

WEEK 18, 2020

THE EPOCH TIMES

CHINA INSIDER

A technician makes medical test kits in a lab at Sophonix, a company which produces test kits for medical use, in Beijing on April 9, 2020.



BIOETHICS IN CHINESE LABS

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

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Marking the
21st Anniversary
of the Largest Peaceful Appeal in China **6**



Chinese virologist Dr. Zhengli Shi, is seen inside the P4 laboratory, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, in Wuhan, capital of China's Hubei province, on Feb. 23, 2017.

CCP VIRUS

Pandemic Reveals Alarming Absence of Ethics in China's Virology Labs: Experts

VENUS UPADHAYAYA

The CCP virus pandemic highlights a history of mismanagement, corruption, and lack of ethics in China's virology labs, experts say.

Questions have grown as to the source of the coronavirus that has claimed over 197,000 lives and infected more than 2.8 million around the world as of April 25, according to a count from Johns Hopkins.

But the real number of infected and killed is unconfirmed due to the lack of accurate data from China.

One widely circulated theory is that the CCP virus was manufactured inside the Wuhan Institute of Virology, something the Chinese regime has denied.

Regardless, experts say the investigations into China's research on coronaviruses point to a lack of ethics in China's virology labs, the root cause of which is the absolute control of the CCP over these institutes.

"For many years, virologists working in Western countries have imagined that their Chinese colleagues operate under the same ethical guidelines that they do," Steven Mosher, president of the conservative human rights charity Population Research Institute, said in an email.

"Certainly the written rules—copied from Western countries—look identical. But in terms of actual behavior, the practices are quite different. Everything in China is driven by the political needs of the CCP," said Mosher.

Issue of Ethics with China's Coronavirus Research

Theories about the CCP virus escaping from the lab originate from the fact that patient zero was infected with the novel coronavirus in Wuhan, where a highly rated researcher, Dr. Zhengli Shi, had performed gain-of-function research on the SARS virus in the institute.

Gain-of-function research involves deliberately enhancing the transmissibility or virulence of a pathogen.

The U.S. administration paused funding on certain kinds of this gain-of-function research in 2014, and lifted it only in 2017 with an emphasis that a "thoughtful review process" laid out by HHS be followed.

Shi, also popularly known as the "bat woman" in China for her research on the winged mammals, had stored bats known to carry coronaviruses inside the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The risks involved in gain-of-interest research came under debate in an ar-

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Steven Mosher, president of Population Research Institute

The P4 laboratory (L) at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan in China's central Hubei Province on April 17, 2020.



ticle published in Nature in 2015 that discussed a chimeric virus that was found to infect humans after it was created in a lab by genetic engineering between horseshoe bats in China and the SARS virus, by an international group of virologists including Shi.

"If the virus escaped, nobody could predict the trajectory," Simon Wain-Hobson, a virologist at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, told Nature at the time.

Though it's not certain whether the chimeric virus was stored in Shi's lab in Wuhan, the case highlighted the risks involved in such research. Nature recently published a disclaimer saying there is no evidence indicating it was the cause of the current pandemic.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on the "Larry O'Connor Show" on April 23 that the United States is constantly evaluating such high-risk facilities around the world that research viruses to make sure all safety measures are followed.

"There are many of those kinds of labs inside of China, and we have been concerned that they didn't have the skill set, the capabilities, the processes, and protocols, that were adequate to protect the world from potential escape," said Pompeo.

Allegations of Sale of Animals from Lab to Market

One theory is that somehow the coronavirus came from the Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan as a result of the pathogen jumping to humans from contaminated meat obtained from China's research labs.

Researchers from these labs allegedly sell their leftovers after they are done experimenting on the animals.

Experts interviewed by The Epoch Times for this story have expressed concerns about this practice, due to reports of corruption inside Chinese labs. They fear it could be a channel of virus transmission.

A group of bipartisan American lawmakers expressed their concerns in a letter to the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization, calling for a "global shutdown of live wildlife markets" after theories of the pandemic originating from the wet market came to the fore.

A recent case of such corrupt practices was reported by The Epoch Times' Chinese edition: Ning Li, a professor from China Agricultural University was sentenced to 12 years in jail in February for selling animals from his Wuhan lab.

Of the 3.7 million Chinese yuan (\$522,000) Li earned from his crimes, over 1 million Chinese yuan (\$141,000) was from selling animals or milk used by the lab, including pigs and cows.

Sean Lin, a former virology researcher for the U.S. Army, said such crimes are difficult to bring to justice inside China.

"Even if people want to expose some institute staff or leaders selling experiment animals to the markets, their voice could be easily quenched by the institute leadership in the name of safeguarding the reputation of the institute," he said.

Wendy Rogers, an Australian expert in practical bioethics and one of Nature's top 10 people who mattered in science in 2019, said via email that such a culture further encourages corrupt practices inside these Chinese labs.

HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

"There is widespread toleration of corruption in China, which encourages citizens to 'get away' with unethical or illegal acts if they can, especially if by doing so, they can make extra income," said Rogers.

'The System Will Become More Closed'

When asked if the pandemic will force the Chinese regime to become more transparent to the international community on its virology research, Mosher said he doesn't believe that will happen.

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Wendy Rogers, bioethics expert

"The reaction of the CCP will be to become less transparent and less ethical by hiding more and more of what it does from the scientific community, by putting more and more barriers in place to publication and international cooperation," he said.

"The system will become more closed, rather than more open. This is, after all, the 'natural state' of a high-tech, bureaucratic, totalitarian state," Mosher added, saying that those doctors and researchers who tried to be transparent about the CCP virus have been punished and censored.

"Those who have been willing participants in the web of lies spun by the central authorities have been feted and promoted. Thus the lack of ethics grows," said Mosher.

Lin pointed out that people in China don't have freedom of speech and during the pandemic, and even doctors and nurses couldn't come out in the open to talk about the outbreak or the lack of "medical supplies to the public media or scientific journals."

"The world also needs to investigate whether Wuhan Institute of Virology, together with Chinese Military Medicine Units, have been conducting bio-weapon development projects, even though the CCP pledged not to do so by signing the Biological Weapon Convention in 1985," Lin added.

CCP VIRUS

'They Locked My Home From the Outside:' Residents of Virus-Hit Chinese City Reveal Hardships Amid Second Outbreak

NICOLE HAO

In the northern Chinese city of Harbin, where a second wave of the CCP virus outbreak has occurred, one family described how six members became infected after attending a big family dinner in early April.

In March, city authorities had lifted lockdown measures and allowed social gatherings. At the time, Harbin, as was the case with the majority of Chinese cities, declared themselves to be free of any new virus cases.

But when cluster outbreaks began to surface, authorities had no choice but to announce a lockdown once more.

Local residents told The Epoch Times that the city has forced many to be quarantined at home, without permission to go outside, even if they haven't been in contact with diagnosed patients, nor exhibited symptoms.

A Family Dinner

One Harbin native with six infected relatives spoke to the Chinese-language Epoch Times about how the virus spread in the family. The Epoch Times has chosen to use pseudonyms in order to protect their identities.

Lin Jun is originally from Harbin but has been working and living in the south of China. His family still lives in Harbin, but his mother, Wang Hong, was staying with him from January to April 9.

That day, "my grandma was discharged from the hospital [for non-virus-related disease], so my mom went back to take care of her at home," Lin said.

In China, families traditionally have a big dinner gathering when a member returns after a long trip. So, on the evening of

They locked my door from the outside four days ago. I didn't even come into contact with anybody from the hospital.

Mr. Ning, Harbin resident

Chinese officers ride together on bicycles in a shopping area in Beijing on April 22, 2020.

April 9, Lin's grandparents organized a big party at home with 11 family members.

Because the government did not announce new infections in Harbin until April 10, Lin's family was not aware of any risks of exposure to the virus. They thought it was safe to gather again.

On April 11, the Harbin government announced one new infection in the city, a patient who was being treated at the same hospital as Lin's grandma.

Because all 11 family members were in close contact, they all had to take the virus diagnostic test. They were sent to the hospital in three groups.

"The son of my uncle entered the hospital after [testing positive in] the first nucleic acid test. My uncle and my grandpa were diagnosed during the second test," Lin said. "My aunt was the

last one who entered the hospital. She didn't take the nucleic acid test due to lack of diagnostic kits at the hospital. But the CT scan results and her symptoms showed that she was infected."

Lin's aunt had ground-glass opacity in her lungs, indicating inflammation—a common symptom of COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

Lin's mother and grandmother were also diagnosed and sent to the hospital. Both are in critical condition and are being treated at the intensive care unit.

In the infection cases announced by the Harbin government, Lin's family members do not match the descriptions; thus, it is likely those cases were not counted in authorities' official toll.

Forced Quarantine

On April 17, the Heilongjiang provincial government punished 18 Harbin officials for mishandling

the outbreak. Since then, the city government has launched tight measures to prevent the virus from spreading.

However, locals complained that the forced quarantine rules were inhumane.

Mr. Xiao's wife works on the kitchen staff at the Harbin Daoli District People's Hospital. About seven days ago, Mr. Xiao was asked to be isolated at a quarantine center for 24 hours as a precaution. He was released from the quarantine center after testing negative.

Meanwhile, his wife has been quarantined at the hospital, not allowed to return home.

But because his wife works at the hospital, he was also quarantined. "They locked my home from the outside. I am locked inside the house," Xiao told the Chinese-language Epoch Times on April 23.

Mr. Ning is a buyer for the Daoli District hospital's kitchen. He usually goes to a local wholesale market early morning to buy the vegetables, then drops them off at the hospital before 7 a.m. The workers in the kitchen start work at the hospital at 8 a.m.

Thus, Ning said he does not have any contact with people working inside the facility.

But authorities have forcibly locked him in at home.

"They locked my door from the outside four days ago. In fact, I didn't come into contact with anybody from the hospital," Ning said.

Mrs. Su told The Epoch Times that her husband visited the hospital to get treatment for his blood circulation on April 16, and then was quarantined at the hospital. She did not go to the hospital herself, but was also forcibly locked down at home by city authorities on April 19.





The New York Stock Exchange on Aug. 18, 2011.

CCP VIRUS

Pandemic Should Shake Up Wall Street's Partnership With China, Experts Say

CATHY HE

Growing distrust of the Chinese regime over how it handled the virus outbreak should prompt Wall Street to rethink its dealings with China, says hedge fund manager Kyle Bass.

Beijing's cover-up of the epidemic in China, underreporting of infection and death toll figures, and disinformation campaign aimed at deflecting blame for the pandemic have sparked anger across all levels of society.

Ordinary Americans are starting to understand that the "Chinese government is not trustworthy, they're not our friends, and one could deem them to be our mortal enemy," Bass, founder of Dallas-based Hayman Capital Management, recently told *The Epoch Times* "American Thought Leaders" program.

And soon, Wall Street's relationship "is going to have to change. And I think it's happening now," he said.

Financial Decoupling?

As the pandemic continues to exact mammoth human and economic costs worldwide, a growing number of countries and regions are reevaluating their ties with the communist regime.

Meanwhile, the disruption to global supply chains has forced companies to consider reducing its dependence on China as a manufacturing base, accelerating the process of "decoupling" from China.

With the CCP virus causing particular devastation across northeastern U.S. states—with New York and New Jersey ranking as the two worst-hit regions in America—residents, institutions, and governments in those regions should be attuned to the fact that the virus's global spread stemmed from the regime's cover-up of the outbreak, said U.S.-based China commentator Heng He.

"Had the Chinese Communist Party not lied, and rather truthfully reported the outbreak situation... then perhaps it could have been contained within China," Heng told NTD, an affiliate of *The Epoch Times*.

However, it remains to be seen if U.S. financial institutions will start disengaging with the regime as a result of

Any company that wants to list in the United States—forget about if it's just from China or from anywhere else in the world—you have to adhere to real audits just like U.S. companies do, you have to adhere to the same standards as U.S.-listed companies.

Kyle Bass, founder of Dallas-based Hayman Capital Management

Wall Street has always been really cooperative with China, fueling the Chinese economy.

Frank Xie, an associate professor in the School of Business Administration at the University of South Carolina

the crisis.

"Wall Street has always been really cooperative with China, fueling the Chinese economy," Frank Xie, an associate professor in the School of Business Administration at the University of South Carolina, told *The Epoch Times*.

Xie said that recent moves by Beijing to open up its financial sector amid heightened U.S.-China trade tensions since the 2018 trade war meant that Wall Street was unlikely to leave China anytime soon. Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs in March became the latest foreign banks to receive Chinese regulatory approvals to take majority stakes in their Chinese securities joint ventures.

Piece of the Market

Prior to this, even though the regime had not fulfilled its pledge to open up its banking sector upon joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001, foreign banks "have nonetheless worked hard to grab a piece of the Chinese market," Xie said.

He noted that Wall Street banks have helped many Chinese companies list on U.S. stock exchanges. As of Sept. 2019, there were 172 Chinese firms listed on major U.S. exchanges with a market capitalization of more than \$1 trillion, according to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

At the same time, some Western firms have hired relatives of Chinese officials in an effort to win business in the country, the professor noted. JPMorgan Chase in 2016 agreed to pay \$264 million in fines after hiring family and friends of high-level Chinese officials to gain access to banking deals—a practice that violated U.S. bribery laws. Credit Suisse and Deutsche Bank also paid large fines to U.S. regulators for similar practices.

Instances of fraudulent accounting at Chinese firms, with U.S.-listed Luckin Coffee being the latest high-profile scandal, has not deterred investment firms either, Xie said.

"I think they know a lot of [Chinese] companies are fraudulent, that a lot of companies are not abiding by financial rules, reporting rules, and accounting rules," he said. "But unless there are companies like Muddy Waters that re-

veal their wrongdoings, they'll continue to invest."

In early April, shares in Luckin Coffee collapsed after the Chinese beverage brand said an internal investigation found that its chief operating officer had falsified 2019 sales by about \$310 million. In January, short seller Muddy Waters Research said it would bet against the stock, based on a report that the company was committing fraud.

Chinese video streaming site iQiyi was also recently accused by activist financial research firm Wolfpack Research of overstating its revenue in 2019 by \$1.1 billion to \$1.9 billion.

Blinded

Bass blasted U.S. financial firms and companies for ignoring China's human rights abuses in pursuit of the Chinese market.

"Can you imagine if you explain to someone that you're doing business with a regime that has more than a million prisoners of conscience locked up and is executing live organ harvesting on this population of political prisoners on a daily basis?" he said, referring to the regime's state-sanctioned practice of killing prisoners of conscience, mainly Falun Gong practitioners, for their organs to sell on the transplant market.

"And yet people like Blackstone can't wait to invest another dollar in China," Bass continued.

"You know why? Because they just let money blind them... to the blatant human rights abuses of maybe one of the most tyrannical regimes that's ever lived. It's crazy."

US Action

The first step towards remedying this situation would be to make Chinese companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges open their audit books to U.S. regulators, Bass said. Currently, the regime blocks the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) or U.S. regulators to examine audit work papers of Chinese companies, saying they contain "state secrets."

"Any company that wants to list in the United States—forget about if it's just from China or from anywhere else in the world—you have to adhere to real audits just like U.S. companies

do, you have to adhere to the same standards as U.S.-listed companies," he said.

"Let's just level the playing field—that's not being punitive."

Last June, a bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced bills to the Senate and House to force U.S.-listed Chinese and other foreign companies to comply with American financial disclosure regulations, or else face de-listing.

U.S. public pension funds have also come under intensifying scrutiny over its investments into Chinese companies, including those that support the regime's military, espionage, and human rights abuses.

A group of lawmakers is reportedly campaigning the Trump administration to bar the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, the main pension fund for federal government employees, from moving to track an index run by MSCI that includes China-based stocks under scrutiny in Washington.

In recent years, global stock index providers such as MSCI and FTSE have added Chinese stocks to their global and emerging markets indices, allowing billions of dollars of U.S. investment to flow into Chinese equities.

Among the companies included in the MSCI index is Chinese surveillance equipment manufacturer Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology, which was placed on a U.S. trade blacklist last year because its technology was being used for repression of Uyghur Muslims in China's western Xinjiang region.

The index also includes Hong Kong-listed AviChina Industry & Technology Ltd., the listing company for Chinese state-owned firm Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC). AVIC and its subsidiaries develop aircrafts and weapons systems for the Chinese military.

"It is absolutely crazy for our military and federal employees to be indirectly contributing to China's military operations—and what's worse is that nearly all of these people are completely unaware of this situation," Rep. Mike Waltz (R-Fla.) said in an April 24 statement.

Jan Jekielek contributed to this report.

OPINION

America and China After the Coronavirus

SEBASTIAN GORKA



Commentary

We now know enough. Whether communist China actually engineered a SARS

derivative into COVID-19 or not, the world's largest dictatorship lied and people—across the world—died.

Recent reports indicate that the virus may have been accidentally leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, China's only Level 4 research facility for dangerous pathogens. To date, the most detailed analysis remains *The Epoch Times'* own documentary film, which details the establishment's work on coronavirus and the biological connection between the bat virus being researched in Wuhan and the novel coronavirus that has killed almost 200,000 humans across the globe.

The United States is already winning our war domestically with the virus. The president has deployed his new task force on economically reopening the nation and 20 states have already begun to relax shutdown regulations on shuttered businesses.

However, with more than 25 million Americans added to the unemployment rolls as a result of the shutdown, the damage to America is high incalculable. And it will increase as we find out the secondary and tertiary consequences of the national emergency, including increased suicide rates among

We must start now to plan for what we will do about the regime that is our inimical adversary and caused the greatest economic damage to our nation in a very long time.

those who have lost their livelihoods.

Therefore, we must start now to plan for what we will do about the regime that is our inimical adversary and caused the greatest economic damage to our nation in a very long time.

In addition to lying about the origins of what *The Epoch Times* aptly calls the CCP virus, Beijing has intimidated journalists and scientists who tried to tell the truth, and even ordered the destruction of COVID-19 evidence.

For a full timeline of the virus and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) coverup, see my piece here, which is based on key unclassified information I received from the State Department. These revelations have led Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to make very robust statements on Chinese culpability.

In addition to getting answers to the question of what the exact origin of the virus is, there are measures the United States needs to be planning for now. These, at a bare minimum, include:

- A system that penalizes U.S. companies who continue to work with China in sectors that undermine strategic supply chains and our national security interests, and that rewards those who reinvest in America. This would range from advanced defense-related research to production of the lowly N95 mask.
- Cancellation of "permanent normal trade relations" with Communist China (what used to be called Most

Favored Nation status).

Defunding all international organizations, like the World Health Organization (WHO), which have demonstrated their willingness to act as fronts and propaganda surrogates for Communist China.

An international initiative with our NATO allies and global partners to undermine Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative.

Lastly, a public campaign at home to divest, boycott, and sanction Chinese products as long as that nation remains a Communist dictatorship.

President Donald Trump is not an interventionist. I worked for him, I know. But he supports all those who want to obtain freedom for themselves—the people of China included. Now is the time for our "Sputnik Moment," for us to wake to the gravest external threat we face.

If the death of 50,000 Americans is not enough to wake us up to the danger China poses to America and to the free world, nothing is enough.

Sebastian Gorka, Ph.D., is a former deputy assistant to President Donald Trump, host of the nationally syndicated America First, Sebastian Gorka.com, and author of the new book: "The War for America's Soul."

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

A frame from a documentary on the CCP virus origin by The Epoch Times and NTD.



HUMAN RIGHTS

Candlelight Vigil to Protest China's Rights Abuses Goes Digital Amid Pandemic

EVA FU

NEW YORK—Every year, hundreds of people donning bright yellow shirts would convene around this date, holding candles in hand while meditating to soothing music.

As the last rays of the sun laced the horizon with a myriad of hues, practitioners of the spiritual discipline Falun Dafa would gather in silence as the bustling rhythm of the surrounding metropolis carried on.

This year, owing to the current pandemic that has kept people around the world hunkered down in their homes, Falun Dafa practitioners decided to mark the occasion with an online vigil.

On April 23, more than 1,000 practitioners from across a dozen regions in the United States, along with those from as far as the UK, Taiwan, and Malaysia, joined an online platform to commemorate the 21st anniversary of April 25, 1999, when roughly 10,000 adherents gathered in Beijing to appeal to the central government for an environment to freely practice their faith.

As I look back on the past 21 years, it's still the most honorable deed in my life.

Shao Changyong, a Falun Gong practitioner, speaking of his participation in the mass appeal on April 25, 1999.

Also known as Falun Gong, the ancient spiritual practice, which features meditative exercises and teachings based on truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance, received wide acceptance among the Chinese public in the 1990s. By the late 1990s, an estimated 70 million to 100 million people were practicing in China.

The Chinese regime ultimately didn't grant the appeal. The atheist Chinese Communist Party (CCP) deemed the vast number of practitioners a threat to its rule and unleashed a nationwide campaign to eradicate the practice in July 1999, arresting and detaining hundreds of thousands of adherents, according to the Falun Dafa Information Center. Thousands are confirmed to have died as a result of the persecution, though the true number is likely higher.



Candles mark the 21st year of persecution of Falun Gong in China, in New York on April 23, 2020.

This year was the first virtual vigil event. At 8 p.m., screens lit up with candlelight, as practitioners hoped to draw attention to the CCP's ongoing human rights abuses during a time of social distancing.

The day is meant to commemorate the unwavering faith of practitioners in China, said Yi Rong, event organizer and president of the New York-based nonprofit Tuidang Center.

"We don't want this day to pass in obscurity," she told The Epoch Times.

Lives Upturned

Among those who attended was Tang, a native of the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, who took up the practice in 1996. He was a new college graduate with a lucrative job offer on hand when the persecution began in 1999. Having experienced firsthand the practice's health benefits, he recalled the moment of shock he experienced when he found himself the target of a nationwide persecution, despite having done no harm.

He felt compelled to tell people the truth. He decided to travel to Beijing and unfold a banner declaring the truth about the practice, knowing that he risked never returning. It led to his first experience of incarceration inside a detention center. On the first day, guards physically assaulted him, dealing blows to his waist. Every hit would make him shriek in pain.

Over the years until he fled China in 2015, Tang was arrested eight times, spending more than six years in total behind bars for refusing to give up his faith. At a forced labor camp, he had to cut and polish glass pieces that were to be assembled into

chandeliers for export overseas. His meals consisted of mushy food that "more resembled pig feed," he said.

He was tortured with force-feeding three times, each time after staging a hunger strike over the right to meditate and to study Falun Dafa's teachings. In one of his harrowing experiences, four or five prisoners pinned him down to a wooden board as a thick tube was inserted into his nose and down to his stomach and liquid was forced through. The prisoners repeatedly pulled the tube out and reinserted it, causing blood to stream out of his nose continuously.

Tang said some substance in the liquid also caused a burning pain in his stomach.

Since the persecution began in China, Han Yi, then only in primary school, said she probably spent less than two years with her mother, Wu Shunzhen, who was in and out of jail for roughly a decade, often with only a few months in between.

Han recalled a period of four months in 2004 when guards denied the family's requests to visit Wu in jail. When Han was finally allowed to see her mother, she noticed patches of hair missing from her scalp. She eventually learned that her mother had been pulled into an abandoned building on the prison grounds with the curtains drawn, where guards tortured her. They deprived Wu of sleep, slapped her when she closed her eyelids ever so slightly, poured water over her body, and left her shivering in the cold.

During periods when Wu wasn't detained, police officers visited Han at school and pressed her for the whereabouts of her mother or other local practitioners, threatening that

Han's own future was on the line.

A Choice

Faced with mounting pressure, each practitioner made a conscious decision to persevere.

During the worst moments, when every minute felt like a year, Tang held fast to one thought, he said: "Truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance."

"As challenging as it may get, I still have [these values] to guide my life," he said.

He managed to escape to New York in 2015. Not long after, he joined the Tuidang Center, making daily phone calls to mainlanders explaining why they needed to sever ties with the CCP.

The grassroots "Tuidang" ("quit the Party") movement has led nearly 355 million Chinese people to renounce their Party affiliations over the past 16 years.

While the current pandemic, what's scarier is a regime that has been willing to endanger people's lives in order to maintain its power, Tang said, citing the CCP's history of outbreak coverups.

Wu was smuggled through Thailand and eventually sought refuge in the United States, where mother and daughter were reunited.

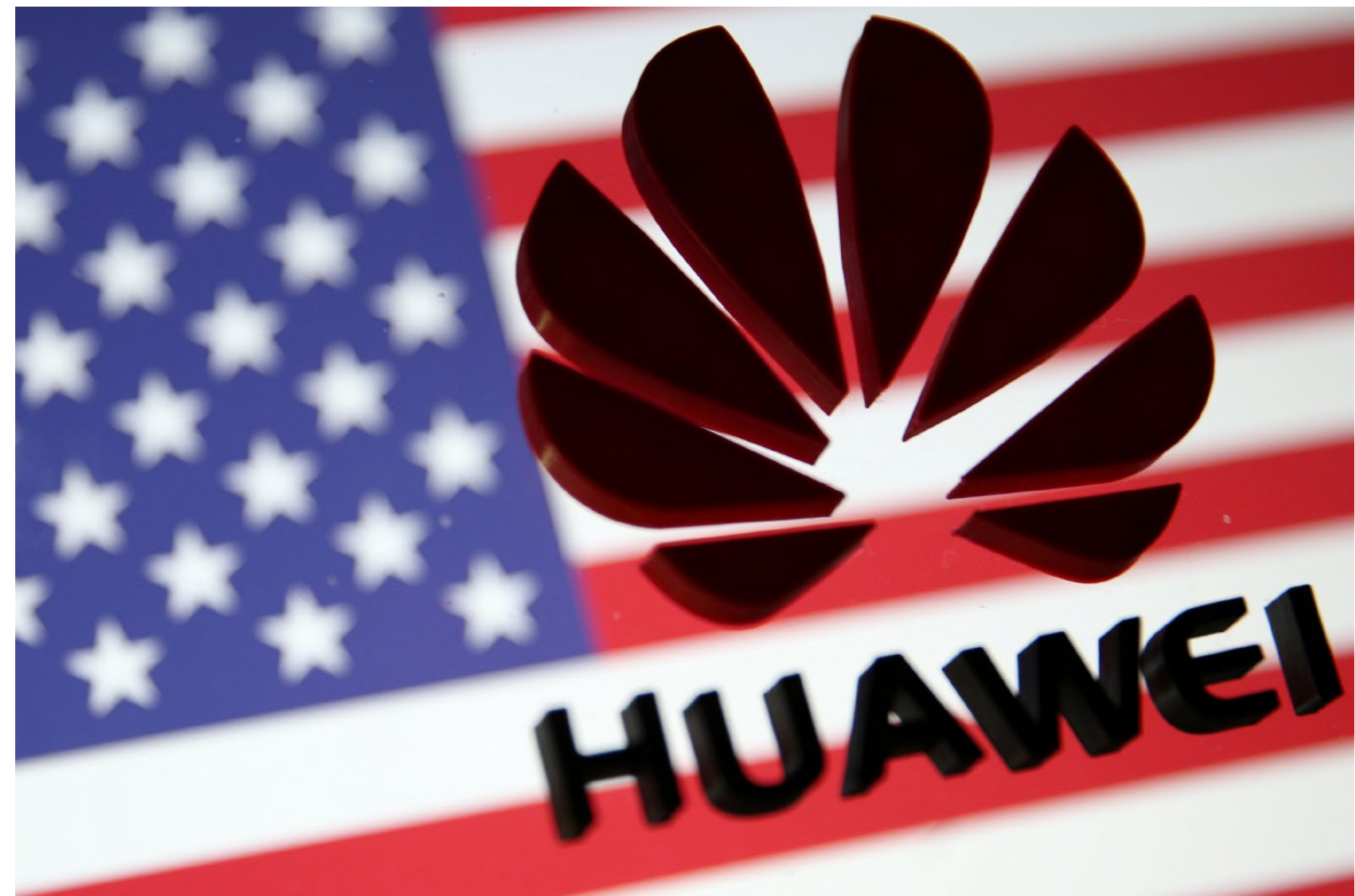
Now studying at Baruch College, Han said that reflecting on what happened inwardly has helped her to appreciate her mother's tenacity while in China.

The guards deprived Wu of sleep, slapped her when she closed her eyelids ever so slightly, poured water over her body, and left her shivering in the cold.

"Life is more than living in comfort," she said. "An outside power won't change what you have gained deep inside."

Shao Changyong, who back in 1999 was an aspiring military officer, knew he was likely forgoing his career and all the associated privileges when he joined the 10,000-strong appeal in front of the Party headquarters in Beijing 21 years ago.

"As I look back on the past 21 years, it's still the most honorable deed in my life," he said.



A 3D printed Huawei logo is placed on glass above displayed U.S. flag in this illustration taken on Jan. 29, 2019.

5G

Opposition to Decoupling From China Misses the Problem of 5G

BONNIE EVANS

News Analysis

As calls to decouple U.S. industries from dependency on manufacturing in China are growing, President Donald Trump has helped prepare the ground for a shift from China by taking a more skeptical approach to relations with the regime in Beijing than his predecessors.

While globalists are pushing back against the efforts to decouple, the key telecommunications technology of 5G shows the limitations of their approach, according to one expert.

Opposing Views

The argument for protecting the deeply intertwined U.S.-China economic relationship is widely supported in some circles.

Last December, former World Bank President Robert Zoellick, who served the George W. Bush administration as U.S. trade representative, asked a gathering of the U.S.-China Business Council, "Are you ready for this?"

"The 20th century painted a shocking picture of industrial age destruction; do not assume that the cyber era of the 21st century is immune to crack-ups or catastrophes of equal or even greater scale," Zoellick said.

"You need to decide whether you think the United States can still cooperate with China to mutual benefit while managing differences, and if so, how."

The Financial Times said that Zoellick's words "captured the fears—particularly within parts of Washington's economic and foreign policy establishment—that U.S. President Donald Trump's trade war against Beijing has paved the way for an irreversible 'decoupling' of the world's two largest economies."

Zoellick was responsible for completing the negotiations that brought China into the World Trade Organization.

Zoellick's views are echoed by other trade and China specialists.

Harry G. Broadman, an economist who has worked in key U.S.

government, international organization, private sector, and academic roles during his 30-plus-year career, wrote in Forbes in September 2019 that decoupling from China potentially presents "worldwide negative spillover impacts."

Of those consequences, Broadman suggests, "technological bifurcation, which could fundamentally jeopardize harnessing global benefits from advances in science and technology," is one of the riskiest aspects of taking the United States out of China.

In plain English, Broadman's argument is that without globalization, which is largely underpinned by the U.S.-China relationship, technologies go their own way, developing standards and specifications for the regions in which they emerge, rather than under a globalized standard common throughout the world.

5G Domination the Danger

"He's mistaken," Robert Spalding said, referring to Broadman's views on technological bifurcation. Spalding is a retired Air Force brigadier general and architect of the U.S. National Security Strategy, which named China as an adversary. He is now a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington, and author of the recent book "Stealth War: How China Took Over While America's Elite Slept."

The real danger, Spalding told The Epoch Times in an extensive interview, is in the ongoing struggle for dominance in fifth-generation—5G—mobile technology and standards that are already beginning to change how data is collected and used around the world.

"The U.S. was the first to develop the smartphone in 4G," Spalding said. As a result, "we dominate the information market."

But as the world moves into 5G, the risks are greater if the "concept of open data" and "open data markets" of those 4G networks are maintained. In Europe, the open data concept has already "created concern for privacy protection."

In China, however, open data markets create a global opportunity.

"In the hands of China," Spalding said, open data "lets the state take hold of power that Google and Amazon have."

The "state" in China is led and run by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

"The ability of these companies to pinpoint your location and the things you're doing and buying is incredibly powerful and counter to privacy concerns and counter to the principles of our liberal democracies," Spalding said.

Spalding pointed out that "as Android and Apple become less of dominant players in 5G, now Tencent and Alibaba and DJI and Hikvision can begin to dominate that data space. So we move from a world centered on the U.S. to one centralized on Baidu and Tencent."

All five companies are Chinese technology companies with ties to the CCP. Alibaba and Tencent generally rank in the top 10 internet companies in the world by market capitalization.

"That's why he's mistaken [about the problem of technological bifurcation]. It's positive if we move to a data system that is focused on privacy and security and sovereignty and deploying secure 5G," Spalding said.

Referring to Broadman, Spalding said that "what he's advocating is that China dominate the technological space."

China Sets Standards

Already, Spalding said, 3GPP, the umbrella body under which the key telecommunications standards organizations in the world operate and coordinate, is heavily dominated by China.

Since American network equipment manufacturers "are not expected to survive," that leaves only four companies in the world that will make the networking equipment for the 5G future.

Those companies are Ericsson, Nokia, Samsung, and China's Huawei—all subject to the standards that are being so heavily influenced by Chinese technical specifications.

Functionally, therefore, Spalding points out that even though Ericsson and Nokia are Swedish

and Finnish respectively, and Samsung is South Korean, they end up building the same system as Huawei.

"Essentially," Spalding said, "everybody is building a Chinese network based on open data, not on a secure network. That's why he's incorrect. His theory promotes China," Spalding said.

This means, Spalding said, that China's "acquisition of intelligence" and "ability to influence societies" is greatly enhanced both in China and abroad, including in the United States.

Statistics from the Institute of Electronics and Electronic Engineers support Spalding's claim.

In a March 17 post titled "Strategy Analytics: Huawei 1st among top 5 contributors to 3GPP 5G specs," Alan Weissberger reports that "even though there are more than 600 member companies participating in 3GPP, their 5G specification process is actually led by only a few leading telecom companies. ... New research from Strategy Analytics ... finds that 13 companies contributed more than 78% 5G related papers and led 77% of the 5G related Work Items and Study Items."

Of those 13, the top five are, in order, Huawei, Ericsson, Nokia, Qualcomm, and China Mobile.

Free Versus Central

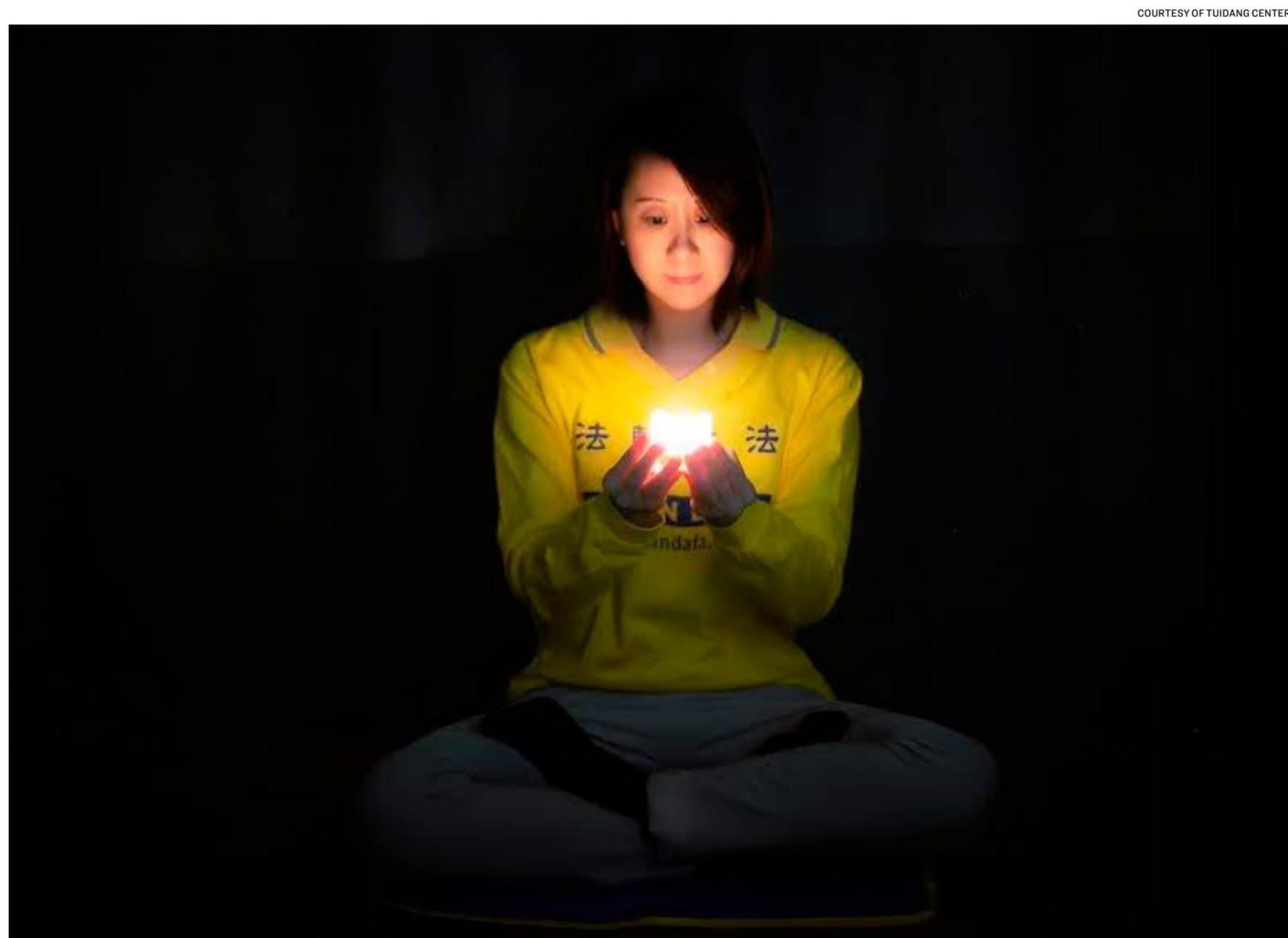
Resource Trade "By allowing China to be in the global trading system, you're actually undermining the foundational premises" of that system, Spalding said. That global trading system has "a market-based approach to both capital allocation and trade."

"China is not a market-based economy," Spalding said. China, Spalding has said earlier, is not "a centrally planned economy, but it is centrally resourced."

"When the state is providing resources and capital to a company, that's not a market-based solution," he said.

"Prices are set by China, not by the market."

"If you really want to have a free trading system ... then China can't be a part of it because they don't believe in it."



A woman participates in the online candle vigil to commemorate the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China, on April 23, 2020.

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