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CHINA INSIDER

CHINA'S THIRST FOR WESTERN TALENT

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

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CCP VIRUS PANDEMIC

Chinese Officials Profited From Scheme to Sell Medical Supplies

NICOLE HAO

A Chinese senior official's grandson says he participated in a scheme to hoard personal protective equipment and other medical supplies from foreign countries on behalf of corrupt officials in China, who then sold the products at a profit to local governments and eventually individuals seeking to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jiang Pengyong initially agreed to the scheme because he thought he was contributing to the nation's epidemic response. He said procured the goods through his Shenzhen-based e-commerce company, Shenzhen Jipingyong Tech Co., which has an office in South Korea and where Jiang is based.

Huang Zhongnan, his broker in China, told Jiang that the medical supplies would be donated to front-line health care workers or ordinary citizens who needed it to fend against the spread of COVID-19. However, Huang later revealed that the supplies were handed off to officials in government and foundations, who sold them for a profit.

After Huang no longer needed to purchase medical supplies from overseas, Jiang received a notice that Chinese government authorities in Suzhou city were suing him for contract fraud.

Jiang decided to go public with his story to reveal the level of corruption.

Scheme

In January, as the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus outbreak became severe in China, Huang, a broker for Red Cross China, approached Jiang and asked him to help purchase medical supplies from foreign countries.

Red Cross China, unlike its international counterparts, is directly funded and operated by the Chinese regime. It was previously involved in a local corruption scandal in 2011.

Jiang was aware of Red Cross China's unsavory reputation. But at Huang's insistence, he eventually agreed to help.

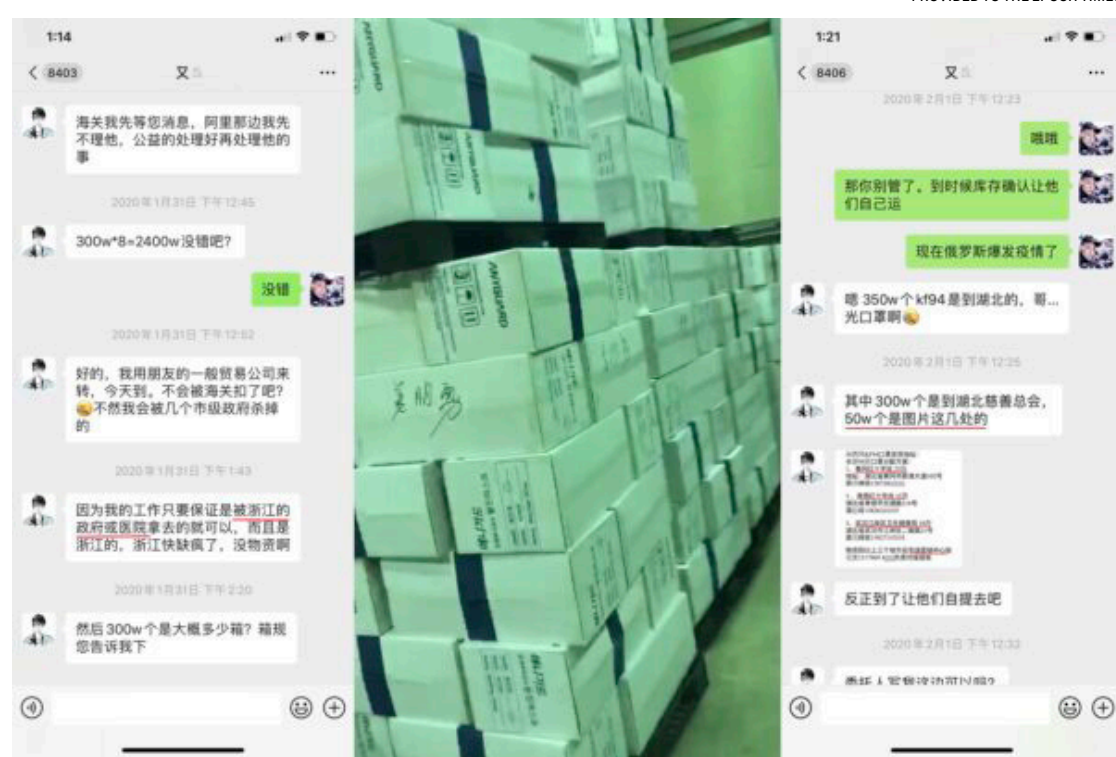
"The epidemic was very severe. ... I felt that it was my duty to help my people," he said. Medical workers in Wuhan, the epicenter of China's outbreak, was short on PPE at the height of the epidemic.

No matter if you are doing business with them, or doing something against them, you need to pay a heavy price.

Jiang Pengyong, referring to Chinese Red Cross officials

The epidemic was very severe ... I felt that it was my duty to help my people.

Jiang Pengyong



The masks that Jiang Pengyong bought in South Korea, and the conversation records between Jiang and Huang Zhongnan, a broker for Red Cross China, in February 2020.

Meanwhile, the central government was allocating funding to local governments and charities to procure medical supplies, ostensibly to give out to people in need.

According to Jiang, Huang was a broker for the Zhejiang provincial branch of a major charity, branches of Red Cross China, and several local governments in Zhejiang.

Through Huang's company, Enbo (Hangzhou) Industrial Co., acting as the government vendor, local governments would purchase 3 million surgical masks from Jiang at the unit price of eight yuan (about \$1.16).

The contracts were between Huang's company and Jiang's company.

Local governments would pretend that they were purchasing the supplies in order to donate to charities.

But in reality, Huang told Jiang in late January, he would sell the masks to local branches of Red Cross China and other charities at a higher price: 35 yuan apiece (\$5.06).

The profits would be shared between the government officials, Huang, and Jiang.

Jiang provided copies of text messages on the popular messaging app WeChat between him or his staff and Huang to arrange the shipments, as well as purchasing orders between Huang's company and local government entities.

For example, one dated Feb. 1 and issued by the Center for Disease Control and prevention in Jiangan district,

Hangzhou city, confirmed the shipment of "overseas purchased medical supplies" between Feb. 1 and Feb. 4.

He also provided copies of bank transactions with Huang for the goods.

Jiang says he thought it was dishonest to cheat the central government, but Huang convinced him that the plan was approved by local governments.

On paper, the transactions seemed legitimate.

A Feb. 7 document from the Wujiang district health commission within Suzhou city stated that: "to prevent and control the novel coronavirus epidemic, the Wujiang Health Commission entrusts the General Manager of Shenzhen Jipingyong Tech Company, Jiang Pengyong, to purchase PPE overseas. These PPE will be shipped to China by cargo air charters."

The document was issued so that the shipments would be approved at customs and checkpoints along the transportation route.

But Jiang eventually realized there was a deeper scheme.

Shady Deals

On Jan. 31, Jiang was scheduled to be at the airport in Seoul and waited to load a shipment of surgical masks to a dedicated aid plane. Huang told Jiang in a series of WeChat messages that the masks were ordered by the Zhejiang provincial branch of a major charity, for distribution in Wuhan city.

But that day, Huang suddenly told Jiang to ship the masks to Hangzhou city (located in Zhejiang) instead as regular shipments and not as charity goods.

This raised Jiang's suspicions. Huang later revealed to Jiang that officials at Red Cross China and other charities were also in on the deal: They would sell different medical supplies to individual users in China at a profit. Jiang procured them at 6.5 yuan apiece (\$0.94), but Huang teamed up with officials to sell them to people in China at 139 yuan (\$20.10).

The Epoch Times contacted each of the local health commissions Huang dealt with, as well as the Red Cross China branches that Jiang mentioned. While they confirmed that Huang was their contact person, they declined to provide further details about their business dealings with Huang.

Now, Jiang is being sued by the police bureau at the Industrial Park district of Suzhou city, and his business bank accounts in China have been frozen. He believes it is retaliation by local Red Cross China officials, after he wasn't able to complete some of the officials' requests to purchase supplies—which caused them to lose their down payments.

"No matter if you are doing business with them, or doing something against them, you need to pay a heavy price," he said.

STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Workers produce face masks at a factory in Nanchang, China, on April 8, 2020.

BRETT CARLSEN/GETTY IMAGES



A Syracuse Orange basketball game against Cornell Big Red at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, New York, on Nov. 8, 2013.

OPINION

Syracuse University Falls for the CCP's Narrative About Pandemic

China's infiltration of America's academic institutions is no longer deniable

JAMES GORRIE



According to the Syracuse University administration, there's no difference between a person of Chinese descent and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Imagine being subject to such an irrational and destructive policy.

Canceling the Professor

Unfortunately, highly rated Syracuse chemistry professor Jon Zubieta doesn't have to imagine it, because he found out firsthand. He was suspended by the university for using the terms "Wuhan flu" and "Chinese Communist Party flu" to describe the CCP virus (novel coronavirus) in his syllabus notes.

A handful of students complained, and suddenly, the tenured professor was suspended from his job. But in the minds of the offended students, even suspension isn't enough of a punishment. The professor, they insist, should be fired.

How can this happen at a major U.S. university?

Well, per Karin Ruhlandt, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Interim Vice Chancellor and Provost John Liu, Zubieta isn't only anti-CCP, he is guilty, by implication, of "hate speech" against Chinese.

"The derogatory language used by a professor on his course syllabus is damaging to the learning environment for our students and offensive to Chinese, international, and Asian-Americans everywhere who have experienced hate speech, rhetoric, and actions since the pandemic began," Liu and Ruhlandt said in a statement.

In other words, Zubieta is being canceled.

No Distinction Between the People, CCP

Somehow, the sins of Zubieta go beyond blaming the CCP for the coronavirus pandemic or by referencing the coronavirus as the "Wuhan virus." The professor is accused by Ruhlandt and Liu of criticizing all people of Chinese descent, everywhere in the world, regardless of their political affiliation or national origin.

To the luminous leaders of the university, there's apparently not even a sliver of daylight between the Party and the people it crushes and destroys.

That accusation, of course, is false.

Not that facts matter to the Syracuse University leadership or woke students, but let's look at some anyway.

The virus did indeed come from Wuhan. What's more, the CCP allowed the local viral outbreak to become a global pandemic. Those actions include silencing doctors who tried to warn the world, lying about the virus's human transmissibility, preventing U.S. doctors from examining the virus in its early stages, and allowing infected people to travel outside of China months after the outbreak to make sure the virus became a global pandemic.

The CCP's travel allowances, of course, let infected Chinese travel to Europe and the United States. All of these policies were dictated by the CCP, hence the fault and cause of the virus and the pandemic lie with the CCP. That is why the professor is correct when he referred to it the way he did. There is no better or more descriptive name for it.

However, it's apparent that in the view of Syracuse University, the monstrous people in Beijing that harvest human organs from living "donors," who imprison millions of people in work camps, and who gifted the world with the coronavirus pandemic do, in fact, represent all Chinese people.

To the luminous leaders of the university, there's apparently not even a sliver of daylight between the Party and the people it crushes and destroys. If you criticize the CCP, then you're an anti-Chinese racist and an all-round appalling human being, and therefore, unfit to teach chemistry.

China Corrupting US Schools

But it's not just Syracuse University that has become a mouthpiece and enforcer for the CCP. Even the most prestigious schools, such as Harvard, have been turned into politically correct research institutions that are aiding and abetting China's rise to global dominance.

Perhaps even worse, the CCP's influence has become widespread throughout the United States from primary schools to graduate institutions. Through such "cultural initiatives" as the Confucius Institute on university campuses and programs like the Thousand Talents, the CCP has succeeded in not only chang-

ing the perception of U.S. students and their educators toward China, but also bringing American students and researchers into the service of the CCP by providing them access to U.S. technology secrets.

Fortunately, both the Confucius Institute and the Thousand Talents programs are being shut down by the Trump administration. But the damage to our schools and universities from CCP-led corruption and the far-left political correctness that has warped so many minds remains.

Curiously, while Syracuse's Liu, whose given name is Zhanjiang Liu, very publicly condemned and punished his colleague for false racial offenses, Liu is deeply involved in the Chinese scientific community himself.

For example, as well as visiting a number of Chinese universities in the past few years, he's also a consultant for China Qingdao National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology and is a member of the Chinese Natural Science Foundation, among many other appointments.

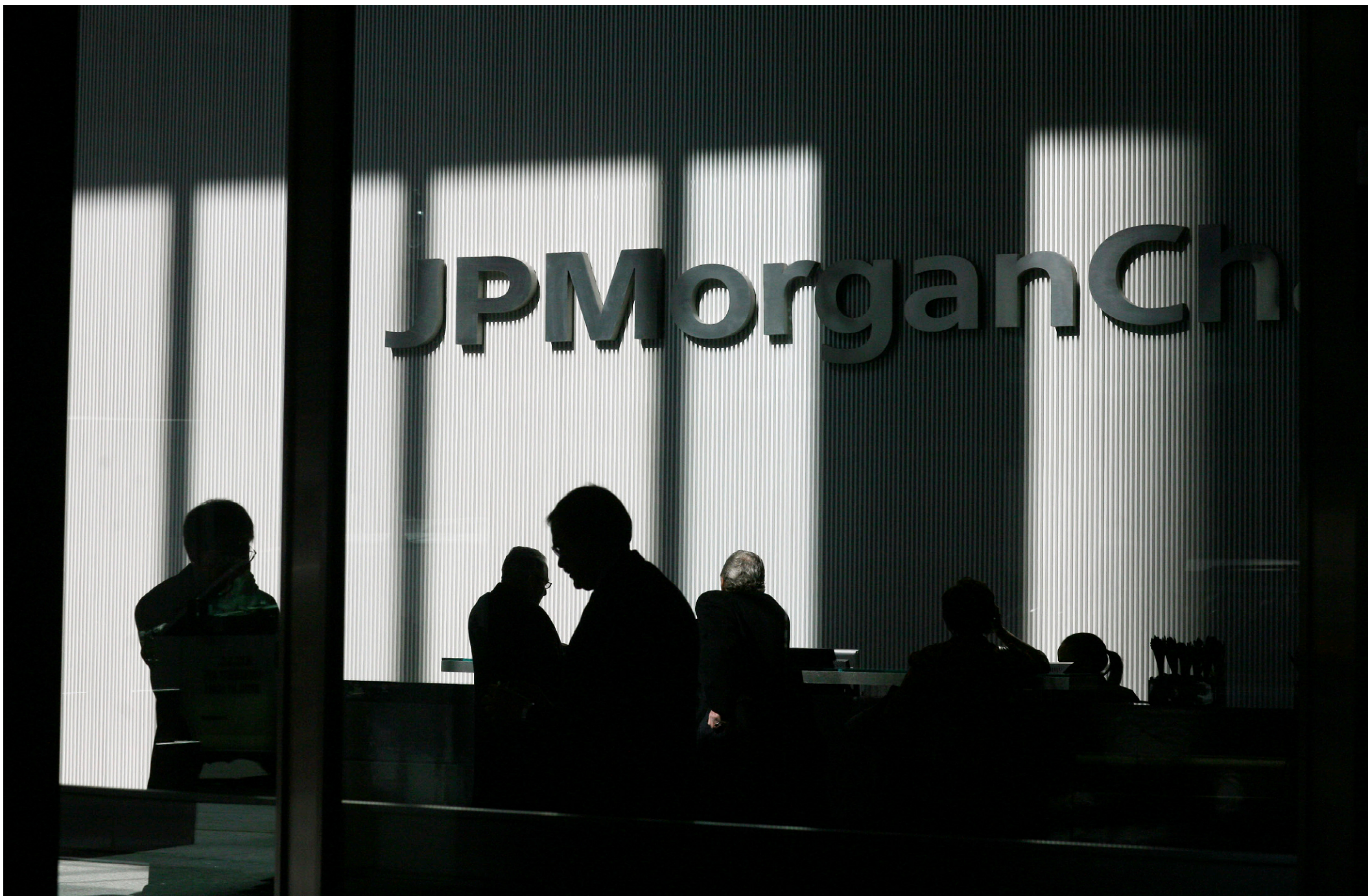
It's important to understand that none of the Chinese scientific and academic institutions that Liu is a part of, could exist without the support and oversight of the CCP. And yet, there he sits, at the very top of the Syracuse University power structure.

Liu's accusations against Zubieta—who violated no law—are, at best, hollow. At worst, they are a concerted effort to stoke racial tension and remove an anti-CCP influence. It would appear that it is a successful attempt to make Syracuse University just what the Party wants it to be.

In the meantime, Zubieta, who won the prestigious University President's Award for Excellence in Research in 1988, the Syracuse University ACS Division Medal in 2004, and was named to the Faculty of 1000, Biology, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, remains out of the classroom.

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



People stand inside the offices of JP Morgan Chase in New York, in this file photo.

ANALYSIS

Wall Street Doubles Down on China Amid Geopolitical Uncertainty

FAN YU

The largest Wall Street banks and fund managers are stepping up their presence in China, even as tensions between Beijing and Washington are escalating. U.S. asset managers are making moves to establish a beachhead. BlackRock, the world's biggest asset manager, has received Beijing's approval to set up a Chinese venture in partnership with China Construction Bank and Temasek, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund. Meanwhile, Vanguard, a major U.S. passive investment manager, said in August that it would relocate its Asia headquarters to Shanghai from Hong Kong.

U.S. banks JPMorgan Chase and Citigroup also have announced plans to establish fund management divisions in China.

Regarding securities firms, investment bank Goldman Sachs plans to take full ownership of its Chinese securities joint venture, according to mainland business magazine Caixin. While it currently owns 51 percent of Goldman Sachs Gao Hua Securities Co. Ltd., plans are to buy out its domestic partner, according to those with knowledge of the information.

Other banks with majority (51 percent or more) ownership of their Chinese ventures include Japan's Nomura Holdings, Switzerland's Credit

There are numerous risks for Wall Street firms seeking to operate in China.

Suisse and UBS, and United States' Morgan Stanley.

The moves by Wall Street investment managers and banks come as Beijing takes steps toward opening its extensive but heavily protected capital markets and financial services industry. Beijing first announced in 2017 that it would allow majority foreign ownership in financial services firms, and in July 2019, said that it would take away all limits on foreign ownership in 2020 related to brokerage, securities, and insurance companies.

But Wall Street banks and investment managers are rushing into China even amid growing political and trade tensions ahead of the U.S. presidential election.

This year, the Trump Administration has put the U.S.-China relationship under additional scrutiny. The United States imposed sanctions on Huawei and a group of other Chinese companies with military and government ties, and stepped up efforts to eliminate regulation loopholes available to Chinese companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges. China has become an opponent to the United States on key fronts such as international trade, technology, and ideology.

A Welcome Mat

Why is China liberalizing its financial industry now? For one, it's mandated

by the phase one U.S.-China trade deal published in January. One of the stipulations states that China must remove all foreign ownership limits on its securities, fund management, and futures industries and remove any "discriminatory restrictions."

One of the areas the Trump Administration has put pressure on Beijing is regarding reciprocity of market access. Besides financial services, Trump has most recently focused on the lack of media reciprocity by placing restrictions on Chinese media activities in the country. Chinese media are able to freely publish and disseminate their viewpoints in the United States, while U.S. media entities have no such freedom in China.

China also needs to court investment to maintain its U.S. dollar supply. Chinese firms have almost \$2 trillion in dollar-denominated debt outstanding that they need to service using U.S. dollars. And Chinese banks have been running out of dollars since 2019, as initially reported by The Wall Street Journal. While the People's Bank of China has \$3.2 trillion in foreign exchange reserves as of August 2020 and can intervene if needed, the veracity of that amount has been questioned by some researchers.

Weighing Risks, Benefits

There are numerous risks for Wall Street firms seeking to operate in China.

The recent snag in ByteDance's pending sale of TikTok is a prime example of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) intervention. Beijing may scuttle a divestiture deal, which ultimately may complete the destruction of TikTok's valuation (which was begun by the Trump Administration). Seeing investors such as Sequoia Capital and KKR faced with a large write-off, will other investors be reluctant to invest in the next hot Chinese startup?

Corruption is another potential landmine, one which Wall Street banks have already touched off. In 2016, JPMorgan was fined by U.S. regulators for its so-called "sons and daughters program," hiring relatives of CCP officials in order to win business for its Chinese subsidiaries. It was a black eye for JPMorgan and other global banks that ran similar plans in hopes of currying favor with local officials. Can wholly owned subsidiaries of foreign financial firms

compete effectively going forward?

There are also ESG (environmental, social, governance) issues and other concerns that have taken on added significance for investors. A Chinese bank's main clients are domestic Chinese companies, many of which have dubious ownership structures and governance issues. And kowtowing to the CCP—a regime with a horrendous human rights record—in exchange for market access won't be accretive to a bank's ESG marks. Walt Disney Co.'s recent "Mulan" debacle is the latest reminder that doing business in China carries significant reputational risks.

At the end of the day, the CCP, when it counts, can skew laws to protect local securities firms.

Assuming the Chinese ventures eventually will make a profit for the parent company, repatriation of cash often is a challenge for multinationals operating in China. Beijing maintains strict foreign capital controls, which means funds flowing into and out of China are heavily scrutinized. In addition to taxes and other prerequisites, companies face additional difficulties when paying dividends to the parent. But given the legal and compliance resources available to Wall Street firms it's likely a costly—but ultimately solvable—issue.

At the end of the day, the CCP, when it counts, can skew laws to protect local securities firms.

What's the benefit? A slice of China's \$45 trillion financial services sector, and the fees associated with arranging debt and equity raises, investment management, and mergers and acquisitions advisory. Wall Street is counting on its name brand and vast experience to take market share quickly.

Companies are making a long-term bet that future growth in the industry will likely come from the East, not the West. And if the CCP collapses in the future, that trend would only accelerate and some of these risks could go away.

It may be a valid strategy, albeit with high degrees of uncertainty and risk in the near term.

CHINESE INFLUENCE

Covert Chinese Recruitment Plan Continues Despite US Scrutiny, Leaked Documents Show

EVA FU

The Chinese regime continues to target top overseas talents through a well-financed recruitment program—the Thousand Talents Plan—which has come under close U.S. scrutiny for its perceived threats to national security, according to a series of internal documents obtained by The Epoch Times.

Rolled out by Beijing in 2008, the Thousand Talents Plan is China's most prominent state-run recruitment program. Hundreds of similar operations exist at the central and local government levels, aiming to attract promising overseas Chinese and foreigner experts in the fields of science and technology to fuel China's innovation drive.

From 2007 to 2017, more than 7,000 "high-end professionals"—mostly from overseas—have participated in Thousand Talents alone, including six Nobel Prize laureates, according to Chinese state media reports. Amid deepening trade theft concerns and a string of notable U.S. federal prosecutions, the program has gone underground, with Chinese censors deleting online references to it.

The documents seen by The Epoch Times revealed that a dozen researchers and experts who received nominations to the program hold doctorate degrees from Western universities or have previously worked in Western companies and academic institutions.

One such list, compiled in late 2019 by a Shaanxi provincial government agency, showed all Thousand Talent recruits who were due to work in Xi'an city, the province's capital. The document included their previous job titles and when they would begin working at a Xi'an local firm, according to the contract they signed.

The experts, from the United States, the UK, Australia, Denmark, Germany, and Japan, specialize in fields such as artificial intelligence, biomedical, pharmaceutical, and biochemistry—industries Beijing has targeted as part of its ambitions to become a high-tech manufacturing power.

The documents seen by The Epoch Times revealed that a dozen researchers and experts who received nominations for the program hold doctorate degrees from Western universities or have previously worked in Western companies and academic institutions.

erhouse.

One chemistry professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who specializes in nanotechnology and molecular biology was nominated to the program and signed a contract with an information technology company in Xi'an in September 2019, the document shows.

Responding to an email inquiry, he told The Epoch Times that at the time, he was "in transition" to his current job and had considered going back to China to take the job of a part-time consultant at the Xi'an company. He later turned down the job offer and the nomination "exactly because UIUC and the US news media were educating people that those programs may have the 'spy' concern [sic]," and therefore, he has "never been in any talent programs," he said. Daiichi Sankyo Co., a Japanese pharmaceutical company, and UK-based Oxford Cancer Biomarkers, a developer of cancer diagnostic tests, didn't immediately respond to requests by The Epoch Times for comment about their employees whose names were on the list.

Party-Controlled Talents

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which plays a central role in executing the recruitment plan, is able to "exert exceptional" levels of control over members to ensure the program serves its priorities, a 2019 Senate report noted.

Thousand Talents members sign binding contracts with Chinese institutions that may contain non-disclosure agreements, which can incentivize them to lie when applying for U.S. federal grants, set up "shadow labs" in China, and transfer U.S. intellectual property, the report said.

"The Party is in control of the talents," declared a Shaanxi Thousand Talents Implementation Plan published in 2017, a phrase that has appeared in many Party speeches and policies over the years.

This wording in itself should arouse suspicions, said China affairs commentator Li Linyi. The reason for such an emphasis, he

said, is that "the CCP needs the overseas experts to obey the Party and help the Party steal advanced foreign technologies."

Between 2008 and 2016, China recruited about 60,000 overseas scientists, academics, entrepreneurs, and researchers using over 200 overseas talent recruitment programs—including Thousand Talents—and at least 600 CCP overseas "talent recruitment workstations," according to an August report by think tank Australian Strategic Policy Institute, citing official statistics. The United States alone has 146 such recruitment stations, the highest number in the world.

Lucrative Rewards

The financial benefits of joining Thousand Talents are enticing.

The latest publicly available information from the Shaanxi government showed that in addition to their salaries, "top talents" and those selected to join its "innovation team" can expect up to 2 million yuan (\$294,906) in financial assistance, with additional incentives for training and research development arranged on an individual basis.

Under the program, recruits categorized as "young talents" and "foreign experts" also receive government awards of 300,000 to 1 million yuan (\$44,236 to \$147,453). The foreign experts would enjoy privileged treatment on visa stays, housing, health care, transportation, insurance, and their children's education. "The relevant departments will provide highly efficient and convenient services," according to the Shaanxi government.

To encourage them to work in the Xi'an high-tech zone, authorities could reward up to 4.5 million yuan (\$663,540) per individual, with additional housing subsidies of up to 700,000 yuan (\$103,217), along with extra living allowances.

The high-tech zone as of 2018 has trained 77 experts for China's national talent recruitment programs and 82 for the Shaanxi provincial level Thousand Talents program, and has recruited more

than 4,600 foreign experts and over 5,400 Chinese scholars who studied overseas, according to the government.

Some of the experts involved in Shaanxi Thousand Talents have worked on developing 5G technology, China's satellite navigation system BeiDou, and large-scale photonic integrated circuits (computer chips) to compete with U.S. computer hardware firms such as IBM and Intel, according to a separate internal document summarizing the program's accomplishments.

US Actions

Federal prosecutors in recent months have charged at least a half-dozen U.S. researchers in connection with ties to Thousand Talents.

In July, James Patrick Lewis, a former West Virginia University professor who worked for the state-run Chinese Academy of Sciences under the Thousand Talents program, was sentenced to three years in prison for federal program fraud.

Almost the same time, a Malaysian-born professor at the University of Arkansas since 1988 was

indicted on 42 counts of wire fraud and two counts of passport fraud—mostly connected to his failure to disclose ties to China and Chinese companies.

Charles Lieber, former chair of Harvard University's chemistry and chemical biology department, was indicted in June for two counts of making false statements to federal authorities, and again in July for concealing the earnings he received from Thousand Talents.

In a July 7 speech, FBI Director Christopher Wray said the agency is opening a new case about once every 10 hours to counter threats coming from China.

"American taxpayers are effectively footing the bill for China's own technological development.

China then leverages its ill-gotten gains to undercut U.S. research institutions and companies, blunting our nation's advancement and costing American jobs," he said during the speech.



A worker inside a laboratory in Beijing on May 14, 2020.



The New York Stock Exchange on Aug. 3, 2020.



Chinese leader Xi Jinping (bottom) arrives at the closing session of the Chinese regime's rubber-stamp legislature conference while other Communist Party officials applaud, in Beijing, on May 28, 2020.

OPINION

How to Defeat the Chinese Communist Party's Ideological War

The most important battles of the Second Cold War will be fought in the minds of men

STEVEN W. MOSHER & REGGIE LITTLEJOHN

We find ourselves in another Cold War, this time with an enemy far more skilled in the art of war than the Russians.

The leaders of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) have long understood that the most important strategic domain is the minds of men. They see it as critically important to seize the "high ground" of ideology—boosting domestic morale while dispiriting the enemy, bolstering the legitimacy of one's own institutions while undermining the enemy's, and attracting allies from within the very heart of the opposition. That's why it ranks propaganda as the first and more important of the three "Magic Weapons" that it will use to defeat American primacy, the other two being "united front tactics" and the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

In order to defeat the CCP's ideological offensive, America, too, must light a fire in the minds of men. We must vigorously defend American democracy and individual liberty at the same time we relentlessly attack the myriad weaknesses of the CCP. The goal is to convince peoples on both sides of the Pacific that the U.S. model of ordered liberty is superior in every respect to the CCP's techno-authoritarian "socialism with Chinese characteristics."

The Chinese communists themselves, it turns out, have conveniently identified a number of specific areas where they believe they are vulnerable to attack. There are seven political "perils" Party members were told in an April 2013 Central Committee directive that they must resolutely guard against. These "perils" are (1) constitutional democracy; (2) human rights; (3) civil society; (4) the free market; (5) freedom of the press, along with criticism of (6) the history and (7) the ideology of the CCP.

On the principle that the CCP's worst fears should be our policy, we must relentlessly attack these points of vulnerability at every opportunity.

Constitutional Democracy: We should insist that all peoples have a natural right to govern themselves, and that the governing apparatus imposed by force by the CCP on the Chinese people is illegitimate. Even more effective than holding up our own example of constitutional democracy would be highlighting that of Taiwan, where 24 million free Chinese govern themselves. The attractiveness of democratic ideals is such, we should note, that even the CCP has been forced to set up a sham parliament, misleadingly called the National People's Congress.

Human Rights: We should insist that all people have certain unalienable rights, and that civilized countries respect the rights of their citizens. The CCP regularly

denounces Western notions of human rights and yet—in another example of the tribute that communist vice is compelled to pay to democratic virtue—guarantees these same rights in their sham constitution. This is another fraud that the CCP is perpetrating upon the Chinese people that should be relentlessly exposed.

Civil Society: The CCP also regards the mediating institutions of society—family, church, and other voluntary associations—as subversive, and is seeking not only to control them but, in the case of organized religion, to stamp them out entirely over time. The United States should insist that the reach of government should be limited, and that people everywhere have the right to freely associate and organize outside the surveillance and control of the Party.

The CCP understands that the day that the Chinese people have access to an honest history of the last 70 years of communist rule, as well as a clear understanding of the superiority of free market democracies, is the day that they will demand to be free. The United States must do all it can to hasten that day.

The Free Market: It is often said that China has a mixed economy. The past decade, however, has seen a retreat back to socialist control of the means of production. The state-owned or controlled sector of the economy is growing like a cancer, and the freedom and prosperity of the Chinese people are suffering as a result. America must make the case that free market economies are inherently more prosperous, equitable, and free.

Freedom of the Press: The CCP's efforts to control what the Chinese people see, hear, and read has reached levels of hysterical xenophobia not seen since the days of the Cultural Revolution. The United States has the ability to breach the "Great Firewall" and communicate directly with the Chinese people, and it should make every effort to do so.

CCP History and Ideology: If we want to win the ideological competition with the CCP, it is not enough to tout the superiority of the American political and economic system, or of free market democracies in general. We must go on the offensive, and relentlessly expose the fact that the entire history and ideology of the CCP is a sham. It is nothing more than a self-serving fantasy of the Party as "the vanguard of the proletariat" and as "servants of the people" that is intended to justify the continued exploitation of the Chinese people by one

of the most evil and corrupt ruling elites in human history.

The CCP's crimes against humanity, past and present, are legion. Some of the more egregious recent examples include:

- The National Security Law in Hong Kong, which crushes all dissent, punishing vague crimes with sentences up to life in prison.
- The detention of an estimated one to two million Uyghur Muslims in internment camps, where they are subject to forced labor, torture and death.
- The human rights violations in Tibet, including surveillance, imprisonment and torture that have caused hundreds of Tibetans to immolate themselves to call international attention to their plight.
- The intensifying religious persecution as religions are "sinicized," which has resulted in the surveillance, detention and torture of religious believers and leaders, as well as the destruction or defacing of countless places of worship. Among other violations, elderly Christians are forced to deny their faith in order to receive government survival stipends.
- Forced organ harvesting has been perpetrated on an industrial scale throughout China for the past two decades, and many of those killed are Falun Gong practitioners and Uyghur Muslims.
- The forced abortion of women under the Two Child Policy, especially in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR).
- The mishandling of the coronavirus outbreak, in which whistleblowers were silenced, people were seized and dragged out of their homes, and others were forced into quarantine and left to die, while the CCP Virus itself was deliberately spread throughout the world.

For these reasons and other reasons, the CCP should be delegitimized in the view of the Chinese people and the world at every turn. One way to do this would be by designating it as a Transnational Criminal Organization. Another would be to employ, at a level never before seen in American history, information statecraft, as the Committee on the Present Danger China has recently recommended.

The CCP, as noted above, has long regarded propaganda as its chief tool to bend not only its own people, but the world, to its will. In 2014, Xi Jinping ordered the CCP to redouble its efforts to "increase China's soft power and give a good Chinese narrative." A massive propaganda effort ensued: Xinhua now has 170 foreign bureaus, China Radio International (CRI) controls 30+ radio stations in 14 countries, and the CCP has created, or has plans to create 100+ global think tanks.

As a result, the CCP's information warfare against America has made significant inroads. An Oxford study shows its English-language outlets "have a substantial online audience ... comparable to the BBC." CCP propaganda is said to be gaining some traction with its current promotion of "con-

spiracy theories" that the coronavirus was a U.S. "bioweapon."

A major effort needs to be made by the United States to not only counter CCP disinformation, but to further attack the seven points of vulnerability described above. The U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) should actively support U.S. public diplomacy and serve as a voice of freedom to peoples who lack a free media. The central effort in this regard will fall to the Chinese language services of the Voice of America (VOA) and Radio Free Asia (RFA), with the support of the Department of State. All language services should receive systematic counterintelligence protection services to prevent foreign penetration and sabotage.

Our counter-messaging must be continuous and robust if it is to break through the "Great Firewall" and push back CCP narratives. Mere entertainment programs that do nothing to advance the mission of the USAGM should be replaced with programs that provide objective and comprehensive reporting, as well as exemplifying America's commitment to truth, freedom, and human rights.

This effort to breach the "Great Firewall" will require the strengthening of every broadcast medium that the USAGM currently has access to—short-wave and medium-wave radio, television, and internet—as well as the development of new technologies to reach foreign audiences, including digital radio, and satellite radio.

Reaching the Chinese people with accurate information about the deficiencies of CCP rule and the superiority of free market democracies will not be easy. The CCP is obviously alert to the threat posed by an accurate recounting of its bloody history and self-serving ideology. Its leaders understand that the Soviet Union imploded because no one, not even party members, subscribed any longer to the ideals of communism or believed in the legitimacy of its institutions. Determined to avoid this fate and ensure that no unapproved messages reach the Chinese people they have, for example, recently ordered satellite dishes to be taken down from homes and offices.

The CCP understands that the day that the Chinese people have access to an honest history of the last 70 years of communist rule, as well as a clear understanding of the superiority of free market democracies, is the day that they will demand to be free. The United States must do all it can to hasten that day.

Steven W. Mosher is the president of the Population Research Institute and the author of "Bully of Asia: Why China's Dream Is the New Threat to World Order."

Reggie Littlejohn is the founder and president of Women's Rights Without Frontiers, an international coalition to expose and oppose forced abortion, gendercide, and sexual slavery in China.

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



Laborers walk through the Gwadar Port in Pakistan, a multi-billion dollar infrastructure project that China has invested in as part of its Belt and Road Initiative.

OPINION

China's CPEC: The Trillion-Dollar Blunder

PREITY UPALA

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), also known as One Belt, One Road) is the Chinese regime's imperialistic and expansionist agenda in large parts of Eurasia, South-Asia, and Africa. Dubbed as the "New Silk Road," it connects China to Africa through seaways and highways. A flagship of the BRI is the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a collection of infrastructure projects that are currently under construction throughout Pakistan.

Originally valued at \$46 billion, the CPEC project is estimated at \$87 billion in funding today, only a quarter of which have been completed. CPEC was intended to rapidly modernize Pakistani infrastructure and strengthen its economy by the construction of modern transportation networks, numerous energy projects, and special economic zones (SEZs).

However, according to the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), these SEZs remain largely empty today, and the long-standing challenges have only become more exacerbated. Facing unsustainable debt levels, growth rates down to 3 percent, five-year high inflation rates, and soaring deficits, Pakistan's economy is definitely moving in the reverse direction.

CPEC is based on a false premise that a nation needs these massive economic projects to be prosperous. It's apparent that no one is willing to pay for these projects in the end, as they will never make any money from them. Analysts have famously quoted: "These are bridges that don't go anywhere. Some of the ambitious projects like a high-speed train from Beijing to Moscow will never have any takers."

The debt quotient of this corridor is about \$80 billion, 90 percent of which will be paid for by Pakistan in the form of national debt.

Pakistan itself knows it won't be able to pay China back and will slowly lose sovereignty of its own land. These projects don't appear to have the potential to be profitable or successful and won't prove to be a good economic investment for China.

Ultimately, this is a Chinese "colonial" adventure that will never bear fruit. There have been many reports out of China that indicate the Pakistani government itself is trying to sabotage the CPEC project. Chinese officials have been recorded as being incredibly frustrated with Pakistan's actions or lack thereof so far. Like most adventures, there is no transparency, China sets the price, Pakistan gets the bill, and ends up with a sub-standard infrastructure it can't service.

The Chinese regime is famous for its debt-trap diplomacy and loans in exchange for sovereignty. It believes in the tribute system now disguised as the BRI. It is already starting to take shape as the "trillion-dollar blunder." There are a number of criticisms of CPEC, namely finances, trade imbalances, Baloch nationalists, concerns of the Gwadar port residents, and the resistance of local actors whom this rollout may directly affect. Another big setback is the resolution passed against CPEC by the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunwah Province in which the projects are to be constructed. However, now there is a new legal issue that China will need to overcome. And this is where India comes in.

CPEC could be deemed illegal in international legal terms. After the abrogation of Article 370 by the government of India in August 2019, there was also a bifurcation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories.

This changes the landscape of Indian sovereignty throughout the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir. The area of Kashmir that has been illegally occupied by Paki-

stan since 1947 is known as "Pakistan-occupied Kashmir" (PoK). This also includes the area of Gilgit-Baltistan.

The new reconfiguration of Kashmir gives more power to the central government of India, weakening the Pakistani arms of influence that are known to fund indoctrination, separatist movements, and terrorism. Kashmir will now follow the Indian constitution, its flag, and anthem. In a sense, the whole of Jammu and Kashmir is intact and merges back with the Indian republic.

Following international law, China will not be able to build anything in this PoK area, as it is legitimately part of the Indian state. Even the United Nations accepts that this is Indian land first as per the 1948 resolution.

As far as the Chinese regime is concerned, the more powerful it gets, the more arrogant and aggressive it becomes. It wants a hegemonic Asia without any peer competitors. The regime sees India as its main competitor, not just in the region, but also in the world at large.

Unlike India, which wants to see open seas, sound digital economy, renewable energy, and a stable region, China isn't interested in a multipolar Asia. Although the two share a working trade relationship, trade will never bring peace, and the trust deficit factor on the Indian side is enormous.

The most important relationship in the second half of this century will be that of India and China. Will this be based on co-operation and a rule-based relationship or the beginning of a Himalayan cold war?

The recent stand-off between the two along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh is where the Chinese were seen to be building up with armor and troops on their side of the LAC. This is a new India that isn't willing to accept infiltration into its territory.

The latest stand-off in Galwan Valley, Ladakh, a legitimate Indian territory, which claimed the lives of at least 20 Indian sol-

diers and up to 100 Chinese soldiers, has been highly explosive and will call for the highest levels of diplomatic negotiations between both countries.

Due to China's presence in international territory, there may be violations of the Vienna conventions. India will see this as an opportunity to show the world that it will protect its territorial integrity and has the capacity to give China a bloody nose.

CPEC is based on a false premise that a nation needs these massive economic projects to be prosperous. It is being apparent that no one is willing to pay for these projects in the end, as they will never make any money from it.

It seems that the CPEC "colonial" adventure has failed before it has even begun. In a way, the Chinese strategy for land encroachment and Pakistan's gluttonous desire for land grabbing may end up being its own downfall.

Preity Upala is a geo-political expert and award-winning international columnist. She hosts a weekly podcast and appears as a regular radio and TV commentator. Her work has appeared in more than 100 publications, and she has been a keynote speaker at global summits. Her expertise is foreign policy, U.S.-India relations, South Asian politics, counter-terrorism, conflict resolution, and women's issues.

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

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TRUTH *and* TRADITION

In Our Own Words

An Editor's Perspective

Tom Lewis
Editor



Dear Epoch VIP,

For my whole life I've distrusted the media and always felt something terribly wrong was happening behind the scenes. I made it a point to ignore as much as I could and rely on my intuition to figure things out. But I was neglecting important knowledge and information about the state of the world. It wasn't until I started educating myself on the nature and danger of communism that I really started putting the pieces together.

When I got the opportunity to work for The Epoch Times, I knew right away the vast potential of what I could achieve by becoming part of the media.

As an editor, I am responsible for maintaining a high quality of reporting in line with the values of The Epoch Times: Truth and Tradition. **These values are not merely a branding slogan, but fundamental principles that define the reason why our media was established and our goal.** To uphold this goal, I take my work at The Epoch Times seriously.

While at The Epoch Times, I've been able to fulfill my dream of helping to inform and change the world for the better. It's very satisfying to see the immediate impact and results of our efforts and how they help to build an informed populace ready to navigate the cultural and political pitfalls in today's society.

That said, listening to the feedback from our readers is

also an important part of my job. We appreciate those who are watching out for us and letting us know when we make mistakes. Creating an open forum with our readers in the comments section has helped us better understand what people care about and has provided valuable insight and information. Aside from that, I believe that providing a place for the people to speak is crucial for a free society that is increasingly under attack and being silenced.

I'm very grateful to see the support and encouragement we get from those who truly value and understand what we are doing. The letters of support we get from our readers provide powerful boosts to morale and are cherished by our staff. They are a heartwarming source of inspiration that lets us know we are on the right path. Reading how others have clarity on the terrible dangers of communism gives me great comfort in knowing we are not alone in our efforts to protect freedom against tyranny. I am proud to stand with each one of our allies in this fight.

It is my hope that our work at The Epoch Times can help to restore the public's trust in the media and serve as a foundation for others to build on. The media is protected in the First Amendment because of its vital function of providing accurate information and holding those in power accountable. I believe that faith in the Fourth Estate must be restored, or we will lose an important aspect of what maintains social order and stability.

As things seem to inch closer to the edge and spiral out of control, I hope that The Epoch Times can hold the line and provide the rational wisdom we need to pull things back from the brink. I'll certainly try my best.

In Truth and Tradition,

Tom Lewis
The Epoch Times

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What Our Readers Say (19)

“ I predicted more than two years back that The Epoch Times would become a major source of news and would branch into electronic media as well. ”



Many years ago there were many good objective news outlets, but clearly that era is gone. It is now very hard to find news that is just news, and not twisted to fit someone's narrative. In my opinion, the pond for good news coverage had almost dried up and I was down to The Wall Street Journal.

Then I received an ad for The Epoch Times and I had a look at it. How delightful to find news coverage that just presents facts and opinion articles written by actual adults. **At this point in the U.S., I don't think any of the other media, print or electronic, rise to the standard of The Epoch Times.** It is first in objectivity, first in insightful opinion pieces and in the breadth of coverage. After starting The Epoch Times, I was amazed to realize how many important events and trends in the rest of the world were simply ignored by virtually all of the other media.

I predicted more than two years back that The Epoch Times would become a major source of news and would branch into electronic media as well. I'm not at all surprised by their huge success.

JOHN R. DONER



The best part of reading your articles is that they're all "in depth." No more five or six liners. Each one is thoughtful and detailed. I really appreciate that. You also have some of the best writers. My favorite addition is Conrad Black. There are others of course, but I was happy to see him out and about again. He's always been one of the best and has the scars to prove it. **I save your papers, take them to my monthly GOP meeting, leave a stack on the side table and they're always gone at the end of the meeting.** Thank you so much for producing this great publication. I'm sure it hasn't been easy for you over the years, but you did it. And so can we, by helping get the word out. God bless all of you!!

RONNI REDMOND



How cool of a read that it is!

JAMES WELSH



It's a breath of fresh air! Reporting versus opinion is readily discernible.

GERRY MALNAR



This is an even-handed approach to the news, reminiscent of the San Gabriel Valley Tribune when I was growing up in La Puente, California in the 60s and 70s. What brought me to the Epoch Times were ads on YouTube, but what sealed my devotion were the articles on integrative/functional medicine and nutrition. My wife an integrative MD, and I am a life coach trained and educated through the Institute of Integrative Nutrition in NYC. **It's good to know there is a media source that keeps current on events and information.**

WILLIAM REIS



The Epoch Times is one of the few sources of honest, unbiased news reporting that is left in the U.S.A.

It's good that Epoch Times staff still care about reporting news accurately and factually rather than distorting facts to support their own agendas.

JAMES FITZPATRICK



The Epoch Times is a refreshing look at today's news and vital in this 2020 world where the only means we can find to give us any truths are quickly diminishing. The cancel culture and pressures upon and from the mainstream media have choked out the truth in most cases as every story has become political fodder. **Thank God for The Epoch Times.** They are a cool drink of fresh water in a tainted pond. Check out, too, the digital membership for up-to-the-minute unbiased news.

CHIP OWEN

THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH AND TRADITION