

WEEK 26, 2020

THE EPOCH TIMES

CHINA INSIDER

Anti-China protesters hold the Indian national flag as they burn Chinese products while urging citizens to boycott Chinese goods during a demonstration in New Delhi on June 18, 2020.

INDIA- CHINA DECOUPLING?

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**Pro-Chinese Communist
Party Groups**
Coordinating Violent US Protests 2



Protesters display placards urging citizens to boycott Chinese goods during a demonstration in New Delhi on June 18, 2020.

INDIA-CHINA BORDER CONFLICT

India-China 'Decoupling' Accelerates After Border Dispute

Smartphone market a key battleground for India

FAN YU

News Analysis

The recent India-China border dispute and violence has accelerated calls within India to "decouple" economically from China, especially on the technology front.

For the uninitiated, bilateral India-China trade stood at around \$93 billion at 2019, as India imports a significant amount of high technology, automotive supplies, pharmaceuticals, and industrial products from China.

Even prior to the Galwan Valley border dispute escalation earlier this month, the two major powers within Asia were already on a collision course. The outbreak of the CCP virus and the chain disruptions during the early stages of the pandemic exposed risks in India's manufacturing and technology supply chains.

CCP virus-related lockdowns had a significant impact on India's pharmaceutical and electronics supply chains, according to a recent report by the London-based India Inc. About 65 to 70 percent of India's imported active pharmaceutical ingredients are imported from China, and for some key active ingredients, China was the sole supplier, the report found.

There also have been increasing calls to boycott Chinese goods and services, arising from both the CCP virus pandemic and the recent border clash.

On June 17, India's intelligence agencies asked the Modi government to block or advise against the usage of 53 smartphone apps that are made by Chinese companies or linked to China.

The list of apps is exhaustive and includes popular platforms such as Zoom, TikTok, SHARit, and apps made by smartphone maker

A major battleground on this effort for India will be smartphones. Currently, the smartphone market in India is dominated by Chinese brands.

Xiaomi. The intelligence authorities voiced "concerns that these weren't safe and ended up extracting a large amount of data outside India," according to Hindustan Times, citing people familiar with the discussions.

Some imports, such as pharmaceutical ingredients, will be very difficult to source from suppliers outside of China, especially given the required price points. But other areas, such as manufacturing and smartphone supply chains, may be lower-hanging fruit. It's something Indian authorities have vowed to tackle with increased urgency.

Focus on Smartphones

A major battleground on this effort for India will be smartphones.

Currently, the smartphone market in India is dominated by China, with Chinese brands occupying four of the top five spots in the first quarter of 2020, according to research by Counterpoint. Xiaomi leads the market, with a 30 percent market share and 6 percent growth year-over-year, followed by Vivo, Samsung, Realme, and Oppo. Samsung is the only non-Chinese brand among the five.

While most of such smartphones sold in India are made in and imported from China, the Indian government is looking to change that dynamic. In early June, India announced a 500 billion rupee (\$6.6 billion) program to incentivize manufacturers to set up facilities in India.

India announced it would offer qualified entities subsidies of up to 6 percent of the sales they manufacture within the country over five years, while offering rebates of up to 25 percent on capital expenditures that companies make in India, related to semiconductors and electronic components.

The announcement is part of the Modi government's effort to court international companies to set up a manufacturing base away from China.

One company looking to take advantage of the program is Indian phone manufacturer Micromax. The firm was the No. 1 smartphone brand in India about five years ago, before Chinese brands entered the Indian market by offering cheap phones and elbowed local brands from the top spots.

The deflationary effects of cheap phones made by Chinese manufacturers with scale had a devastating impact on domestic smartphone makers. Intex pivoted away from making phones and now focuses on other electronics, while another former top phone maker, Lava, still exists but is now focused on sales in smaller towns that the Chinese brands have overlooked.

Even Micromax today assembles most of its phones in China to save costs.

Micromax used its Twitter account to tell its followers on June 18 that the company is working on new smartphone devices to be assembled in India, with hashtags #MadeByIndian and #MadeForIndian. Micromax reportedly has seven new devices in the pipeline, a retail industry source told the Indian news site Indian Express.

Despite the anti-China sentiment in India, it will be difficult for consumers to pivot away from Chinese smartphones. Chinese brands comprise 75 percent of the market in India and dominate the important sub-\$200 price segment.

"We don't have anything," Navkendar Singh, research director with IDC India, told Indian Express. "I don't expect Micromax, Intex, and Lava to suddenly start making great devices and giving value across ecosystem products."

INDIA-CHINA BORDER CONFLICT

Chinese Soldiers Used 'Nail-Studded Rods' to Kill Indian Soldiers, Including Military Officer: Veterans

VENUS UPADHAYAYA

Indian veterans have accused China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) of "barbarism" and of violating protocols by using crude weapons against unarmed Indian soldiers, after 20 were killed on the inhospitable terrain of the Galwan Valley in Ladakh on the night of June 15.

"Our people do not carry any sticks or any kind of such equipment, but the Chinese, in a premeditated manner, were carrying clubs—you know, metallic clubs, [including ones] with spikes on them, or wooden clubs which had barbed wire on them, and knuckle dusters, and all of these kinds of equipment—and they hit the commanding officer and our people," retired Lt. Gen. Rakesh Sharma, who previously served in the Indian army at the same location, told The Epoch Times over the phone from New Delhi.

On June 18, retired Col. Ajai Shukla, a defense and strategic analyst, shared an image on Twitter of the weapons that were used.

"The nail-studded rods—captured by Indian soldiers from the Galwan Valley encounter site—with which Chinese soldiers attacked an Indian Army patrol and killed 20 Indian soldiers," he wrote. "Such barbarism must be condemned. This is thuggery, not soldiering."

Lt. Gen. Gurmeet Singh, a retired army deputy chief of staff who had served for 40 years and visited China seven times in his role, told The Epoch Times over the phone that the PLA has violated the military protocols it signed with the Indian army and that the attack shows its lack of professionalism.

"Is it the work of an army? Is it the work of a soldier? It indicates that the PLA actually is not an army like nations have," said Singh. "They don't appreciate the way combat troops operate. And rightly so, because the PLA is a political party's army."

In the wake of the killing of the soldiers, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a message to the nation on June 17 said that "under all circumstances," India will protect "every inch" of its land.

"To protect our country's integrity and sovereignty is our priority, and no one can stop us from doing it.



Sandeep Kaur (C) and her brother Prabhjot Singh (2nd R) react after placing flowers on the coffin of their father, Satnam Singh, a soldier who was killed in a recent clash with Chinese forces in the Galwan Valley area, during the cremation ceremony near Gurdaspur, India, on June 18, 2020.

No one should be in doubt or illusion about it. We want peace, but if provoked, under all circumstances we are capable of giving an adequate reply," he said.

Though the Chinese authorities haven't made an official statement about the casualties on the Chinese side, the Indian Hindi newspaper Navbharat Times on June 17 reported that 43 Chinese soldiers were also killed in the incident. Sharma said that, based on the helicopter activity on the Chinese side, the Indians estimate the number of Chinese soldiers killed to be 30 to 43.

What Happened in Galwan?

Indian veterans say it's important to understand the terrain and the activity happening on the disputed border, called the Line of Actual Control (LAC), between India and China to understand the incident that resulted in the deaths of so many soldiers.

According to Sharma, the incident happened one to two miles away from where the Galwan River, a tributary of the Indus, joins the Shyok River. This Himalayan terrain, over 17,000 feet above sea level and with sub-zero temperatures, is extremely inhospitable. The Indian military is building a road in the region that the Chinese don't like.

To protect neither the Indian nor Chinese sides have road access to the Galwan River, and both sides have

been patrolling on foot until recently. "In the course of the last three to four years, we constructed a major artery which goes along the West of the River Shyok, and created a bridge on the Shyok River," said Sharma.

The recent escalation started a few weeks ago, after India began building a feeder road to the Galwan Valley. On June 15, the Indian military saw that the Chinese had crossed to the Indian side of the LAC and "occupied areas," sparking a face-off between the two militaries.

Sharma said the two countries have signed five treaties between 1993 and 2013 that define protocols of engagement on the disputed LAC whenever a controversy or conflict occurs.

"We are supposed to disengage and go back to our own area and then meet at the other personal meetings to resolve issues, and this has been continuing from 1993 onwards. However, in the last five to six years, the PLA has not been following this protocol," said Sharma.

On June 15, the Indian commanding officer, who was one of the 20 killed, had gone to the LAC and seen Chinese soldiers on the Indian side. "He promptly requested those people vacate and go back ... and that's the time the PLA decided to take the offensive" and attacked, Sharma said.

The skirmish happened on a "small ledge ... above the banks of the river," and when the unarmed Indian soldiers were attacked, it was nighttime, and temperatures were below freezing. Many fell off the ledge and died, according to Sharma, who added that more information is still coming in.

Another Indian veteran, Brig. Amul Asthana, who has served in similarly inhospitable terrain, told The Epoch Times by phone that China wants to take high positions on the LAC for strategic military advantage.

Many of these advantageous positions are currently under India's control. While the Chinese have built up infrastructure on the LAC, India until recently in many locations was mostly foot-patrolling and has only recently started to build infrastructure there.

Asthana said the terrain becomes increasingly inaccessible after October, and foot patrols become impossible in 20 feet of snow—India also has "winter vacated posts" and "winter cut-off posts" in the region because it

doesn't have adequate infrastructure and logistic feasibility to support a year-round presence.

"If I have access, why should I vacate," he said, explaining why the PLA creates problems whenever the Indian army tries to build infrastructure on the LAC.

The Aftermath

Indian analysts say the incident will change the way the two countries engage with each other in the disputed territory and will lead to more military buildup on the Indian side.

Sharma said it will change the way India handles such issues with the PLA and will lead to serious debate within the Indian army as to how to protect its troops.

Such barbarism must be condemned. This is thuggery, not soldiering.

Retired Col. Ajai Shukla, defense and strategic analyst

"Since the Chinese were prepared with all these, the medieval type of weaponry, which people used two centuries ago, and they were prepared for it at a time when we were just going to negotiate and talk to them, then I believe we need to think in future about why this happened," said Sharma. "I'm sure that's an issue of serious debate with the army."

Girish Kant Pandey, a professor of Defense Studies at Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, in Central India, told The Epoch Times that the incident will push India to develop more infrastructure on the border and will lead to an increase in mountain strike troops.

"India is increasing its mountain strike corps to 200,000. There are possibilities of this to further increase," said Pandey.

He also mentioned that India will likely increase its long-range missile capabilities as well as its eastern naval fleet.

"There are fewer possibilities that this conflict will escalate," said Pandey. "A war is not in either country's interest. The greater an economy, the greater the loss it will suffer due to war."



Indian Border Security Force soldiers guard a highway leading toward Leh, bordering China, in Gagangir, India, on June 17, 2020.

SURVEILLANCE

Beijing Builds National DNA Database, Raising Privacy Concerns, Report Says

FRANK FANG

Chinese authorities are collecting genetic samples from millions of its citizens, including students in kindergarten and elementary schools, often without informed consent, raising concerns about civil and human rights violations.

China's effort to compile a DNA database of its citizens is carefully reviewed in a report, titled "Genomic Surveillance," released on June 17 by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), a Canberra-based think tank.

"A national database containing the genetic information of tens of millions of ordinary Chinese citizens is a clear expansion of the already unchecked authority of the Chinese Government and its Ministry of Public Security," the report says.

China's compulsory collection of biometric data is "deepening the Chinese Government's control over society while violating the human and civil liberties of millions of the country's citizens."

The report reviewed more than 700 publicly available documents, including government bid tenders and procurement orders, social media posts from China's police bureaus, corporate documents, and Chinese news reports.

China's DNA collection program, which began in 2003, was limited to certain parts of the country, including Tibet and Xinjiang. But beginning in 2017, the program was expanded across China, after the Ministry of Public Security, in charge of the country's police, announced that the efforts were to improve crime-fighting and better "manage and control society."

Selective Approach

Unlike the biometric collection efforts in Xinjiang and Tibet, where samples were collected from nearly the entire local population, Chinese authorities adopted a selective approach after 2017, only collecting DNA samples from certain male citizens, according to the report.

Such selective collection is based on the fact that females have two X chromosomes while males have one X chromosome and one Y chromosome. A chromosome is a DNA molecule containing a person's genes.

By collecting DNA samples from men and boys, Chinese authorities have built up a registry of Y-STRs, which are short tandem repeats on Y chromosomes. Y-STRs are passed down from fathers to sons, with little variation from one generation to the next. It means that by knowing a man's Y-STRs, one can easily trace down his male relatives.

"If a Y-STR database contains a large representative sample of DNA profiles and corresponding family records, even an unknown male's data can potentially be matched to a family name and even an individual, so long as investigators

Technicians work in a DNA research lab in Beijing on Aug. 22, 2018.



GREG BAKER/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

have on file the Y-STR data of that male's father, uncle, or even third cousin," the ASPI report says.

Y-STRs are commonly used in forensics and genealogical DNA testing. Chinese authorities were able to achieve greater genetic coverage by only collecting DNA samples from men and boys.

For example, ASPI reported that authorities in central China's Henan Province achieved 98.71 percent genetic coverage by only collecting DNA samples from 5.3 million men or about 10 percent of the province's male population, according to two 2017 local scientific papers.

In November 2017, China's Ministry of Public Security publicly called for the creation of a nationwide Y-STR archive. As of April 2020, the ASPI documented that there were hundreds of police-led collection trips for Y-STR samples conducted in 22 of China's 31 administrative regions.

In June 2019, the local county government in Xia Bai Shi, located in southern China's Fujian Province, reported on its WeChat social media account that it had gathered over 1,500 blood samples from students at several local elementary schools and kindergartens, in its effort to build a "male ancestry inspection system"—another name for the Y-STR database.

ASPI warned about the intention behind building the registry. It stated: "This is highly disturbing. In China's authoritarian one-party system, there's no division between policing crime and suppressing political dissent."

It added that having a police-run catalog of citizens' genealogies "is likely to increase state repression against the family members of dissidents and further undermine the civil and human rights of dissidents and minority communities."

The report's authors noted that they didn't come across sources to suggest that Chinese authorities had sought people's consent before collecting Y-

STR samples. Moreover, authorities often don't explain why samples were taken.

For instance, an unidentified father asked on Zhihu, China's equivalent to Quora, whether the local health officials' demand to take his child's DNA sample would intrude on personal privacy. He added that when he called the local police about his concern, a female official threatened to revoke his residency permit if he refused to have his child's sample taken.

Companies

Chinese companies and others that include U.S.-based biomedical company Thermo Fisher have provided "Chinese police with the equipment and intellectual property needed to collect, store, and analyze the Y-STR samples," according to the report.

Thermo Fisher didn't immediately respond to a request from The Epoch Times for comment.

The report highlighted AGCU Sciencetech, a subsidiary of Anhui Anke Bioengineering (Group) Co., as a key Chinese producer of Y-STR analysis kits.

Anhui Anke, a publicly traded company listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange, has participated in the Chinese regime's agenda, including the 863 Program, which U.S. authorities have said guides efforts to "clandestinely acquire U.S. technology and sensitive economic information."

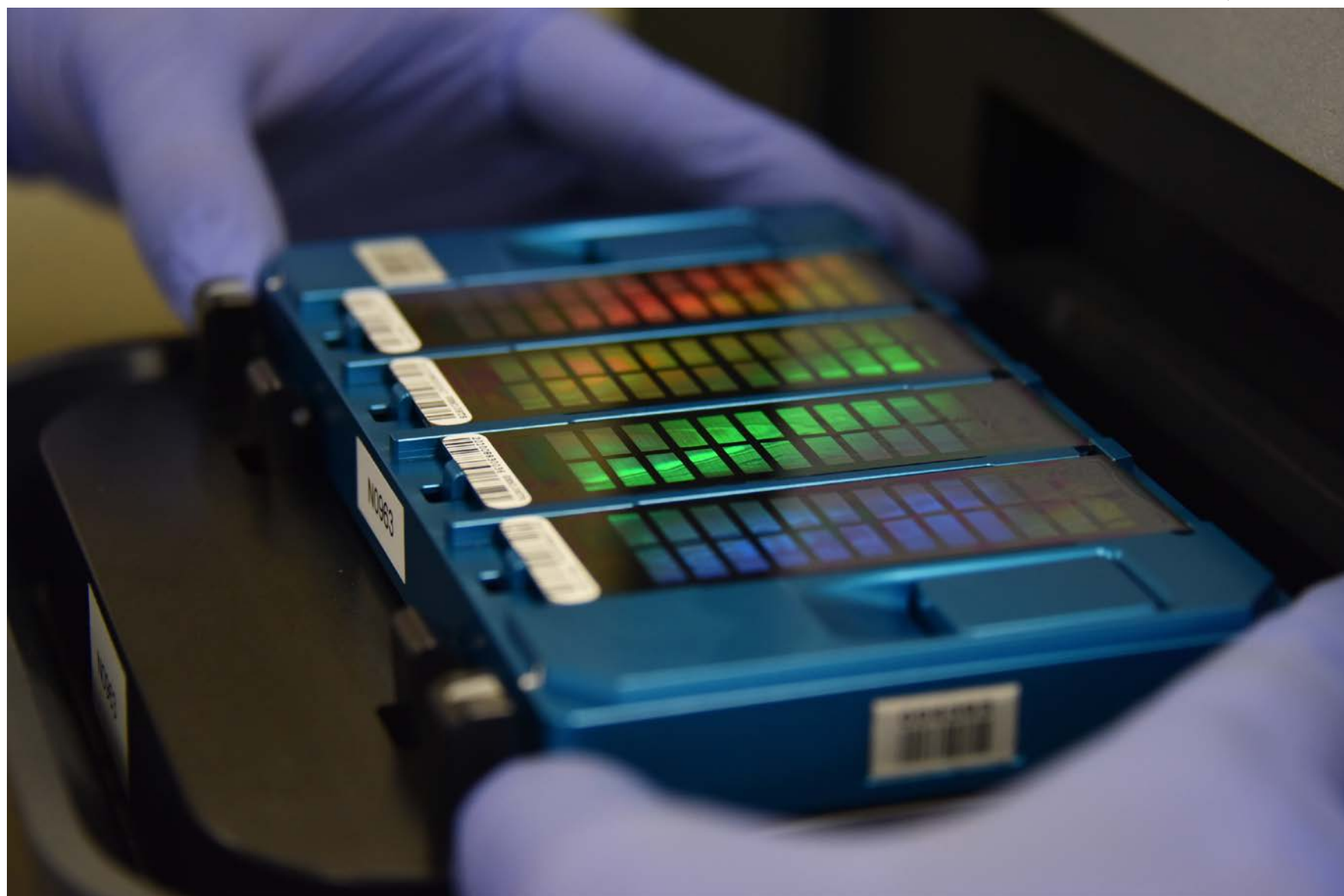
Another Chinese company, Beijing Hesign Technology, which was founded by a member of China's military, the People's Liberation Army, provided Y-STR database solutions to several regional police bureaus, according to ASPI.

"Biotechnology companies should ensure that their products and services adhere to international best practices and don't contribute to human rights abuses in China, and must suspend sales, service, and research collaborations with Chinese state authorities if and when violations are identified," ASPI recommends.

[The database] is likely to increase state repression against the family members of dissidents and further undermine the civil and human rights of dissidents and minority communities.

Australian Strategic Policy Institute, in a report

A technician places an array containing DNA information in a scanner in Beijing on Aug. 22, 2018.



GREG BAKER/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

HONG KONG

Beijing Unveils Details on Hong Kong Security Law, With Sweeping Powers

FRANK FANG & EVA FU

Beijing will establish a security agency in Hong Kong that allows the regime to tighten its control over the territory, according to a blueprint about the city's national security law unveiled on June 20.

The new details triggered an immediate backlash from local activists and international observers.

China's communist regime aims to set up a dedicated central government bureau in the former British colony that would collect relevant intelligence on national security-related cases, Chinese state media Xinhua said June 20. The Hong Kong government will also establish a national security council headed by Hong Kong's top leader, currently the pro-Beijing Carrie Lam, with a Beijing-assigned adviser as a board member.

The law, which also will empower the chief executive to appoint judges to hear cases relating to China's national security, would override local laws in any areas of conflict. New local investigation and police units will also be established to enforce the law.

While Hong Kong will have jurisdiction over cases—except under "specific circumstance," China can have jurisdiction over an "extremely small" number of national security cases, according to the standing committee of Beijing's ceremonial legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC).

The law, which was rubber-stamped by the NPC last month, marks the most direct encroachment on the promise of autonomy granted to Hong Kong by the communist regime since the territory reverted to Chinese rule from British administration in 1997.

The city's common-law-based legal system was widely seen as the bedrock of that autonomy, underpinning its status as a global financial hub.

Critics fear the law would allow Beijing to target dissenters of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) under the cloak of "national security."

On June 21, Beijing announced that the NPC standing committee



Members of the Chinese police march through Tiananmen Square in Beijing on May 24, 2020.

will hold another three-day meeting at the end of this month. While the Hong Kong security law currently isn't on the agenda, observers in Hong Kong speculate that the standing committee will formally finalize the law during the meeting.

Reactions

Alvin Yeung, a barrister and leader of Hong Kong's local pro-democracy Civic Party, likened the announcement at a news conference to a "sharp sword piercing into Hong Kong's judicial and administrative organs."

Hong Kong Bar Association chairman Philip Dykes described any move to have Lam allocate judges as "extraordinary," saying this cuts to the core of the independence of the judiciary that is protected by the Basic Law, the city's mini-constitution.

"This is the biggest shift since the handover," Dykes told Reuters.

With Lam heading the council, "you're picking a judge for a contest in which you have an interest," he said.

The law would give Beijing—"the country with the poorest human rights record"—sole power to interpret what constitutes a breach of national security, Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong said.

After Beijing announced new details about the law, U.S. Sen.

Rick Scott (R-Fla.) took to Twitter to voice U.S. support for the people of Hong Kong.

"Communist China continues their mission to destroy human rights and autonomy in #HongKong. Its plans to suffocate and intimidate those fighting for their basic rights is clear," Scott wrote.

British NGO Hong Kong Watch also responded, saying it was "particularly concerning that when discrepancies arise between the new law and Basic Law, this law will supersede," in a tweet.

"This law fundamentally compromises one-country, two-systems, and breach of the handover agreement. The details emerging put human rights in jeopardy," Hong Kong Watch said.

Lawmaker Claudia Mo expressed concern on Twitter about the vague language concerning jurisdiction, and posed the possibility that people could be tried under mainland China's legal system. "#ChinaExtradition part 2," she wrote.

A mass protest movement against Beijing's encroachment erupted in June last year, when millions took to the street in opposition to a since-scrapped extradition bill.

'Party-State'

Beijing's new security agency in Hong Kong "removes any remaining notions of the region's auto-

my," Dan Garrett, author of a book chronicling the history of pro-democracy protests in the region, told The Epoch Times in an email. He described the body as "a second stove-pipe to 'govern' Hong Kong."

Any judges appointed by Hong Kong's government, meanwhile, would have surely been "vetted by the Party-state" of Beijing beforehand, Garrett said, calling the measure "pure Chinese communist political theater."

"It is a farce," he said.

A lot of deliberations may happen behind closed doors to ensure the trials move according to Beijing's plans, providing "token transparency" in an attempt to avoid scrutiny from international society, he added.

Communist China continues their mission to destroy human rights and autonomy in HongKong. Its plans to suffocate and intimidate those fighting for their basic rights is clear.

Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.), in a tweet

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo suggested on June 19 that the degree of Hong Kong's special trade privileges with the United States would be proportional to the political freedom it enjoys. The local legislative elections in September, he said, would be a telltale sign.

President Donald Trump last month announced that his administration would begin the process of eliminating Hong Kong's special trading status with the United States in response to Beijing's "smothering" of Hong Kong's autonomy.

"We have many agreements that are unique between the United States and Hong Kong, separate and different from those we have with Beijing. We will move away from every one of those," Pompeo said during the online Copenhagen Democracy Summit.

Reuters contributed to this report.

ANTHONY WALLACE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Police detain a man (L) as pro-democracy protesters gather in the Causeway Bay district of Hong Kong on June 12, 2020.

TRUTH and TRADITION: *In Our Own Words*

WE ARE HOLDING THE LINE

**In America, publishing news is easy.
But publishing the truth ... that's very difficult.**



You might've seen some of the videos we've produced over the last year. But you likely

don't know the difficulty of creating this type of honest news content to be published on the big tech platforms.

Because The Epoch Times has the courage and fortitude to both investigate and report stories that most media don't as well as to call into question the "established" narratives when the facts don't seem to line up, we have



been attacked, demonetized, and de-platformed by the giant tech conglomerates, the legacy media

outlets, and even certain service providers.

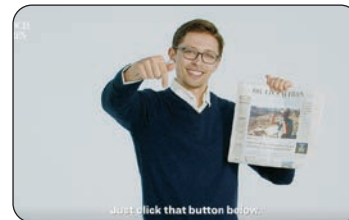
That's not to even mention how over the last 20 years, there were dozens (maybe even hundreds, but we never thought to count) of times when the Chinese Communist Party's consulates around the world have used threats to force businesses and ad agencies to

pull their advertising from our publication.

I believe that open public discourse is vitally essential to our nation. It is paramount to a free republic.

Working here over the last eight years, at a truly independent news organization, has opened my eyes to the many forces attempting to restrict your access to truthful information. And contrary to what it seems like on the surface, **these forces are not censoring our mouths. They are actually censoring your ears and your eyes.**

They are engaged in an act of theft: robbing you of the truth.



For instance, when we examined claims about the CCP virus's origins that didn't line up with the established narrative or when we looked beneath the surface of FISA abuse that took place during the 2016 election and reported inconsistencies with the mainstream narrative, we were further attacked, censored, and de-platformed—directly limiting your access to a treasure trove of our investigative findings.

So what we are doing here at The Epoch Times is not simply reporting stories or conducting investigations.

We are holding the line.

We are taking the attacks so that you may be informed of the truth, and so our future generations may know what truth is.

We seek to be a stalwart bastion of objective reality which can stop the descent of our society into a place where our grandkids and great grandkids have internalized ever-encroaching politically correct thought confines to the point where even forming an independent idea is a crime.

To me, that might've seemed like hyperbole 10 years ago, but having seen this encroachment first-hand, I believe it is a grim possibility that we might just "naturally" slide into if we don't take a strong stand against it right now.

I hope you are enjoying this paper. I hope you share it with your friends, your family, and your entire community so that we can restore decency in this country's public discourse.

And I hope when that happens, you'll be there with us to see it.

In Truth and Tradition,

Roman Balmakov
The Epoch Times



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