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CHINA INSIDER



REMEMBERING TIANANMEN

31 YEARS ON

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VIRUS ORIGINS

China's Official Narrative on Wuhan Wet Market Contradicted by Leaked Document

NICOLE HAO

The suggestion by the Chinese regime that the CCP virus originated from the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, which sold seafood, wild animals, and fresh produce, is contradicted by an internal investigative report dated Jan. 22 that was reviewed recently by The Epoch Times.

While some of the city's first cases were connected to the market, the earliest documented patient wasn't. Scientists still haven't determined the virus's origin; U.S. officials, citing intelligence, said the virus was likely naturally occurring, but may have leaked from a virology research lab in Wuhan.

As the world sought to uncover the source of the virus outbreak, Chinese authorities refused offers of assistance from the United States and other countries in research, while keeping mum about their investigations.

In January, Gao Fu, director of China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), claimed twice that the virus came from wild animals sold at the Huanan market. At a Jan. 22 press conference, Gao explained that the virus likely first infected people through contact with wild animals and the environment that the wild animals were in. Then, the virus began mutating and became capable of human-to-human transmission.

"The original source of the virus is wild animals that were sold at the [Huanan] seafood market," Gao said firmly.

Then, in March, amid intense international scrutiny over China's mishandling of the crisis, Chinese officials began pushing the unfounded conspiracy theory that the U.S. military introduced the virus to Wuhan.

However, The Epoch Times recently obtained a copy of the CDC's investigative report of the Huanan market, which indicated that authorities took 585 environment samples from different areas of the market and found that 33 of them tested positive for the virus. The positive samples came from shops located throughout the market, as well as surfaces, walls, and tools used in connection with the animals.

Animals and the environment of farms that supplied livestock to the market were also evaluated, with all 139 samples testing negative.

While the report didn't provide conclusive evidence as to whether the virus originated from animals sold at the market, it

As the world sought to uncover the source of the virus outbreak, Chinese authorities refused offers of assistance from the United States and other countries in research, while keeping mum about their investigations.

While the report didn't provide conclusive evidence as to whether the virus originated from animals sold at the market, it revealed that authorities weren't forthcoming about its research and were too quick to declare the virus's provenance, said Dr. Sean Lin, former lab director at the viral disease branch of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

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The CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus, commonly known as the novel coronavirus, first emerged from Wuhan in late 2019, and has since spread to more than 200 countries and territories.

Leaked Document

The investigative report was drafted by the National Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention at China's CDC and reported to the National Health Commission on Jan. 22.

Authorities conducted three tests: rRT-PCR (real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) nucleic acid test, which has been widely used to test for the CCP virus in China; the NGS (next-generation sequencing) test; and the SMRT (single molecule real-time) test.

The latter two are nucleic acid tests for samples taken from the environment.

The Huanan Market, which is located close to the Hankou railway station, a major transportation hub, had more than 1,000 shops before it was closed by authorities on Jan. 1. The market sold pork, seafood, spices, and other food items.

The 33 positive samples came from floor surfaces, doors, weight balances, trolleys, walls, trash bins, refrigerators, shoes, and gloves at 31 vendor shops. About half of the shops that had positive samples were those selling seafood and freshwater fish.

Twelve of the shops were connected with others, or were on opposite sides of a corridor where customers would be walking and shopping; the other 21 shops were located in disparate areas of the market.

"We highly suspect that the virus outbreak was related to the wild animals' trading" because "there are several shops selling wild animals in the area where the 12 connected shops were located," the report concluded.

But interestingly, the report indicates that 139 environment and animal samples from farms—which supplied bamboo rats, porcupines, turkeys, rabbits, and other animals to the market—all came back negative.

Chinese state-run media previously reported in January that the market also sold marmots, snakes, frogs, hedgehogs, peacocks, pheasants, civet cats, and meles (a type of badger).

Bamboo rats have become a popular meat food in China in recent years. Authorities took samples from 24 bamboo rats sold at the Qiyimen Fresh Market, another market in Wuhan where wild animals are sold, located near the Wuchang railway station. Those also came back negative.

China CDC previously announced on Jan. 26 that it picked up animal samples from the Huanan market between Jan. 1 to Jan. 12 for an investigation, but never announced the test results. The CDC didn't mention the animal testing in its internal investigation report.

Questions From Specialist

Lin noted that one of the Huanan market environment samples—an epilator used to remove hair or feathers from animals—tested positive. He said that likely indicates the virus left on the machine came from an animal.

He pointed out that previous studies have discovered that dogs and cats were diagnosed with COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, in the United States, Europe, and Hong Kong. Lin urged Chinese authorities to release the animal testing results so the public can understand the real picture of the virus outbreak.

Regarding the environment samples, Lin said authorities should have investigated which shops or areas were visited by the first COVID-19 patients diagnosed in January. That would have provided a better clue as to which areas of the market were infected with the virus.

"It should tell people which sample from which shop tested positive, and who visited that shop was diagnosed with COVID-19... combining the patients' tracking information and the environment testing report," Lin said.

He noted that with the report's inconclusive findings, the China CDC director shouldn't have been so quick to determine in January that the virus came from wild animals, calling such actions "malfeasance" and "concealing the truth." He urged authorities to release all related research documents to the public.

Recently, Gao also backtracked from his initial claim.

During a political meeting on May 25, he told the media that, "when we look at the whole process now, the virus should have existed before" infections related to the seafood market were reported.

He claimed that he changed his view because virus research is still new and he was still studying it.

CHHS STOWERS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen (C) waves from the deck of the Ming Chuan frigate during a ceremony to commission two Perry-class guided missile frigates from the United States into the Taiwan Navy, in the southern port of Kaohsiung on Nov. 8, 2018.

US Needs to Defend Its 'Vacuums,' Exploit Beijing's

JOHN MILLS



Commentary

To properly frame the panorama of chaos around us, in the grand scheme of things, we are in a shaping information and the environment testing report," Lin said.

This phase contains a lot of asymmetric warfare as the CCP shoves and pushes the Free World to try to get at our seam lines and vulnerabilities.

Whether it's covering up the outbreak of the coronavirus, allowing the outbreak to become a global pandemic, trying to collapse the U.S. economy and society, running shameless Belt and Road Initiative influence operations, or establishing clear ability to project military force, the CCP is frantically picking up its tempo and beginning to wing it (another way of saying ad lib), since it doesn't have a strategic plan other than regime survival.

In these situations, the CCP and the rest of us all have vacuums—in other words, things, areas, and topics that we need to influence, but don't have decisive resources to fully defend. These are vulnerabilities that need attention despite our limited capabilities, resources, or attention. The strategy is always the same—place your opponent's vacuums at risk, safeguard your own.

Hong Kong Not Totally Lost
This tragic situation unfolding in front of us is horrible, ugly, and historic. Militarily, the Hong Kong peninsula and geography have always been hard to defend from the mainland.

Ever since the Umbrella Revolution in 2014, the CCP has been infiltrating the Hong Kong police and Legislative Council and can quickly shuttle resources forward to the Shenzhen Stadium (the staging facility for People's Liberation Army (PLA) and paramilitary operations into Hong Kong) and likely prisoners back. It's just 20 minutes from the two main border crossings into Hong Kong.

These high-speed routes allow rapid movement back and forth as the CCP attempts to establish its Iron Curtain.

This rapid line of communication has emboldened the CCP to exercise brutal treatment of the Hong Kong citizens and seems to have given them a tactical ad-

vantage—but who really has the upper hand in this situation? The Free World actually does in several ways, if it chooses to act like it.

In a major movement, the United States is moving rapidly to bring People's Republic of China (PRC) companies under the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) transparency and oversight guidelines.

President Donald Trump will likely rescind the infamous 2013 Obama-era intervention in which, incredibly, PRC companies were given a huge cost advantage by not having to follow SEC audit and transparency regulations. PRC companies are already looking to exit U.S. exchanges in response and to move to London, Tokyo, and Hong Kong.

There's a little problem with this. London and Tokyo have already signaled an intent to not let them in. If the United States pulls Hong Kong's special status—as Trump suggested would be done in his May 29 speech—that likely means the Hong Kong Exchange won't work either.

That effectively puts the CCP in a corner—a small corner of the world's capital market—much like wartime Japan needed oil and other raw materials, the CCP's lifeblood and oxygen is access to capital. They have effectively six months of oxygen left.

The CCP's Iron Curtain may be temporary and worthless if Hong Kong loses its exchange status. We need Hongkongers to resist for themselves while we place maximum financial pain on the CCP. Possibly a mass humanitarian Dunkirk is in order to allow the Hongkongers to temporarily establish HK 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, et cetera, in other locations until HK 3.0 can be re-established where it is now.

A Military Move on Taiwan?
With six months of oxygen left—what does any good totalitarian do? Invade. But invade where? Invade whom? Is the CCP military instrument of national power ready for a serious projection of amphibious warfare?

The messaging from the CCP has been unclear. Following some messaging that now isn't the time for an invasion of Taiwan, other, more aggressive rhetoric is spewed. What does it mean? I think it's clear—they're squabbling internally and don't know.

Their navy is growing, but I'm just not seeing the capacity to generate and project significant amphibious force yet. At roughly nine large and 60 small amphibious

vessels and two brigades of People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) Marines totaling roughly 12,000 troops, that's not yet enough to decisively achieve success in an opposed landing on any major island.

Taiwan's Hsuing Feng III super-sonic missile will greatly attrit such an attempt. And I'm not seeing the operational art to orchestrate and conduct such a complex operation, which becomes much more complex when under fire and a number of the amphibious vessels are sinking or on fire.

But perhaps, a more fertile opportunity exists. Perhaps not an island, but a continent. An invasion of Taiwan may in the end be successful—but ferociously costly on all sides—and to what ends? A wrecked island with an angry, subjugated population?

recapitalize, this initial "peaceful" CCP footprint is an excellent starting point for the digestion of the entire continent as the Australian psyche is contemplating its navel. A good dictator is always looking for good Lebensraum opportunities.

Whether it's Taiwan or Australia—any projection of military force will essentially require the entire capabilities of the PLA—with little in reserve. The CCP has to decide—asphyxiate without access to capital or invade and essentially use their entire inventory of silver bullets upfront.

Not a good situation to be in. Choose wisely.

Chaos in the US
In the space of a few days, we appear to be in a grand mess domestically and in a state of low-level civil war. Yes, we're a mess, and, yes, this is a contrived and foreign-funded, low-level civil war—but we're still better than anything out there.

It's bad—but not quite as bad as the '60s. So far, it is blue areas conducting fratricide. Democracy is messy—that's what scares the CCP. Their agent provocateurs on the ground think they are really getting away with it, and so far, that's true. Spreading rioting stipend money through Antifa and having spoiled white liberals with masks burn the neighborhoods and businesses of people of color may seem to be a strategy—but a lot of Americans who are people of color see through this nonsense.

And Trump has already dealt with this decisively by declaring his intention to formally designate Antifa a terrorist organization. Let's hope the Insurrection Act is declared shortly.

Justice will be had for George Floyd and his family. It's already in process.

Insurrection paid for by CCP, Russian, and Soros agents might be a bit dramatic, violent, and theatrical at first, but as RICO is applied and the FBI pivots to tracking down the money trails, Antifa and the related tentacles will be under extreme pressure.

There is a psychology behind masks—Antifa, like the KKK, hides behind masks—and it's an interesting parallel between Antifa and the KKK in the reconstruction period after the U.S. Civil War. Once again, the victims are people of color as their businesses and neighborhoods are burned.

We're resilient and have the upper hand on this. We can pull seam lines inside the CCP also by

drilling through the Great Firewall and sharing information with the people of China.

We have the advantage in the end on this one also.

The Bahamas and Panama
The CCP might be spreading walking-around money on U.S. streets as payback for their difficulties in violently quelling the peacefully resisting Hongkongers, but the CCP money isn't endless—and it's not available everywhere.

Two places call for relatively easy and quick action against the CCP. The Bahamas is still struggling to recover from a terrific tropical storm last summer. The storm devastated the infrastructure, recently provided by Huawei as part of the Belt and Road Initiative. We need passionate action to rally a mini interagency task force and make this a dry run for broader coordinated interagency action on Belt and Road countermeasures in other locations.

I missed this storm hitting the Bahamas by one week last summer. While there, I received an earful from many Bahamians. The CCP's emissaries weren't held in high regard.

The next opportunity is Panama, the Singapore of the Americas. The Panamanians have taken the American-built canal and greatly improved it, and are doing business with the PRC solely because Americans have apparently evaporated.

I've noticed that both the Bahamas and Panama have American chargé d'affaires. I know things are a bit busy, but both places call for strong presidentially appointed ambassadors post-haste to orchestrate the decommissioning of the Belt and Road footholds and replace the Belt debt traps with much more attractive alternatives.

So we have two easy pickups in the game of vacuum management—there are a lot more. We have most of the cards, despite some of the chaos. Let's use them.

Col. (Ret.) John Mills is a national security professional with service in five eras: Cold War, Peace Dividend, War on Terror, World in Chaos, and now—Great Power Competition. He is the former director of cybersecurity policy, strategy, and international affairs at the Department of Defense.

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



Security guards on patrol outside the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, on Jan. 24, 2020.

HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Hundreds of thousands of Chinese gather in Tiananmen Square around a 10-meter replica of the Statue of Liberty (C), called the Goddess of Democracy, on June 2, 1989.

TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE

Remembering Tiananmen Square Massacre 31 Years Later

EVA FU

The first armored truck appeared at about 11 p.m. on June 3, 1989; around 1:30 a.m., gunshots were fired. The sound of gunfire continued throughout the night as tanks rolled in, crushing people and objects that were in the way.

It was a night of chaos at Tiananmen Square: Bullets buzzed overhead as people fell, and panicked protesters propped limp bodies onto bikes, buses, and ambulances to ferry them away.

Thousands of pro-democracy protesters are estimated to have died.

Lily Zhang, who was head nurse at a Beijing hospital about a 15-minute walk away from the city square, woke to the sound of gunfire. Another nurse, sobbing, told her the pool of blood from injured protesters was "forming a river at the hospital."

Just over three decades later, the bloodshed that became known as the Tiananmen Square massacre continues to haunt the survivors, many of whom have fled communist China for greater freedom. They hope that by speaking up about the events of that fateful day, the public will always remember what was lost.

"This is the least I can do for my homeland," Daniel Lou, now a businessman

Shooting down unarmed students and commoners—what kind of ruling party is this?

Last words of a massacre victim, a reporter with the state-owned China Sports Daily, as recounted by Lily Zhang, a nurse at a Beijing hospital near Tiananmen Square

Students from Beijing University start an unlimited hunger strike as part of mass pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square on May 14, 1989.

in New York, said in an interview.

Fateful Night

The Tiananmen Square protests, a youth-led movement advocating for democratic reforms, have become a taboo subject in China. To this day, the Chinese communist regime won't disclose the number or names of those killed in the clampdown.

Zhang, who had stayed at the square to care for hunger-striking students until the night of June 3, rushed to the hospital in the morning upon hearing of the massacre. She was horrified to find a "warzone-like" scene when she arrived.

After the clampdown began, ambulances from all 30 city hospitals were mobilized. Injured students filled every hospital bed, with some shared by two persons. Their blood stained the lobby floor, hallways, and stairs. At Zhang's hospital, at least 18 had died by the time they were carried into the facility.

The soldiers used "dum dum" bullets, which are designed to expand on impact and inflict further injury, Zhang noted. Many sustained grave wounds and were bleeding so profusely that it was "impossible to revive them."

At the hospital gate, a critically injured reporter with the state-owned China Sports Daily told the two health workers who carried him that he

"didn't imagine that the Chinese Communist Party would really open fire."

"Shooting down unarmed students and commoners—what kind of ruling party is this?" were the last words he left to the world, Zhang recalled.

Meanwhile, Lou, who was a journalist at the national news magazine Beijing Review at the time, stood on a nearby street to watch what he called a "fateful night" unfold, with the feeling of witnessing history.

"It's a tragedy," he said, adding that it was "the start of the moral decline of China."

"The Chinese government led by communists turned its back against its own people," Lou said. Those who made sacrifices "were punished instead of rewarded. What message is the country sending to its own people?" Many of the student activists involved in the movement were jailed in the wake of the massacre.

Zhou Fengsuo, a student leader during the protests, counted 40 bodies in the early hours of June 4 as he walked to Tsinghua University, where he was studying, from Tiananmen Square.

Before leaving the square, Zhou made a short speech vowing that pro-democracy protesters would make a comeback someday.

"I felt when the regime has resorted to violence against people, they have lost the moral high ground," he told The Epoch Times.

Zhang, who was 28 at the time and designated by the local government as a "model worker," thought she would "resolutely love the nation and the Party." But that day, she wept with her coworkers, saying the devastation had "chilled her heart."

"I never thought this government is like this," she said.

Aftermath

The sense of distrust only deepened after Chinese officials quickly denounced the protesters as rioters, and claimed that "no one was shot dead during the Tiananmen Square cleanup."

The government roundup came soon after.

Zhou, a student at a top university, spent a year in jail and wasn't allowed to return to school.

At Zhang's hospital, a meeting was called, at which everyone was required to "take a stance" by stating there were no deaths. But the staff uniformly refused to attend the meeting.

"We all thought: Who can utter such words against their conscience?" she said.

Two prominent news anchors at state broadcaster CCTV were demoted and removed from their posts after they wore black while reporting on the massacre on June 4, 1989. Beijing Review's editor-in-chief also resigned to protect his staff, who had previously staged peaceful protests in support of the students, while Lou became a "key target" and was investigated for his "role" in the movement.

All three have since made their way to the United States, seeing no hope in a future under communist China.

Remembrance

The clampdown, the witnesses said, is a reminder of the Chinese regime's brutality. Today, it's evidenced by authorities' coverup of the CCP virus outbreak, which has left the world suffering, they said.

"A totalitarian regime will pose harm to all," Zhou said.

Kenneth Lam, who traveled to Beijing to join the protests in May 1989 and stayed until June 4, was sitting on top of a monument in the southern park of the square that morning when armed soldiers rushed up. The protesters from Beijing pulled him away. Calling him by the nickname "Xiao Qiang," they asked him to "go back alive, and tell this to the world."

While working as a volunteer lawyer for Hong Kong protesters last year, Lam saw a similarity in the willingness of protesters from both movements to sacrifice their futures for the greater good.

At Tiananmen Square, hundreds had put on red scarves to participate in a hunger strike, while in Hong Kong, young protesters come to the streets to safeguard the city's autonomy and freedoms, putting their safety and future careers on the line, Lam said.

"It's a very bright and beautiful side of human nature," he said.

This "striking similarity" 31 years later, Lam said, makes it clear that there's something within people more enduring than power and coercion.

"Authoritarian rule can never crush the bright side of human nature," he said.

Epoch Times staff members Olivia Li and Sarah Liang contributed to this report.

ORGAN HARVESTING

Watchdog Group Calls on Trump, Congress to Impede China's 'Organ Genocide'

SHERRY DONG

response to the "organ genocide" committed by the Chinese regime is one of the 12 recommendations to President Donald Trump and the U.S. Congress by a watchdog group on May 27, in response to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) approving a National Security Law that threatens to "crush freedom" in Hong Kong.

The recommendations in their entirety seek "to defend the United States' national interests, to protect our economic interests at home and abroad, and to secure freedom."

"A national effort should be made to identify and act to impede the CCP's practice of organ genocide—the international marketing and implantation of organs involuntarily and often murderously removed from members of religious and ethnic minorities, political prisoners, and others," the Committee on the Present Danger: China (CPDC) stated.

Frank Gaffney, vice chairman of CPDC, told The Epoch Times that the United States should take the lead in stopping the CCP's forced organ harvesting.

"The USCIRF's report, as far as it goes, is further helpful confirmation of what is being done to people of faith in particular, and I believe to the Chinese people more generally, by this barbaric totalitarian regime in control of the Chinese Communist Party," Gaffney said, referring to the 2020 annual report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. "The more Americans are aware of it, the more they will find offensive."

The report states, "Human rights advocates and scientists presented evidence that the practice of harvesting organs from prisoners—many of whom are believed to be Falun Gong practitioners—continued on a significant scale."

Gaffney also noted the "splendid work" of the China Tribunal.

That independent tribunal sitting in London concluded in June 2019 that forced organ harvesting has been committed for years throughout China on a significant scale. Adherents

Hopefully, [we can] save a lot of people's lives in China.

Frank Gaffney, vice chairman, Committee on the Present Danger: China

Frank Gaffney, vice chairman of the Committee on the Present Danger: China, speaks in Washington on May 2, 2019.

of the spiritual practice Falun Gong have been one of the main sources of organs for transplant, according to the tribunal.

Falun Gong is a mind and body practice based on the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. In 1992, Falun Gong was introduced to the world in Changchun city in northeastern China and quickly gained popularity, to the point that the number of adherents exceeded the number of CCP party members, the regime's official data showed.

On July 20, 1999, the CCP banned Falun Gong and began a violent campaign to suppress its practitioners. Since then, an unknown number of adherents have been arrested and disappeared, with their family members never hearing from them again. Many of these may be assumed to have had their organs harvested.

Freedom House reports that hundreds of thousands of adherents have been sentenced to labor camps and prison terms, making them the largest contingent of prisoners of conscience in China.

The 160-page "Judgment" of the China Tribunal declares that the CCP's campaign of forced organ harvesting against innocent victims is a "crime against humanity," constituting one of the world's "worst atrocities committed" in modern times.

The tribunal's chairman, Sir Geoffrey Nice, led the prosecution of Slobodan Milošević, former President of Serbia, at the U.N.'s International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Documentation and investigation have fully confirmed the crimes of the CCP in conducting forced organ harvesting, and further investigation isn't needed by the international community, Gaffney said.

Notable investigations of organ harvesting in China have included:

- "Report into Allegations of Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China," by David Kilgour, former Canadian secretary of state for Asia/Pacific, and international human rights lawyer David Matas, which was released July 6, 2006,

and later published as the book "Bloody Harvest." Matas called the organ harvesting "an unprecedented evil on this planet."

- "The Slaughter: Mass Killings, Organ Harvesting, and China's Secret Solution to Its Dissident Problem" by Ethan Gutmann, published in 2014.
- "Bloody Harvest/The Slaughter: an Update" by Gutmann, Kilgour, and Matas and published in June 2016.
- "Cold Genocide: Falun Gong in China," by Maria Cheung, Torsten Trey, David Matas, and Richard An, published in 2018.
- "Documenting Genocide" by the China Organ Harvest Research Center, published in July 2018.
- "Organ Procurement and Extrajudicial Execution in China: A Review of the Evidence" by Matthew Robertson, published in March 2020 by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

"This is not something that I think we need to continue to investigate or study or report on," Gaffney said. "I think this is something that—whether it's the international elements that are enabling this thing to operate, or whether it is technologies that are being used to facilitate it, or whether it is simply a matter of just exposing it much more aggressively—my own feeling is we ought to be doing all of that. Because this is a crime against humanity on an epic scale."

He believes that the international community should take action to help stop it.

"I think the U.S. government can play a leading role in that," said Gaffney. He said we also can "challenge and decry" the collaboration between Chinese and Western pharmaceutical companies, and between medical institutes in clinical studies and doctor training, which serve as indirect assistance to the organ harvesting in China.

"There are things that could be done to make this less. Hopefully, [we can] save a lot of people's lives in China, including Falun Gong and other people who are being brutalized for this purpose."



ECONOMY

Beijing Reverses Stance on Promoting Street Stalls to Alleviate Unemployment, Indicating Split in Party

NICOLE HAO

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang took many by surprise with his promotion of the idea of setting up a “street vendor economy” to alleviate the country’s unemployment crisis because of the pandemic.

For years, clearing street vendor stands was a priority in big cities. In 2017, authorities established special “urban management” police to enforce regulations that forbid street vendors—citing the importance of maintaining a hygienic and civilized image.

After Li’s speech during the May 28 session of China’s rubber-stamp legislature that promoted the idea, China’s top e-retailers, including JD.com and Suning.com, and e-commerce platforms such as WeChat Pay rolled out new products and apps to support street vendors interested in selling goods.

While many locals in Beijing and Shanghai started setting up street vendor stands, over the weekend, Chinese state-run media suddenly did an about-face and criticized the idea of a “street vendor economy.”

Some analysts interpreted this reversal as an indication that the Chinese regime wants to maintain the image of modern metropolises, while also hoping to save retail stores.

Hong Kong newspaper Apple Daily cited insider sources who say the U-turn signals a difference between how Li and current regime leader Xi Jinping envision economic policies, and thus reflects a power struggle between the two.

Meanwhile, U.S.-based China affairs commentator Tang Jingyuan thinks the conflict isn’t between the two political leaders, “but between a socialism system and people’s livelihood.”

Tang says the Chinese economy has suffered from business inactivity during the CCP virus outbreak. Then, when the virus spread to countries around the world and affected



A crawfish vendor sits on Jiqing Street in Wuhan, China on June 5, 2020.

their economies, the demand for China’s exports dropped dramatically.

When the Chinese regime began promoting street vendor businesses, it signaled to the public that China’s socialist economy was unsuccessful in ensuring the country’s prosperity, Tang said.

Street Vendor Economy

During a video-based press conference in Beijing on May 28, Chinese Li said the country had a large unemployment and poverty problem that had been exacerbated by the pandemic. He suggested that people could become street vendors to make a living.

“About two weeks ago, I read a report which said a western Chinese city set up 36,000 mobile vendor stands. In one night, about 100,000 people had a job [as vendors],” Li said.

On June 1, Li visited an old residential compound in Yantai city in Shandong Province to promote the idea.

“The street stalls and small shops are important sources of jobs, Li said while visiting the vendor stands. “They are the cooking fires of the human world. As with bigger and high-

end industries, they are also vital to the country’s economy.”

As a result, Chinese cities lifted their bans on street vendors and encouraged people to set up shop.

Beijing-based magazine Caijing, in a June 4 report, cited Yao Yang, an expert at Peking University, who noted that many major cities around the world allow street vendors, including New York, Paris, and London.

U-Turn

On June 6 and June 7, a newspaper operated by the Beijing city government, Beijing Daily, published three commentaries that were critical of the “street vendor economy.”

The commentaries said that because street stalls are “full of counterfeit and fake products,” “unsanitary and uncivilized,” “very noisy,” and “blocks car traffic... they are bad for the image of our country and our country’s capital.”

Beijing Daily also said that officials will remove any street stalls that have been set up.

On June 7, China’s state broadcaster CCTV aired a commentary piece titled, “The street vendor economy cannot be rushed into action.” The CCTV piece emphasized that “the basic needs for promoting the economy are: resuming production, manufacturing, markets, and businesses,” citing a speech by Xi in February to encourage businesses to reopen following the epidemic.

On June 6, the Chinese Communist Party’s mouthpiece newspaper People’s Daily published a commentary titled, “The street vendor economy can be hot, but it shouldn’t become a fever.”

The commentary stated that while street stalls can provide economic benefits, each local government should regulate street vendors, such as by collecting management fees; limiting the amount of space and operating hours for selling; and checking the sanitation condition of food suppliers.

When the Chinese regime began promoting street vendor businesses, it signaled to the public that China’s socialist economy was unsuccessful in ensuring the country’s prosperity.

Tang Jingyuan, U.S.-based China affairs commentator



Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang arrive for the closing session of the rubber stamp legislative meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China on May 28, 2020.

NICOLAS ASFOUR/AP VIA GETTY IMAGES



President Donald Trump speaks inside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Nov. 9, 2017.

OPINION

Trump’s New Speech on China Is a Turning Point in History

DIANA ZHANG

Commentary

After Beijing passed a national security law on May 28 that will take away Hong Kong’s freedom, President Donald Trump delivered a speech in response the following day, showing the White House is finally taking the right approach to China.

Trump’s speech covered four areas. First, the United States is terminating its relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO). The U.N. agency has followed Beijing’s directions throughout the entire course of the development of the coronavirus, from failing to alert the world of the outbreak in Wuhan, to praising the work of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and holding it up as a model, to changing the disease’s name to COVID-19 to eliminate a word related to China, to finally refusing to reform. In terminating the relationship with WHO, Trump is sending a warning to all the other world organizations the CCP has infiltrated.

Since the United States has contributed more than 10 times what China did to the organization, why did WHO follow Beijing? While the United States has contributed to the overall organization and its work, the CCP focuses on getting individual leaders in the organization under its control.

Second, the United States is revoking the visas of certain Chinese students who come from military research centers and military universities. The CCP has sent its military staff and officials to the United States to get the best training, disguised as ordinary students or exchange scholars.

In China, there is no boundary between military and civilian use in technology or in companies. Whatever the CCP wants to use, it uses. It claims the ownership of everything and everyone in China. The United States has finally learned this fact. This is an important step toward stemming the loss of intellectual property, especially that related to national security.

Third, the United States is going to require transparency of Chinese companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges, holding them to the same standards as U.S. companies.

It is an open secret in China that Chinese companies, including some bankrupt state-owned companies, created glossy reports to get on Wall Street. Chinese use the saying “scoop up money on Wall Street.” And they refuse to make their books transparent like other companies whose stocks are sold on U.S. exchanges.

It’s amazing they were allowed to get away with it for so long, with so many American people investing in poorly operated companies and many military companies. We are paying our taxes to build the U.S. military, while at the same time investing in the CCP’s military, which has a clear goal of beating the United States.

Lastly, Trump is going to revoke the free trade status of Hong Kong since the CCP is taking away the city’s last bit of freedom. The CCP has used Hong Kong as a window to get dollars and high tech from the West, and the United States has lost a lot to this “white glove”—the respectable front that enables the CCP’s machinations. This is the right time to terminate this loophole that gives the CCP free access to finance and technology in the United States.

With these moves, the Trump administration is taking serious steps to protect the wealth and technology of our country. And the approach is finally right—decoupling!

There is at least one important piece missing, though. The United States should not allow Chinese social media tools such as WeChat and TikTok in the United States. This would establish reciprocity, since the CCP won’t allow American social media in China.

There is a large group of Chinese active on social media in the United States. They attack Trump, pretend to be leftist Americans, and enjoy exercising free speech. This approach successfully influenced a critical election for the mayor of Kaohsiung in Taiwan in 2018. It aims to influence elections here in the United States and takes every opportunity to attack American values.

Dealing With Communists

For the past few years, Trump has been trying to get a good trade deal with China. This is a real waste of time.

When a free country deals with a communist regime, there is no way to get a win-win situation. Robert Lighthizer did a great job for President Ronald Reagan when the United States was having a trade war with Japan. But Japan is a humane society.

This negotiation with the CCP is very different, and so much harder. With a communist regime, we are dealing with a devil. That is why all negotiations will be a waste of time. Trump wants to fight like a gentleman, a smart gentleman. To negotiate with an evil regime, a devil, a human mindset can not win. The only way out is to decouple.

The CCP has always eyed the United

In terminating the relationship with WHO Trump is sending a strong warning to all the other world organizations the CCP has infiltrated.

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States as its No. 1 enemy. Its strategy is to weaken the United States, ruin it, and then destroy it. Communists see the values of the free world as the biggest threat. Unfortunately, the CCP has been quite effective in reaching its goal.

George Floyd’s arrest was reportedly triggered by his trying to use a counterfeit \$20 bill in a store. Where did this bill come from? Let’s hope to see the results of an investigation soon. According to a report by USA Today on Jan. 28, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials confiscated 45 boxes of counterfeit cash worth \$900,000—“all of it in singles.”

“The dollar bills were discovered in December at the International Falls Port of Entry in Minnesota in a rail shipment originating from China,” the report said.

Counterfeiting a \$1 bill has low economic value unless it is part of a national strategy. In a strictly controlled society like China, it is not possible to print U.S. currency or produce and export drugs—such as fentanyl—without involvement at the top.

The book “Unrestricted Warfare,” written by two colonels in the People’s Liberation Army, charts unconventional strategies for the Chinese regime to use in defeating the United States. It is not just a book, but a blueprint.

The United States, as the leader of the free world, has the responsibility to counter the communist regime, to protect freedom in this world. As the United States defends freedom in the world, it is also fighting for the freedom of Chinese people—just as Americans stand with the people of Hong Kong.

This is a moment of history in the making. This is not a fight between the United States and China. This is not a fight between races. This is a fight between good and evil, freedom and totalitarianism.

As a Chinese American, I am glad the United States has finally picked the right fight: taking on the biggest threat to freedom—communism. I hope more Americans can see the historical responsibility of our country. I hope that one day soon my family members and friends can breathe the air of freedom in China, as we do here.

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