbo, from Yangzhou City in China's Jiangsu Province, was sentenced to six months in prison for posting more than 400 tweets that allegedly "defamed the Chinese Communist Party and Party leaders."

In October, independent commentator Wang Yajun was detained for 10 days for his Twitter activity. After his release, he wrote, "Twitter, it's time to say goodbye!"

CENSORSHIP

## CHINESE ARTIST CENSORED BY AUTHORITIES FOR MENTION OF TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE IN AWARD SPEECH

OLIVIA LI

Chinese artist Zhang Yue received China's top art award in Beijing on May 27. However, all news reports about the award ceremony and previous reports about Zhang's art accomplishments were deleted from the internet shortly after—because Zhang mentioned the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre in his acceptance speech.

The Chinese regime's brutal suppression of student-led pro-democracy protests at Tiananmen Square is still a taboo topic inside China.

Established in 2006, Award of Art China (AAC) is China's most prestigious title in the field of contemporary art. The honor of "Young Artist of the Year" in 2019 went to 34-year-old Zhang.

According to a May 28 Radio Free Asia report, during the 13th annual AAC award ceremony held in Beijing's Forbidden City, Zhang told the audience that he was "embarrassed" to accept this award, as he had to make concessions to government censorship in his work. He further explained that he did not dare to make the subversive themes of his work too obvious, and did not go all out to fight for freedom of expression.

"I feel even more embarrassed to accept this award being so close to Tiananmen Square [in the run-up to] the 30th anniversary of June 4," Zhang said in his acceptance speech. June 4 is a common reference to the massacre, which occurred on June 4, 1989.

AAC's organizer arttron.net and Chinese media Phoenix TV both reported

the award ceremony on May 27. But both reports—and many online articles that previously mentioned Zhang were removed from the internet within two days. The only information about Zhang on AAC's website is an article from April, which announced that Zhang was one of the nominees for "Young Artist of the Year in 2019."

I feel even more embarrassed to accept this award being so close to Tiananmen Square [in the run-up to] the 30th anniversary of June 4.

Zhang Yue, Chinese artist

Another Chinese artist, Wu Wenjian, who took part in the 1989 pro-democracy movement, told Radio Free Asia that he commended Zhang's unusual courage when almost all Chinese artists deliberately skirt around the topic.

"He spoke very well—and at this particular time and place—I found it pretty moving," Wu said.

Wu also said he was very worried about

what might happen to Zhang next, since he mentioned a topic that the Chinese regime has continually denied and even erased from history books.

Former 1989 student leader Zhou Feng-suo told Radio Free Asia that Zhang's acceptance speech could be seen as a form of art.

"When the majority of Chinese choose to remain silent, either by choice or forced by the Chinese authorities, their silence is yet another attack to the victims of the Tiananmen Square Massacre," Zhou said. "Zhang's speech offers a striking contrast to their hypocrisy and cowardice."

Fellow artist Ji Feng, who also took part in the 1989 movement, told Radio Free Asia that state security agents had warned him ahead of the 30th anniversary not to make any public remarks.

"Very few artists are willing to stand up like Zhang Yue," Ji said. "Artists like Zhang have a conscience."

He also said that Zhang's statement was all the more remarkable because Zhang was born in 1985, meaning that he was only a toddler at the time of the 1989 military crackdown.

Zhang held an art exhibition named "The Song of the Mountain Eagle" last year. Most of his work at the exhibit was in the form of documents and archives, highlighting the difference between history as presented by the Chinese Communist Party and history recorded by Chinese civilians. Although Zhang did not "make the themes too obvious," Zhang's work was still considered by his peers as a courageous way to subtly criticize the Chinese regime for its pattern of distorting historical facts.



OPINION

# THE CHINESE REGIME AIMS TO VANQUISH CAPITALISM WITH SOCIALISM, BUT WHAT’S REALLY AT STAKE?

PETER ZHANG

Amid intense trade negotiations between Beijing and Washington on April 1, General Secretary Xi Jinping’s 2013 speech to the new members of the Chinese Communist Party’s Central Committee was published.

It was an important speech, as evidenced by its appearance in *QiuShi* (“Seeking Truth” in Chinese), an official journal of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). And soon thereafter, Xi’s speech was simultaneously published by *People’s Daily* and *Xinhua News Agency*, which are two other prominent mouthpieces of the Party.

The simultaneous publication of Xi’s years-old speech indicated something significant: a deep concern by the CCP pertaining to the current standoff between China and the United States. The speech was notable especially for a prophecy by Xi. Citing Marx and Engels’ doctrines, Xi claimed that socialism would inevitably vanquish capitalism, despite the fact that the fall of capitalism is a very distant prospect.

Indeed, the timing of this publication appears to be no accident. Multiple media sources have reported that Xi called an urgent meeting on Jan. 21, summoning top provincial leaders to Beijing to hear his stern warnings about mounting risks the CCP faces in this Year of the Pig.

In addition to the economic slowdown prompted by the trade dispute with the United States, and by China’s rising debts, the CCP is gravely concerned about grassroots rumblings stemming from acute social and political threats.

### CCP Leaders Showing Anxiety, Worry

The tone of the government at the highest levels is one of heightened alert. There is a palpable fear that the foundation upon which the Party relies may be crumbling.

At the January meeting, Xi raised “seven risks”: 1) politics; 2) ideology; 3) economy; 4) technology; 5) society; 6) the external environment; and 7) Party-building. Xi urged his subordinates to resort to tough measures to avert these risks, which he said are both real and pressing.

In his government report at the People’s Congress on March 5, Premier Li Keqiang was visibly nervous on camera, bringing up the word “risk” 24 times; the word “difficulty” 13 times; and the word “stability” more than 70 times.

In terms of the economy, Li anticipates that local debts in 2019 will grow to 2.15 trillion yuan (\$320 billion)—800 billion yuan more than in 2018—which will surpass the new tax reduction amount. This year, the total government expenditure will be some 23 trillion yuan, an increase of about 6.5 percent from 2018.

Economists questioned the validity of Li’s claim that the reduction of 2018’s corporate tax amounted to 1.3 trillion yuan, while the annual tax revenue increased by 8.3 percent, reaching some 15.6 trillion yuan. With the government’s tax reduction plan, the 2018 tax revenue should be decreasing, not increasing.

Based on 2018 data from the International Monetary Fund, the United States ranks No. 8 in terms of GDP per capita (\$62,606), while China is No. 67

(\$9,608). China’s economy simply isn’t where it needs to be in order to mount a serious challenge to the United States.

Following in the footsteps of Google, Microsoft, and UK-based ARM, Japan’s Panasonic announced that it would suspend its business with Huawei on May 23.

Prominent academic institutions such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, University of California–Berkeley, and Oxford University have all ceased to cooperate with Huawei as well.

The Trump administration’s ban on Huawei, along with the 25 percent tariff on \$200 billion of annual Chinese imports, has caused sharp pains with enormous potential to affect China’s economy.

### Bringing Red China to Terms

Trump’s top trade negotiator, Robert Lighthizer, was a member of President Ronald Reagan’s team that addressed the U.S. trade deficit with Japan in the 1980s. The Plaza Accord, signed by West Germany, the UK, France, Japan, and the United States, coupled with a 100 percent tariff on \$300 million worth of Japanese imports in 1987, played a critical role in averting the tide of Japanese goods flooding into the U.S. market.

However, while a trade agreement with a demo-

cratic country such as Japan will likely work, as such countries tend to honor the rule of law and international norms and covenants, any agreement (trade or otherwise) with the deceptive communist regime in China will not, based on its past record, lead anywhere.

In response to Beijing’s tariff retaliation, on May 23, Washington was set to offer \$16 billion in an effort to help U.S. farmers hit by the trade conflict with Beijing. The decline in exports to China has actually been offset by the increase in exports to Mexico and other countries.

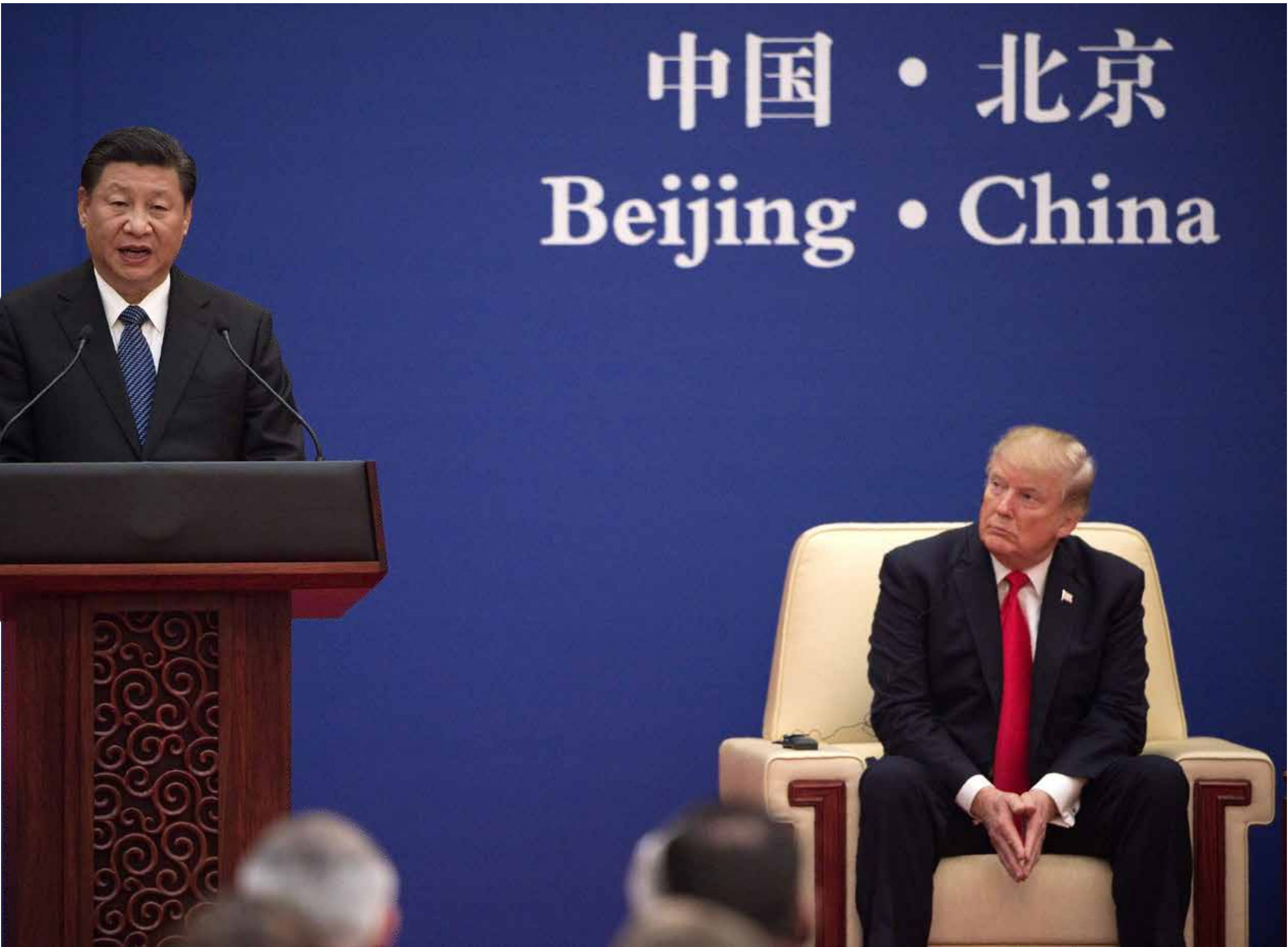
Despite the temporary hardships that may occur, the Trump administration is prepared to bring about structural change in doing business with China, in addition to ending, once and for all, Beijing’s theft of U.S. technological know-how.

### What’s Really at Stake

The current trade dispute between China and the United States, after all, isn’t only about the trade deficit. More significantly, it is about whether the United States and the rest of the world can afford a rising communist superpower that is reminiscent of the former USSR in terms of both military and ideological threats.

The Red Dragon is set to disrupt the world order and undermine every code of morality or law

China Communist Party leader Xi Jinping (L) speaks next to President Donald Trump during a business leaders event at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Nov. 9, 2017.



There is a palpable fear that the foundation that the Party relies upon may be crumbling.

around the world that helps form our humanity. As bluntly stated in Xi’s speech, his totalitarian socialism aims ultimately to vanquish capitalism and democratic institutions.

Rational longtime China-watchers would hope to see the trade war weaken, if not vanquish, the communist regime in Beijing and thereby bring about fundamental social changes that are long overdue inside that Orwellian state, replacing it with an open society governed by the rule of law.

As pointed out by Winston Churchill in his speech at the House of Commons on Oct. 22, 1945: “The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings. The inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries.”

The modern world simply cannot afford a USSR-styled communist China in the 21st century.

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*Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.*



President Donald Trump talks to Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Nov. 9, 2017.

How will China react if put in a similar corner?

### Choosing Sides

Trump is convincing consequential nations in Europe and Asia to adopt more and new trade positions in favor of the United States and against China. Meanwhile, China’s most reliable geopolitical relationships are with nations that are economic basket cases: Russia, Iran and Pakistan. Turkey, another nation whose economy is in meltdown, may join these three nations and tilt toward China sooner than later. Essentially, sides are being chosen.

On the one hand, we’re seeing an axis of brutal, dictatorial regimes seeking to hold onto power and influence in the

world, or gain more of it. On the other, the traditional powers of the United States, Europe, the United Kingdom and Australia more or less align their trade policies when it comes to China, Huawei and IP security.

Some warn of a new cold war between the United States and China. That would be unfortunate, but definitely preferable when one recalls what came before it.

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*Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.*



Deputies of the National People’s Congress during the second plenary meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on March 8, 2019.

## PARTY POLITICS

# Contradictory Opinions in Chinese Media Indicate Split Within Party Over US Trade Talks

NICOLE HAO

Amid rising U.S.–China trade tensions, senior Chinese officials and state media have begun making hawkish comments criticizing the United States in the past week.

against us recently. If it wants to talk, we are open to that. If it wants to fight, we will fight until the last moment.

“There’s no way the United States can bully us.”

### Another Opinion

But a commentary published by privately owned *Caixin* magazine, which often represents the views of the CCP’s pacifist faction, took a different stance.

On June 1, *Caixin* published an editorial titled “The People’s Interests Are Fundamental,” in which it criticized the state propaganda’s viewpoint. “History has proven that [the attitude of] self-limiting, self-isolating, and starting a new path on one’s own does not work ... and will bring huge losses to people’s interests,” it states.

The article called out the *People’s Daily’s* rhetoric, which claimed that since the United States has enacted punitive measures against China, the Chinese regime should stop business with the United States, and develop its own technological standards and economic system. *Caixin* called such attitudes “extreme nationalism” that will end up hurting the country.

In the U.S.–China trade dispute, the article suggested a different approach: “Achieving common ground while reserving our differences as much as possible is the way to meet the interests of both the people of the United States and China.”

The report was broadly shared by Chinese netizens, but was taken down the following day.

### Factional Infighting

Some former officials have expressed similar pacifist views. Li Ruogu, who served as the chairman and president of China Export–Import Bank until 2015 and still regularly makes public appearances, said earlier this year at a conference: “The U.S.–China relationship is the foundation of relations between China and the West. ... It will impact our relationship with other developed countries if we can’t manage it well.”

Zhou Xiaochuan, former governor of the People’s Bank of China (PBoC), China’s central bank, said at a finance conference held in Japan on May 27 that he disagreed with the Chinese regime’s insistence on keeping the currency exchange rate below seven yuan against the U.S. dollar. He added that the exchange rate should be decided by the market.

This opinion differs from the current leadership. Yi Gang, the current governor of PBoC, and Guo Shuqing, chairman of the China Banking Regulatory Commission, have all publicly stated that seven is the bottom line of the yuan-dollar exchange rate.

Li Linyi, a U.S.–based commentator, told the Chinese-language *Epoch Times* on June 2 that this stark difference in opinion indicates that the political infighting within the Party has worsened, since the Party stresses unity in the public eye in order to appear stable.

“Under the pressure of the U.S.–China trade war, the cracks between CCP factions are enlarging. Sooner or later, people will see these cracks as the trade pressure increases,” Li said.

OPINION

# DOES US–CHINA RIFT MEAN A NEW COLD WAR—OR WORSE?

A new era is emerging—is the world ready for it?

JAMES GORRIE

Since the beginning of the Trump presidency, we’ve been witnessing a new era emerging in the world. This new era is most easily defined by the rising trade conflict between the United States and China.

Though true, it tells only part of the new realities. The context is much broader and deeper than that. Of course, over the past several decades, the world has gotten used to leveraging China’s low wage, high-output labor force. It has led to massive profits for thousands of companies, cheaper goods for billions of people, and an explosion of wealth for China.

Those days are over. The new realities A few have recognized this fact, but many in Congress, the media and academia have yet to accept the new reality: Trump is forcing nations of the world to decide with which nation they want to do business. More and more,

nations are seeing that their long-term interests lie in expanding their relationships with America rather than China.

What’s more, China understands the changes that Trump is bringing about. That’s why China is doing all it can to shape the world’s opinion toward its grand One Belt, One Road (OBOR, also known as Belt and Road) initiative and away from the reality of its failing economy. Remarkable, as reported in the *South China Morning Post*, Renmin University vice-president professor Wu Xiaohu insists that China’s economy is healthy and that it is the U.S. economy that’s in danger.

But the facts don’t support that assertion. The American economy enjoys record performance in most of the key indicators. The United States is enjoying its high employment levels and rising wages, a lofty stock market, a booming real estate market as well as a resurgent manufacturing sector. Tariffs may change that picture a bit, or they may not.

Meanwhile, it’s China’s economy that is suffering from a very deep malaise. For instance, from January through March of 2019, the People’s Bank of China (PBOC) injected about \$164 billion in new debt into the economy. That’s four times the debt it issued in the same time period in 2018.

### China’s Economy in Meltdown

And yet, that debt has failed to stimulate the economy. In fact, it’s having a deleterious effect rather than a reparative one. A real estate bubble remains a serious risk for the Chinese economy, as does a stock market collapse. Plus, both massive public and private debt levels that have led to overproduce goods that many of China’s consumers neither want nor no longer can afford.

That’s a key indicator. Consumer confidence and spending have been negative for a few years and that trend is continuing, which will deepen China’s economic woes. Consumer belief in the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) leadership is fractured, if not shattered.

The essential fact is that the CCP has sucked the value out of its economy. For decades it has been exchanging debt for value and then moving the value into bona fide offshore investments. The middle class, desperate and afraid, is trying to do the same. In short, the CCP is losing its self-described legitimacy by failing on its promise to deliver economic prosperity.

### Falling Out of Love With China

What’s more, much of the world is falling out of love with China. It’s not just Trump’s America that is hammering it. Australia has led the way to banning Huawei, China’s huge but insidious telecom maker that allows it to steal and sabotage highly classified technical and government data. The European Union will likely follow Australia and the U.S. lead on banning it and other subsidiary Chinese telecom providers.

But it’s not just the United States, Australia, and Europe pulling back from China. Japan realizes that it must choose between working with the open and liberal United States or a dictatorial and vengeful China

(World War II remains in China’s historical memory, as do the Opium Wars of the West). Even smaller nations in China’s backyard, such as Malaysia, are backing out of multibillion-dollar development deals, citing unfair and economically destructive terms from China.

### Trump’s Energy Squeeze on China

Add America’s tight sanctions restricting Iranian and Venezuelan oil exports puts the squeeze on China’s energy supply. Saudi Arabia production may make up the difference, but for how long?

It is likely that Trump is trying to make arrangements with the Saudis to prevent that. The president’s short and long-term goal is to put enormous and continuous pressure on China to force a reorganization of their economic, and perhaps even political system.

The aggregate negative impact of these factors means that the geopolitical aspect must not to be taken lightly. It is worth recalling that in 1941, the United States blocked Japan’s access to much needed oil. The attack on Pearl Harbor soon followed.



MILITARY

# DEFECTED COMMUNIST SPY REVEALS SECRETS OF CHINA’S MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE NETWORK

OLIVIA LI

China’s military technology development is on a fast track only because it has stolen trade secrets from the West, according to a former Chinese Communist spy who says he stole key technologies for the Chinese navy.

Yao Cheng told The Epoch Times that he wants to share his knowledge about China’s military and intelligence network to remind everyone that the Chinese Communist regime poses a threat to free, democratic countries.

### Chinese Regime Mobilizes People to Steal Technologies

Yao, a former Chinese naval officer, told The Epoch Times on May 31 that China heavily relies on stealing technologies from developed countries to be able to make quick technological advances in its military, auto, and aircraft industries.

“China is eager to catch up with developed countries, especially in military technologies, but Beijing knows that if they are to depend on Chinese experts to develop these technologies independently, it is going to take a long, long time, as the gap is huge. They simply can’t wait that long,” Yao said.

Yao gave several examples to illustrate his point.

The People’s Liberation Army of China (PLA) now has mastered electromagnetic aircraft launch technology and stealth aircraft technology. Yao revealed that a professor at the PLA Naval University of Engineering, Ma Weiming, and his research team developed the technology for the PLA. On Ma’s research team, three people had studied in the United States.

As for stealth aircraft technology, Yao explained that during the civil war in the former Yugoslavia, a Lockheed F-117 Nighthawk was shot down and the former Yugoslavian government gave it to the Chinese military. China’s stealth technology was developed by studying that aircraft.

Yao also shared stories about military technologies developed by China independently in the past. “From these past lessons, you will understand why China has already given up the attempt to solely rely on Chinese scientists to advance military technology from scratch,” he said.

China once routinely stole military technologies from developed countries by replicating weapons, fighter aircrafts, destroyers, and submarines bought from the United States and European Union. However, shortly after the Tiananmen Square Massacre in 1989, NATO imposed an arms embargo on China. In the following years, China had to rely on its own scientists and engineers. The military technologies and products developed during this period of time are mostly of poor quality. The Xi’an JH-7, a fighter jet developed in the mid-1990s, is a typical example.

“China once routinely stole military technologies from developed countries by replicating weapons, fighter aircrafts, destroyers, and submarines bought from the United States and European Union.

Yao Cheng, former Chinese naval officer

“I was present when the first batch of Xi’an JH-7 were delivered to China’s air force for evaluation,” Yao told The Epoch Times. “The pilots who test-flew these aircraft told me this model is very difficult and awkward to operate. They felt exhausted after the flight test.”

Yao revealed that the JH-7 was basically developed by Chinese scientists, however, the engine technology was from a fighter jet engine stolen by a Chinese intelligence agent from the UK in 1985.

According to public data, since 1988, at least 12 Xi’an JH-7 have crashed, causing at least 17 deaths. This year alone, two Xi’an JH-7 have crashed, killing three pilots.

Yao also mentioned China’s interceptor fighter series: the Shenyang J-6 was modeled after the Soviet Union’s MiG-19, and the Chengdu J-7 was modeled after the MiG-21. The Shenyang J-8 was developed during the Sino-Soviet split (1956–1966), when Soviet scientists refused to offer any help.

“How was the J-8 developed? It was just a combination of the tail of J-6 and the head of J-7,” Yao explained. “It was until the 10th generation Chengdu J-10 that there was some real improvement, but it was actually developed with the help from Israel.”

There is also a model of warship developed by a Chinese team and proudly touted in China, called a Type 053 frigate. As it combines technologies from different countries (the Chinese experts figured out the technologies by studying parts from various foreign-made warships), Chinese navy personnel gave it the nickname “The Eight-Nation Coalition.” Yao explained that, because of the awkward combination, it would inevitably have major problems, making the warship very difficult and unsafe to operate.

The Eight-Nation Coalition was a multinational military coalition, set up in response to the Boxer Rebellion during the late Qing Dynasty. In the summer of 1900, when the extra-jurisdictional international legations in Beijing came under attack by Boxer rebels supported by the Qing government, the coalition dispatched their armed forces to defend their people. The incident ended with a coalition victory and the signing of the Boxer Protocol.

### Intelligence Network Targets Government, Social Elites

Yao exposed a hidden unit in China’s intelligence network, and cautioned politicians in Western countries not to fall into their trap.

The Liaison Division of the PLA General Political Department is one of China’s intelligence agencies, with a focus on infiltrating foreign governments and influential social circles. This organization uses another name for outsiders: China Association for International Friendship Contact. The special agents from this agency try to build strong relationships with top officials or influential individuals in other countries, such as entrepreneurs, artists, and social activists,

Before NATO’s arms embargo on China, China routinely stole military technologies from developed countries by replicating weapons, fighter aircrafts, destroyers, submarines bought from the United States and European Union.

ists, and gradually turn them into pro-Beijing supporters.

These social and political elites either sell top secrets to China for profit, or become brainwashed and willingly help China implement its agenda.

### The 47 Million Veterans in China

According to Yao, frequent protests by army veterans are one of the biggest concerns for the Chinese regime.

In the 1985 disarmament, at least 1 million soldiers returned home. Some were given a blue-collar job in factories, through various job assistance programs for veterans, while some had to look for jobs on their own. When Chinese factories went bankrupt one after another in the past 20 years, many veterans were forced to live in poverty.

These veterans often go to local governments to appeal for better welfare, but encounter harsh suppression, including beatings and verbal humiliation, by armed police.

The first large-scale protest occurred in October 2016, when thousands of Chinese veterans arrived at Beijing at around the same time. Chinese authorities

were shocked that these veterans knew how to connect with their comrades in other provinces and had the ability to coordinate so well.

A few months later, in February 2017, hundreds of Chinese veterans arrived in Beijing. This time, they surrounded the office building of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, China’s central anti-corruption watchdog, and staged a demonstration.

Yao exposed a secret behind the protests: Top military officials were involved.

“Chinese leader Xi Jinping’s anti-corruption campaign has already taken down many military officials. The remaining officials are both scared and frustrated. Because the veterans also went back to their original military unit to seek help, some officials figured out they could do something about it.”

Yao explained that these military officials helped coordinate the 2016 protest. The whole process was so well organized that several months before the scheduled protest, many veterans already started to work in Beijing or its surrounding areas as migrant workers, to better prepare themselves.

Chinese J-10 fighter jets fly in formation over the Yangcun Air Force base of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force in Tianjin on April 13, 2010.

The organizational work was considered a great success.

In preparation for the second protest, military officials decided to go one step further. They secretly incited the veterans to surround the building of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, intending to send a message that the top-level military will retaliate if the anti-corruption campaign continues to target military officials.

Yao, who still has connections with a number of military officials, often advises that the only way out is army nationalization. Otherwise, the generals and commanders always risk the danger of becoming a victim of political struggles in China, especially when political powers change hands.

Yao also revealed that many army veterans have seen through the evil nature of the Chinese communist regime. “If there is a war breaking out between China and Taiwan, these veterans hope to support the Taiwanese soldiers from inside as militia, to put an end to the totalitarian communist regime. They are really anxious to see that day come soon,” Yao said.

ECONOMY

## CHINA’S ECONOMIC WOES GO WELL BEYOND TARIFFS

EMEL AKAN

WASHINGTON—Last year, the world’s second-biggest economy experienced its slowest domestic growth in nearly three decades. But while China’s economic troubles run deep, they aren’t driven by the trade war with the United States, an expert says.

The weakening in the Chinese economy has nothing to do with the U.S.–China dispute, according to Derek Scissors, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and chief economist of the “China Beige Book.”

“It has to do with the longstanding failure to engage in pro-productivity reform,” he said at a Heritage Foundation event on May 30.

Sources of growth—innovation, capital, labor, and land—were all in “bad shape,” and there was no movement toward change, he added.

According to Scissors, official data for economic expansion shows a pretty clear trend, where the growth of gross domestic product (GDP) fell to 6.6 percent in 2018 from 14.2 percent in 2007.

However, China’s economic troubles may be more severe than official data indicates. National wealth as an alternative indicator may be much more informative than GDP, he said.

According to a report by the Credit Suisse Research Institute, China’s total national wealth grew 26 percent from the end of 2013 to the middle of 2018. However, in the previous five years, which is the aftermath of the financial crisis, the growth was 132 percent.

In the past 41/2 years, in comparison, U.S. total wealth has increased faster than China’s, at 29 percent.

“So, China has a growth problem and it is understated by official GDP,” Scissors said.

According to Scissors, official disposable income in China is one-ninth of the U.S. level.

“It’s not anywhere close to being a rich country. It has become highly indebted only in the last nine [or] 10 years, and growth has slowed dramatically over that same period.

themselves to death before this.”

In addition, China is vulnerable to foreign exchange pressure from the United States, he added.

**Demographic Problems**

China’s aging population also creates new challenges for the government. Working-age population between the ages of 20 and 64 began to shrink in 2017.

And China’s median age is forecast to increase to 47 by 2033 and 56 in 2050, according to Yi Fuxian, a senior researcher at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. In comparison, the median age in the United States will be 41 in 2033 and 44 in 2050.

“It’s not anywhere close to being a rich country. It has become highly indebted only in the last nine [or] 10 years, and growth has slowed dramatically over that same period.

Derek Scissors, chief economist, ‘China Beige Book’

Demographics are going to hurt the Chinese economy much more than the trade war, Scissors said.

Although bilateral trade between China and the United States is significant, neither economy relies on trade for domestic growth.

Last year, U.S. goods and services trade with China totaled \$739 billion, making China the largest trading partner. Exports were \$180 billion and imports were \$559 billion. Yet total trade flow with China equaled only 3.6 percent of U.S. GDP.

The United States is also China’s largest trading partner; however, total U.S. trade of goods made up only 4.9 percent of China’s GDP in 2018.

The Trump administration’s increased crackdown on Chinese investment in the United States, as well as export controls, also exacerbate China’s economic woes.

The new U.S. legislation, which was signed into law in 2018, granted more power to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to monitor foreign investments in the United States. In addition, the Trump administration has also taken steps toward issuing more restrictions on exports of high-technology products to China.

According to Scissors, it’s too early to quantify the effects of these changes on the Chinese economy.

“We still don’t have the implementing regulations,” he said. “We need to see the regulations, which are coming out over the course of this year. And then we need a year of data to see the impact.”

HUMAN RIGHTS

## US COULD BAR ENTRY TO CHINESE OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN PERSECUTION OF FALUN GONG

CATHY HE & JANITA KAN

The U.S. State Department is looking to increase the enforcement of immigration controls against human rights violators, in a move that could see Chinese officials involved in the persecution of Falun Gong being barred from the United States, according to a statement from a U.S. website that acts as a clearing-house on the persecution of the spiritual practice.

The agency plans to increase its scrutiny of visa applications of foreign officials who have participated in severe violations of religious freedom, according to a May 31 news release by U.S. website Mingui.org. According to the release, these officials could have their immigration or non-immigration visas (such as tourist or business visas) rejected. Those who have already been issued visas could be blocked from entering the country, the notice said.

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) Section 212(a)(2)(G), any person, while serving as a foreign government official, who is responsible for or have directly carried out particularly severe violations of religious freedom at any time, are inadmissible for entry to the United States.

Particularly severe violations of religious freedom include systematic, ongoing,



Police detain a Falun Gong practitioner who was protesting in Tiananmen Square as a crowd watches in Beijing on Oct. 1, 2000.

egregious violations of religious freedom such as torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; prolonged detention without charges; causing the disappearance of persons by the abduction or clandestine detention of those persons; or other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, or the security of persons.

An official from the State Department

told various religious and faith-based groups about the intensified scrutiny. The official advised Falun Gong practitioners in the United States that they could submit a list of Chinese officials known to be involved in the persecution, the news release stated.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a traditional self-improvement discipline with meditation exercises based

Jiang Zemin launched a nationwide persecution, in which practitioners are rounded up and sent to prisons, labor camps, and brainwashing centers—where they are often tortured in an attempt to coerce them into giving up their faith.

on the tenets of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. The practice was introduced to the public in China in 1992 and quickly gained popularity, spreading from China to more than 80 countries.

According to a state survey, the practice reached over 70 million adherents by 1999—though practitioners estimated the number was over 100 million.

Fearing that its popularity would jeopardize the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)’s rule, in July 1999, then-regime leader Jiang Zemin launched a nationwide persecution, in which practitioners are rounded up and sent to prisons, labor camps, and brainwashing centers—where they are often tortured in an attempt to coerce them into giving up their faith. The suppression continues today.

Lai Shantao, president of the Falun Dafa Association of Washington, D.C., confirmed to The Epoch Times that association representatives met with the State Department official earlier this year about the new action. The official told them the Trump administration is stepping up its enforcement of these laws, he said.

“This shows the U.S. government has entered a new phase in its concern for the persecution of people of faith worldwide, especially in relation to China—the most severe violator of religious freedom in the world,” Lai said.

He added that the development is a warning for officials involved in the persecution of Falun Gong in China, especially those who are thinking of visiting or fleeing to the United States.

“It sends them a message that you can’t

persecute Falun Gong,” he said.

A spokesperson with the State Department, in an email to The Epoch Times, didn’t respond to questions seeking confirmation of the measures, but said that “the United States seeks to ensure that individuals who have violated human rights do not secure safe haven in the United States.”

“There are a number of potential ineligibility grounds applicable to U.S. visa applicants who have engaged in human rights violations or corruption, including ineligibilities for foreign government officials who have engaged in severe violations of religious freedom,” the spokesperson said.

**Chinese Regime at War With Faith**

Gary Bauer, commissioner at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, told The Epoch Times on May 31 that he would welcome the U.S. administration’s steps in this direction.

“I certainly do not want to see the United States be a haven for those that have been implicated in persecution in other countries, in China or [elsewhere],” Bauer said. “My hope will be that anyone in the United States that [has] engaged in the persecution against people of faith in China will pay a suitable price in the United States for that persecution.”

An April report by the commission, an independent federal body that advises the U.S. government and Congress on religious freedom issues, highlighted that over the past year, the Chinese regime has ramped up its persecution of religious groups, including Falun Gong practitioners, Uyghur Muslims, Chris-

“This shows the U.S. government has entered a new phase in its concern for the persecution of people of faith worldwide, especially in relation to China—the most severe violator of religious freedom in the world.

Lai Shantao, president, Falun Dafa Association of Washington D.C.

tians, and Tibetan Buddhists.

In 2011, U.S. President Barack Obama signed a proclamation to suspend entry of serious human rights violators to the United States as immigrants or non-immigrants.

“Universal respect for human rights and humanitarian law and the prevention of atrocities internationally promotes U.S. values and fundamental U.S. interests,” the proclamation stated.

Earlier this year, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback delivered a speech at the Foreign Correspondents’ Club in Hong Kong calling on Beijing to end all forms of religious persecution in China.

“Chinese government is at war with faith. It is a war they will not win,” Brownback said on March 8.

This isn’t the first time a government concerned about the persecution of Falun Gong in China has made moves to bar Chinese officials from entering their country.

In 2017, a joint task force of Taiwanese government bodies denied entry to at least three CCP officials and members of their “professional exchange groups” because of their involvement with the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners inside China.

The joint task force further said that any CCP officials with ties to the “610 Office,” an extralegal Party organization created for the sole purpose of carrying out the persecution, wouldn’t be permitted entry to Taiwan in the future.

Jennifer Zeng and Frank Fang contributed to this report.



# THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH *and* TRADITION

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