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OPINION

Dismantling the Myth of War Heroism by the Chinese Communist Party

Betraying China's sovereignty

MARK TARRANT

On Aug. 25, 1945, just 10 days after Victory over Japan Day, U.S. Army Capt. John Birch, a devout Baptist and Mandarin speaker, was murdered in northern China by Chinese communist soldiers—the United States' erstwhile "allies" in its fight against the Japanese.

"Birch was shot in the thigh, carried to a cinder pile near the train station, and bayoneted to death," Richard Bernstein wrote in his book "China 1945." "The body was found wrapped in a straw mat, the hands and feet were bound. There was a large wound in the left thigh, a large hole in the right shoulder, and the whole face had been mutilated beyond recognition."

Nine months earlier, on Dec. 7, 1944, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) had organized a rescue mission by its 8th Route Army of the 11 U.S. crew members of a downed B-29 Superfortress bomber in Japanese-controlled Hebei province.

The CCP's high-profile rescue of downed U.S. airmen and, in the next breath, the killing of Birch was in sync with Zhou Enlai's communist strategy of "da da tan tan" or "fight fight talk talk" when dealing with the United States—a CCP tactic that continues to this day.

There was nothing heroic in rescuing a few downed U.S. airmen. It was, after all, the Americans who were taking the fight to the Japanese while the CCP sat back and waited.

Mao Zedong always had his sights set on killing his fellow Chinese—not the invading Japanese nor the Americans who stayed on to help China avoid civil war.

As military historian Antony Beevor explained in "The Second World War," following the October 1938 Central Committee plenum, Mao's policy was strict: "Communist forces were not to fight the Japanese,

The unelected CCP doesn't own China and doesn't own the Chinese people.

Japanese troops get a mute reception as they parade through defeated Hong Kong in 1941.

unless attacked. They were to conserve their strength for seizing territory from the Nationalists. Mao made clear that Chiang Kai-shek was their ultimate opponent, their "enemy No. 1."

Bernstein's account revealed that "the Communists were extremely successful in propagating the notion that they had struggled bitterly, bravely, and continuously against the invader, but their million-man army had engaged in only small-scale hit-and-run attacks."

Beevor said that by 1943, British intelligence was certain the communists had made an unofficial deal with the Japanese, under which both sides restricted their operations against each other.

But the myth of the CCP's war heroism has now become part of the Western lexicon.

Beevor wrote that: "Smedley, Theodore White, and other influential American writers could not accept for a moment that Mao might turn out to be a far worse tyrant than Chiang Kai-shek. The personality cult, the Great Leap Forward which killed more people than in the whole of the Second World War, the cruel madness of the Cultural Revolution and the seventy million victims of a regime that was in many ways worse than Stalinism proved totally beyond their imagination."

The West's capitulation to the CCP's rewriting of history was apparent in an article about the treasures from the National Palace Museum of Taipei earlier this year, when The Australian columnist Christopher Allen wrote, "During the war, communists and Nationalists co-operated in the struggle against Japan, but in its aftermath, and especially from 1948, the communists regained the upper hand."

Mao didn't cooperate with the Nationalists. Mao cooperated with the Japanese to defeat the Nationalists. And pre-1948, the

communists never had "the upper hand."

In a more recent example, Alex Last of the BBC World Service claimed on Aug. 9 in the "Witness History" podcast that the Chinese communist attack on the British rescue ship HMS Amethyst and its subsequent escape in 1949 signaled "the restoration of Chinese sovereignty."

Are Last and his employer able to explain how the 70 million victims of the CCP are enjoying their "Chinese sovereignty," not to mention the 2 million protesters in Hong Kong?

The CCP stole and betrayed China's sovereignty.

Such references to the CCP's revisionist history simply help perpetuate the myth that the rise of Mao—who was one of history's worst mass murderers—was somehow inevitable.

The CCP in Hong Kong

In May 2018, it became apparent that the Royal Geographical Society—Hong Kong (RGS-HK) had fallen victim to the CCP's United Front—a program run out of Beijing that works to subvert free and open societies around the world to the Communist Party's will.

In a talk named "The Hong Kong Independent Battalion: The Story of the Secret Resistance Fighters of HK during the Japanese Occupation of 1941–1945," the RGS-HK hosted speakers touting the CCP's guerrilla fighters who followed the Japanese into Hong Kong's New Territories as "independence" fighters for Hong Kong.

The speakers included Tsui Yuet-ching, the author of "The Hong Kong Independent Battalion."

"Almost at the same time of the British surrender, units of the Dong Jiang People's Anti-Japan Guerrilla Force that had been active in Guangdong secretly followed the Japanese invaders into the territory. They organized themselves into the Hong Kong Independent Battalion and set up a network around the territory," the RGS-HK said on its website.

The Dong Jiang People's Anti-Japan Guerrilla Force was created by the CCP, as was the inappropriately named Hong Kong Independent Battalion (HKIB).

Chiang Kai-shek had made it clear that he wanted Hong Kong returned to China once hostilities had ended. But true to Mao's policy, the CCP wouldn't just allow Hong Kong to become Nationalist territory without a fight.

Once Hong Kong Gov. Mark Young surrendered to the Japanese on Christmas Day 1941, the communist guerrilla fighters moved into Hong Kong, assisted by New Territories villagers.

In her book, Tsui Yuet-ching claimed that

"intellectuals" were rescued from Hong Kong under the order of Zhou Enlai, who she wrongly claimed was Minister of State in the Chinese government at the time. All the intellectuals went on to become writers in communist China.

This escape route became reversed 48 years later, with intellectuals during the Tiananmen Massacre escaping from China to Hong Kong.

Tsui Yuet-ching wrote in the chapter "Cleaning Up Local Problems" that HKIB forces "subsequently had many battles with dozens of local criminals, often either killing them, or evicting them from the villages they were terrorizing. This helped build long-lasting relationships with local villagers."

The British government wouldn't have asked the CCP to send its soldiers into Japanese-occupied Hong Kong.

Without any legal authority, the killings would have been extrajudicial executions by the CCP. Perhaps the "local criminals" were people who didn't want the communists in Hong Kong.

Tsui Yuet-ching's attempts to legitimize the communists' involvement in Hong Kong during the war years is particularly troublesome considering the recent attacks on pro-democracy protesters in the New Territories.

Fortunately for the people of Hong Kong, Churchill insisted that the territory be returned to Britain at the end of World War II.

If Hong Kong had been handed to Chiang Kai-shek, as U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt wanted, Mao's Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution would have utterly destroyed Hong Kong, including the vibrant Hakka culture of the New Territories villages that had provided the communist guerrillas with so much support.

The unelected CCP doesn't own China and doesn't own the Chinese people.

The United States can recognize this by severing diplomatic relations with the regime, reopening formal ties with Taiwan. In doing so, it can show support to the many Chinese people who desire to live in a CCP-free society—including the people of Hong Kong.

Mark Tarrant is a Sydney-based lawyer.

He spent his childhood in Hong Kong where he attended Kowloon Junior School and King George V School. Mark has vivid memories of the impact of the Cultural Revolution on Hong Kong, including the threat of imminent invasion by the PLA and local bombings.

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

OPINION

Hong Kong Nears an Abyss

MANAN VATSAYANA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



DAVID KILGOUR

Pro-democracy protesters hold signs as they attend a rally in Hong Kong on August 16, 2019.

Distinguishing facts from propaganda during two months of pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong is difficult, but important realities now appear clear.

China solemnly agreed to special status for Hong Kong in the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration. It promised a "high degree of autonomy," and declared that democracy, the rule of law, and basic human rights would be maintained under the "one country, two systems" model for 50 years.

Beijing has systematically violated these commitments since the 1997 handover, especially in recent years. Its appointed Hong Kong government has opted not to safeguard its autonomy. This harms the city, including its estimated 300,000 Canadian residents, and the vast amount of investment that now enters China through it in large measure because of the still exemplary legal system.

Beijing's 2014 White Paper on Hong Kong effectively dismissed the continued applicability of the Joint Declaration. It refused to honor long-promised democratic reforms in 2014–15. Some elected legislators were barred from taking up their office in the partially democratic Legislative Council. Some candidates were barred from running for office. Pro-democracy protesters faced harsh sentences; a political party was banned.

A proposed extradition law from Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam would have allowed the removal of persons in transit and political dissidents from the city to mainland China to face an Orwellian system without fair trials or judicial independence, and with widespread torture, forced confessions, televised confessions, and executions.

The bill brought a million Hong Kongers into the streets on June 9. Three days later, protesters at a second demonstration were met with police tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, and batons. Later, Lam announced she would "suspend" the measure, but protesters demanded its complete, unconditional, and permanent withdrawal. A week later, two million persons took to the streets. Lam has since declared the bill "dead," but her refusal to withdraw it completely has led to more protests.

Police brutality and political prosecution together form a toxic mix guaranteed to stir greater protests. The main fuel for the protests that oppose the extradition bill has been ongoing violations of fundamental rights and freedoms by Hong Kong police. Their dangerous and indiscriminate use of deterrents has resulted in serious injuries.

There is also significant evidence

that the police have colluded with violent triad gangsters to deter protest and curry favor with China's People's Liberation Army garrison in Hong Kong, which wants to crush the democracy movement.

Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, says that there is "credible evidence" that the police have acted in ways that are "prohibited by international norms and standards," and has called for a robust independent inquiry.

Protesters recently occupied Hong Kong's international airport, causing it to shut down. A police officer set upon a peaceful female protester, provoking a near-lynching, as another protester grabbed the officer's baton and started to beat him with it. The officer drew his gun, but fortunately no one was killed.

With Chinese troops reportedly massing at the border, Chief Executive Lam's lack of independence from Beijing's party-state, and the protesters' fear of losing the little control they now have over their future, the situation is highly volatile. Everything feasible must be attempted to dissuade Beijing from storming Hong Kong.

Much of the world that has independent media appears to be now watching Hong Kong intently. There have been violations of press freedom, as journalists have been targeted. "Rioting" charges are being used against protesters as a deterrent. Injustice, violence, and hatred will only produce more of each. Protesters have won hearts and minds around the world, but such support could be lost quickly if they engage in systematic violence. The widely viewed public apologies from the airport protesters for disrupting travelers was a good first initiative.

Hong Kong's Lam and other officials must also reflect on their actions that led to the situation. Failure to listen and defend the quest of most residents for democratic institutions in Hong Kong is ultimately responsible. Above all, both sides now need to step back and seek an immediately peaceful way to move toward a serious dialogue about political reform.

David Kilgour, a lawyer by profession, served in Canada's House of Commons for almost 27 years. In Jean Chretien's cabinet, he was secretary of state (Africa and Latin America) and secretary of state (Asia-Pacific). He is the author of several books and co-author with David Matas of "Bloody Harvest: The Killing of Falun Gong for Their Organs."

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Police detain a young woman during a confrontation in Hong Kong on Aug. 10, 2019.

HONG KONG PROTESTS

Hong Kong's Youth Resist a Tyrannical China

EVA FU

They are the faces of the Hong Kong protests that have dominated headlines for the past few months. Mostly in their teens and 20s, these Hongkongers have spent their summer months on tear-gas-filled streets.

The Epoch Times recently spoke with several protesters about why they have kept up demonstrations since June. They chose to identify themselves by nicknames to avoid reprisals from local police, who have clashed with protesters and arrested around 700 since the mass protests began.

Most cited fears that a controversial extradition bill would cause Hong Kong to lose its autonomy from the Chinese regime. They are worried that the proposal would allow the Chinese Communist Party to take anyone from Hong Kong soil to be put on trial under China's opaque legal system, and erode the rule of law in the city they call home.

No 'Freedom Free-Rider'

Hong Kong, a former British colony, was returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. Most of the young protesters don't know what life was like before Chinese rule—since they were either born after the handover, or were very young prior to the handover.

But they fear that their city will become indistinguishable from mainland China, where an authoritarian regime doesn't allow for basic freedoms.

"From June 4, 1989, onwards, aside from the [Tiananmen Square] crackdown, [the Chinese regime] has been using economic measures to placate people ... as an area becomes economically flourishing, citizens will forget about freedom and stop focusing on the government," said 24-year-old college student Ah Ming.

He worries about a future Hong Kong without freedom of expression.

"If I say something wrong, then maybe I can't go on vacation or go on the train," he said, referring to Chinese authorities' routine tactics when retaliating against dissidents. "We don't want Hong Kong to be a place without freedom and human rights."

Ah Ming says he's disappointed with how the Hong Kong government has failed to respond to the protesters' demands, including fully withdrawing the bill and conducting an independent inquiry into the police use of force against protesters, calling it a "puppet government" of Beijing.

"The government just tries to evade reality,"

We can't back down. If we don't do it, no one will.

Ah Man, a 27-year-old protester

he said. "[It] is trying to ... scare dissidents into not coming out."

He urged Hongkongers to take action to safeguard the city's basic rights.

"All the freedoms you hold ... when you enjoy them, do you think about where they came from?" Ah Ming said. "If you are not willing to protect what you have, don't say you're a Hongkonger, you are just a freedom free-rider."

Dangers

Injuries are routine for protesters when faced by the police, when the latter begin to clear the streets by the use of tear gas, batons, rubber bullets, bean bags, and other crowd-dispersal methods.

"Every breath you take, you feel worse, but you also can't stop breathing and have no oxygen," Ah Lok said, recalling his experience of being hit by tear gas for the first time. "You can't see with your own eyes."

The 22-year-old said that he joined the protests June 16, when some 2 million Hongkongers marched. The city's top official, Chief Executive Carrie Lam, has suspended action on the extradition bill but has refused to give in to demands for a full withdrawal.

"After getting tear-gassed, I got diarrhea for a whole week, as if I got some virus in my stomach," said 27-year-old engineer Ah Man, adding that local media reports said police have fired expired tear gas canisters at them.

Ah Man believes that the police's use of force—such as firing tear gas at protesters at close range and inside an enclosed subway station—has emboldened protesters to escalate their civil disobedience. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has called out Hong Kong's police for deploying crowd-control gear against protesters "in ways that are prohibited by international norms and standards."

Ah Yan, who is 16, vividly recalled an incident

during clashes with police on Aug. 11, when, amid the chaos, a fellow teenage protester fell in front of her. When she saw his face, it was full of blood, which left her feeling helpless.

"It was as if ... the tear gas was just some kind of pesticide that you can find anywhere on the street," she said of the police's dispersal operations. "Every time I came back all right, I felt lucky, as if I just won the lottery."

Not Giving Up

Despite weary bodies and rising danger, the young protesters said they're determined to fight until the end.

"I'd be lying if I claimed to be unafraid, but if we give ground, then we would be giving up Hong Kong," Ah Yan said. She said she came to join the protests because of her conscience. The physical danger, she said, paled in comparison to the feeling of being demonized by Hong Kong authorities.

"No matter if we're beaten or tear-gassed, it won't bother us too much because we already prepared for it," she said.

Rather, the most painful thing for the 16-year-old was when police "accused us of being 'rioters' and 'cockroaches,'" she said as tears streamed down her face. "They [the police] thought that we were disrupting society, not realizing that we were defending their freedom."

Ah Yeen, 18, said the government's labeling of protesters as "violent" and "radical" was baseless, as it's been police intervention that has escalated the situation in most cases.

"In the elderly march, there was no police presence, so it was peaceful; same with the airport sit-in," Ah Yeen said.

"But during the marches, the police send out riot police. That's when it gets bloody."

Ah Man, who also participated in the mass pro-democracy protests in 2014, said it was such injustices that drove him to take to the streets again.

"Just sitting there being obedient doesn't work," he said.

During a demonstration in the northern district of Wong Tai Sin, Ah Man saw a 13-year-old boy wearing a medical mask covering half his face, standing at the front of the protest line not far from riot police. Ah Man took off his gas mask and gave it to the boy, and told him to stand away from the front.

He said the protesters were all trying their best. "We can't back down. If we don't do it, no one will. If we don't do it, in the future, we won't be able to," he said. "We have to do what we can to persist."

The Hong Kong bureau of The Epoch Times contributed to this report.

PRESS FREEDOM

Chain Store Removes Epoch Times in Hong Kong, Beijing Pressure Suspected

EVA FU

Hong Kong locals are voicing their concerns after a local franchise of the popular convenience store chain 7-Eleven decided to withdraw The Epoch Times' Hong Kong edition from its local stores beginning on Aug. 16.

7-Eleven licenses franchises around the world via partnerships with local brands. The Hong Kong franchise has no relation to the U.S.-headquartered company.

The Epoch Times' Chinese-language newspaper was first founded in 2000 by a group of Chinese Americans who wished to provide an independent source of news free from the Chinese regime's influence. In 2002, the Hong Kong bureau was established. For many years, it had been publishing a daily newspaper, distributed for free.

In April, the Hong Kong edition switched to a for-sale model and began selling its daily newspapers at 7-Eleven stores and newsstands across the city.

The Epoch Times Hong Kong entered into an eight-month renewable contract with 7-Eleven's holding company, Dairy Farm Company Ltd. in April, making the chain's 500 stores its chief distribution channel.

But on July 15, The Epoch Times received a formal letter from 7-Eleven notifying the publication that the papers would be completely removed from shelves in August, without including an explanation. Further requests to meet with the management received no response by press time.

Cheryl Ng, the spokesperson for the Hong Kong bureau of The Epoch Times, said that the decision was unreasonable and would deprive local readers of their right to truthful information.

"This type of behavior is highly unusual in the business world, especially considering sales which had been well above the minimum target," Ng said at a press conference in Hong Kong on Aug. 15.

Challenges

Ng said that since entering into the contract, the Hong Kong edition has faced a series of stringent requirements from Dairy Farm, which owns the convenience store chain.

Two months after the newspapers appeared on 7-Eleven store shelves, Dairy Farm abruptly cut down the number of distributing outlets to 150, citing low sales volume. Choo Peng Chee, CEO of the Dairy Farm North Asia Region, described it as a business decision, in a June 12 email exchange with The Epoch Times Hong Kong.

Contrary to Dairy Farm's explanation, Ng said, sales of the papers have been far exceeding the targets. She added that Dairy Farm's actions were inconsistent, as the company pulled the newspapers from stores that were inside or near subway stations, where the papers had seen the highest sales.

According to Ng, the convenience store chain also prohibited the Hong Kong edition from prominently displaying the 7-Eleven name or logo to publicize its availability, whether in print or on its website, greatly constraining the publication's ability to reach readers. In promotional materials, the newspaper was only allowed to use vaguely worded phrases such as "available at convenience stores," Ng added. This posed a challenge for readers old and new to locate the papers.

To inform readers of its new distribution channel, Hong Kong bureau staff resorted to standing near 7-Eleven stores to promote the paper.

"Due to these limitations ... [and] the fact that we were no longer distributing our papers freely on the street, The Epoch Times had virtually disappeared," Ng said.

Both Dairy Farm and its UK-based parent company, Jardine Matheson, didn't respond to requests for comment as of press time.

Press Freedom Threatened

Hong Kong critics and loyal readers have expressed dismay over the contract termination and suggested that the move was politically motivated. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has called on 7-Eleven Hong Kong to "reconsider their decision and not to yield to any pressure that they might have received or receive in the future."

"We can't see any reason but the pressure from the Chinese authorities for this withdrawal," Cédric Alviani, East Asia bureau director at RSF, told The Epoch Times. He said discontinuing the distribution in many 7-Eleven stores was a loss of "a positive element for the plurality of the media."

Concerns have been mounting over the erosion of freedom of expression and civil liberties in Hong Kong since the territory's transfer from British to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

In recent months, Hongkongers have taken to the streets every week since June, citing fears that a controversial extradition bill would be the final straw in Beijing's encroachment on the city's autonomy.

Ng said that the Hong Kong edition has been striving to provide an accurate picture of the protests from the frontlines.

Local activist and former lawmaker Leung Kwok-hung lamented that the 7-Eleven cancellation would leave Hongkongers without an in-

dependent news source on the protests.

The Hong Kong edition has "allowed people to see more information and insights ... [and] has for the past 10 years targeted the Chinese Communist Party and its suppression of different groups," Leung said at the press conference. He added that he was a loyal reader of the paper himself.

He called Dairy Farm's explanation for its decision "illogical" and "purely political," noting that several local pro-Beijing newspapers, such as Ta Kung Pao and Wen Wei Po, are sold at 7-Eleven stores without any hiccups. "How come 7-Eleven doesn't bother them?"

Hong Kong-based China expert and former magazine editor Cai Yongmei said that the cancellation reflects the Chinese regime's tightening grip on Hong Kong.

"They want to suppress Hongkongers' protests ... If you make business deals with Chinese companies, they will pressure you from this aspect," Cai told The Epoch Times, noting that Cathay Pacific, Hong Kong's flagship airline, recently dismissed several staff members who participated in the recent protests, amid pressure from Beijing.

Leung added: "Hong Kong is undergoing a difficult time. The Epoch Times Hong Kong is a reflection of that. If they can be treated like this, other media can suffer even more pressure."

Ng called on local business owners and individuals to be part of the newspaper's distribution network and advance its circulation. She added that the publication "[refuses] to be silenced at this critical moment" and will continue to serve the public as a "testament of history" no matter the cost.

"Freedom is not free," Ng said.

Freedom is not free.

Cheryl Ng, Epoch Times Hong Kong spokesperson

The Epoch Times Hong Kong newspaper is seen on a shelf outside of a 7-Eleven store in Hong Kong on April 1, 2019.



SARAH LIANG/THE EPOCH TIMES



WANG WEIMING/THE EPOCH TIMES

Protester Ah Lok, 22, shows injuries he suffered during clashes with police in Hong Kong on Aug. 14, 2019.

HUMAN RIGHTS

'The Mental Trauma Is Even Harder': A Famous Chinese Calligrapher Survives the Most Vicious Torture

JOAN DELANEY

The six-day exhibition showcasing the works of renowned calligrapher Liu Xitong was a well-received success. Thousands of people visited the exhibit, held in the Publishing Art Hall in Qingdao City, and the media widely reported on it.

But Liu made a worrisome observation: throughout the exhibition, several plainclothes policemen were loitering about, mingling with the crowd.

A few days after the exhibition ended, Liu was arrested. The home he shared with his wife was ransacked and many of his calligraphy works were confiscated.

This was just one of the more than 20 times over 16 years that Liu was arrested and detained for practicing Falun Gong, a meditation practice handed down from ancient China that teaches living by the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. The Chinese Communist Party initiated a persecution campaign against the practice in 1999 that continues today and has resulted in widespread illegal imprisonment, torture, and death of adherents.

Liu was given a three-year sentence at a forced labor camp in 2003, and a four-year term at the No.1 Shandong Provincial Prison in 2008, according to Minghui.org.

What he went through in those years defies imagination.

Horror in Shandong Prison

In the labor camp, the torture meted out on Liu included being tied up with a rope for 80 days and deprived of sleep for over 10 days. He lost consciousness more than 50 times from beatings and electric shocks.

But that paled in comparison to his treatment at Shandong Prison.

Prison authorities encouraged inmates to torture Falun Gong adherents held at the prison in order to "transform" them—force them to renounce their belief and give up practicing. Inmates were rewarded with reduced sentences if they successfully forced practitioners to write statements renouncing Falun Gong, so they put a



Liu Xitong in front of one of his calligraphy works at his exhibit. Loitering among the attendees were several plainclothes police officers.

This was just one of the more than 20 times over 16 years that Liu was arrested and detained for practicing Falun Gong



A TV station reporter interviewing Liu Xitong during the exhibition.



Some of Liu Xitong's calligraphy works on display at the exhibition.

lot of effort into it.

According to a criminal complaint Liu filed in 2015 against former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin for ordering the persecution campaign, an inmate said to Liu: "We are a dedicated team trained to 'transform' you Falun Gong practitioners. ... You'd better write the statement, otherwise we have enough torture methods to torment you to death. And we won't be held accountable for it."

On his first day at the prison, the inmates scraped his armpits with a rough brush, beat him with a plastic slipper or with their bare hands, verbally abused him, struck his joints with a wooden stick, and pulled a toothbrush back and forth between his fingers.

The inmates used a wide variety of methods to torture Liu, including

pouring salt water on his wounds and then rubbing the wounds with a brush, inserting a burning cigarette into his nose, burning his skin with a lighter, pricking his fingers and toes with a needle, wiping chemicals in his eyes, or force-feeding him with filthy water from the bathroom.

"They pinched my skin and twisted it back and forth, like tightening and loosening a screw. They used all their strength to torture me like this. When I screamed because of the pain, they laughed at me and continued the torture. My skin festered the next day," Liu wrote in his complaint, according to Minghui.

"The inmates didn't allow me to sleep. They forced me into a half-squat position, with my hands placed on my knees. I was so weak that I fainted several times. But the inmates woke me up by beating and verbally abusing me."

'Tying up Torture'

The inmates once tied up Liu with his head buried between his legs, and his hands touching his feet. The blood drained from his face and his heart beat violently. He almost lost consciousness.

Another time, they tied him up in a spread-eagle position and placed a glaring lightbulb in front of his face around the clock. This torture lasted for 20 days. Liu's wrists and ankles were injured by from being tied so

tightly. His body shook uncontrollably, and his limbs became numb.

In another variation of the "tying up torture," the inmates put a rope around Liu's neck and tightened it until he could hardly breathe. Then they placed a metal bucket on his head and struck it repeatedly, the resulting noise sounding unbearably loud to Liu.

The inmates starved Liu and then sometimes tormented him by suspending a steamed bun in front of him and forcing him to grip it with his mouth.

They sexually assaulted him with a stick and humiliated him further by forcing the stick into his mouth.

Both his legs were broken. The beatings left him deaf in his left ear and all his teeth became loose; a concussion led to vertigo.

At one stage, Liu developed an infection in his lungs and was on the verge of death.

"I was severely injured. The mental trauma is even harder to recover from," Liu wrote in his complaint. "The inmates were given the power to torture me however they liked. It's really hard for most people to imagine how cruel the torture was, if they didn't witness it themselves."

Liu's family also suffered.

"The persecution was also a disaster to my family," he wrote. "When I was in prison, the police constantly came to our home to harass my wife and two daughters. My wife's health deteriorated; she almost died last year. My brother-in-law was so traumatized by the persecution that he passed away during the second year of my arrest. My elderly mom also passed away, longing for her imprisoned son."

According to Minghui, Jiang Zemin is directly responsible for the inception and continuation of the persecution campaign. Between the end of May and July 23, 2015, more than 103,000 people filed criminal complaints against the former head of the Chinese Communist Party.

The complaints charge Jiang with unlawful imprisonment, depriving citizens of their constitutional right to freedom of belief, abuse of power, and many other crimes, and urge that he be brought to justice.

US-CHINA RELATIONS

Perception of China Worsens Among Americans



Chinese People's Liberation Army guards at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on April 28, 2019.

EMEL AKAN

WASHINGTON—The U.S. public view of China has turned sharply negative amid growing trade tensions between the world's two largest economies.

Sixty percent of Americans today have an unfavorable view of China, up from 47 percent in 2018, according to a Pew Research Center poll released on Aug. 13. This marked the highest level since the inception of the survey in 2005.

More Americans also see China as a top threat.

"Around a quarter of Americans—24 percent—name China as the country or group that poses the greatest threat to the United States in the future, twice as many as said the same in 2007," Pew Research wrote.

This ties China with Russia as the country most cited as a threat to the United States, while only 12 percent of respondents consider North Korea a top future threat.

The poll conducted between mid-May and mid-June among 1,503 adults also found that more than 80 percent of Americans believe China's growing military power is bad for the United States. However, they are not as much concerned about China's growing economic strength. More Americans believe China's growing economy is good for the United States than those who believe it's bad.

The survey also shows that there's a consensus across partisan lines on views of China.

"While both Republicans and

While both Republicans and Democrats have unfavorable views of China, Republicans' opinions are somewhat more negative.

Pew Research Center

Democrats have unfavorable views of China, Republicans' opinions are somewhat more negative," stated Pew Research. Seventy percent of Republicans view China in a negative light compared with 59 percent of Democrats.

The image of China among Americans has fluctuated over the years. During President Barack Obama's first term in office, positive views surpassed negative ones. However, negative views have mostly predominated since then, according to the Pew study.

'Hang Tough on China'

For years, Washington has accused China of stealing key technologies and intellectual property from U.S. companies using various tactics that include physical and cyber theft and forced technology transfers.

After taking office in 2017, President Donald Trump sought to take a tougher stance on protectionist and trade-distorting policies of Beijing. He launched a tariff campaign in early 2018 as part of a strategy to end China's unfair trade practices. Instead of addressing U.S. concerns, Beijing responded to U.S. duties with tariffs on U.S. goods, starting with soybeans and other agricultural products.

The trade war between the world's two largest economies has escalated in recent months, as the Chinese regime failed to deliver on its pledges.

Earlier in August, Trump announced that he would impose 10 percent tariffs on an addition-

al \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods, on top of 25 percent levies already in place on \$250 billion of Chinese imports. However, the Trump administration on Aug. 13 delayed the move from Sept. 1 to Dec. 15.

In an effort to blunt the effect of U.S. tariffs, China recently devalued its currency, prompting the United States to label Beijing a currency manipulator. The Chinese renminbi weakened to its lowest level since 2008. A cheaper yuan relative to the U.S. dollar helps Beijing offset the increased U.S. tariffs by lowering the cost of Chinese goods. China's recent currency manipulation has opened a new front in the trade war.

"We had a very good talk yesterday with China," Trump told reporters on Aug. 13.

"Again, they've said this many times; they've said they're going to buy farm products. So far, they've disappointed me with the truth. They haven't been truthful."

Trump has repeatedly accused the Chinese regime of backtracking on its commitments and delaying talks in the hopes of making a more favorable trade deal with a Democratic president after the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

Voices from both sides of the aisle, however, have been urging Trump to crack down on Chinese trade abuses. Key Democrats such as Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) have repeatedly backed the president and urged him to "hang tough on China."

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