

WEEK 41, 2020

THE EPOCH TIMES

# CHINA INSIDER



**NOW IS THE TIME  
FOR THE US TO GET  
TOUGHER ON BEIJING**

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## OPINION

# 'COVID-19 Finally Strikes the Right Target'

China's state-controlled internet lights up in celebration over Trump's illness

STEVEN W. MOSHER



It was reported late on Oct. 1 that President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump had tested positive for the CCP virus (novel coronavirus) and that they were experiencing "mild symptoms." And on Oct. 2, we learned that he was transferred to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center out of an "abundance of caution."

Along with tens of millions of Americans, my family and I have prayed for the president and the first lady, along with any White House staffers who may be ill, that they may quickly return to good health.

Those suffering from "Trump Derangement Syndrome" saw this not as an occasion to send light, however, but to give voice to dark thoughts.

In communist China, they're practically dancing in the streets.

Upon learning that Trump had tested positive for the virus, Hu Xijin, the editor-in-chief of the state-run tabloid Global Times, implied that Trump had it coming.

"President Trump and the first lady have paid the price for his gamble to play down the COVID-19," Hu wrote on Twitter.

"The news shows the severity of the US' pandemic situation. It will impose a negative impact on the image of Trump and the US, and may also negatively affect his reelection."

Hu, a member of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), thought better of his little victory dance a short time later and took down his tweet. But the anti-Trump vitriol has continued on social media.

Hundreds of thousands of CCP members, says human rights activist Jennifer Zeng, clicked "like" on posts openly celebrating news that America's First Family had come down with the virus.

Nearly 2 million people liked "The whole world is celebrating!" Hundreds of thousands more liked tweets reading "So happy," "It's late but it's here," and "Celebrating Autumn Harvest Festival, National Day, and Trump: Triple Happiness."

And then there is the most revealing tweet of all: "COVID-19 finally hit the right target."

When one Beijing resident was interviewed on live television, she could hardly contain herself.

"The entire country is celebrating [Trump's illness]," she exulted. "All of the heavens and the earth rejoice together. Very, very good. This is a gift and contribution from Trump to China."

Those standing nearby were laughing and nodding in agreement.

Bear in mind that the Chinese media is under tight state control. This disgusting interview would never have been broadcast on state-run television, and the earlier posts would never have gotten past social media censors unless their messages were approved by communist authorities.

Party members, like Pavlov's dogs, are trained to salivate on the command of their communist masters. They quickly respond to such dog whistles and are only too happy to start yapping in unison. But even ordinary people in China seem to be reveling in the news about Trump, although perhaps for a different reason.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the CCP has spread the rumor that the coronavirus was a bioweapon developed by U.S. Army labs in Fort Detrick, Maryland. As the story goes, it was deliberately brought to China during the October 2019 Military Games in Wuhan and released upon the Chinese people. It's not the "China virus" at all, they have been told, it's the "American virus."

This calumny may explain another video out of China. It shows a bus full of passengers cheering

when they learn that Trump has fallen ill. In the video, the bus driver first shouts: "Let me tell you some exciting and encouraging news. The [expletive] Trump has finally got [expletive] COVID-19!" Upon hearing this, the passengers erupt in cheers and applause.

Watching the video reminded me of an earlier anti-American episode. When 9/11 happened, Chinese social media exploded with mocking memes of the collapse of the Twin Towers. Most Americans were too distracted to notice.

The celebrations of the CCP leaders whose virus has taken down Trump, however, may be short-lived.

At 74, Trump may be in the highest-risk group, but he's otherwise in excellent health. Not only that, but at Walter Reed he will have the best medical care in the world. Odds are he's going to suffer a mild bout of the flu and recover quickly. The White House physician has said he expects Trump to continue carrying out his duties without disruption.

But as Trump works in quarantine, he'll have plenty of time to reflect on whether a Chinese-style shutdown, stoked by CCP propaganda and World Health Organization misinformation, was really the way for America to go.

He'll also be constantly reminded, by his own medical condition, of where the CCP virus came from and how it was unleashed upon the world. And, being Trump the counterpuncher, he'll be reflecting on how to punish the CCP for unleashing a pandemic upon America and the world.

You see, now it's personal.

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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.*

In communist China, they're practically dancing in the streets.

OLIVIER DOULIERY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump walk across the South Lawn upon return to the White House in Washington on May 27, 2020.

## FREE SPEECH

## Group Urges University to Drop Probe Into Professor Who Used Term 'CCP Virus'

CATHY HE &amp; EVA FU

A free-speech group has called on Syracuse University to drop an investigation into a chemistry professor who referred to the virus that causes the COVID-19 disease as "Chinese Communist Party virus" and "Wuhan flu" in his course syllabus.

Syracuse University, a private college in New York state, on Aug. 25 announced that it had placed a professor on administrative leave, pending an investigation, for using "derogatory language" in a course syllabus that was "damaging to the learning environment" for students. The school said the wording was "offensive to Chinese, international and Asian-Americans everywhere who have experienced hate speech, rhetoric, and actions since the pandemic began."

If this happened in mainland China, a professor being fired for saying CCP virus, that would simply be a common occurrence. People have grown numb to this. But I never expected that something like this could happen in the United States.

Liu Tianyu, Chinese graduate student at Buffalo University

The professor in question is Jon Zubieta, who has taught chemistry at the college for 30 years. Underneath a heading of the section of the syllabus titled, "Special notices related to the COVID-19 pandemic," he included in parenthesis: "Wuhan Flu or Chinese Communist Party Virus." Photos of the syllabus circulated on social media, prompting an outcry among some students.

"My intention was to mock the euphemistic conventions of PC culture rather than the Chinese people or their great heritage and traditions," Zubieta said in



Hendricks Chapel at Syracuse University.

a statement released by nonprofit Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE). "The actions of the university in placing me under suspension and in practice seemingly supporting the accusations of racism and Sinophobia are deeply disturbing."

FIRE wrote to Syracuse University Chancellor Kent Syverud on Sept. 22, urging to cancel the investigation and reinstate Zubieta. The group said that though the university isn't bound by the First Amendment because it is a private institution, it should still fulfill its own policies that espouse a commitment to free speech.

"If you're going to promise your professors free speech, academic freedom rights, you have to uphold those promises, even when it's difficult or unpopular to do," Zach Greenberg, author of the letter and a program officer at FIRE, told The Epoch Times.

Greenberg said that Zubieta has received many messages online calling for him to be fired.

"The chemistry professor has been "from all accounts a model employee," Greenberg said, noting that prior to this incident, Zubieta has never had any mis-

conduct cases or allegations of misconduct made against him in his three decades at the university.

Greenberg said that while universities are free to publicly condemn hate speech, bigotry, and xenophobia, FIRE's position is that "the answer to distasteful, hateful speech is more speech. It's not censorship or violence, or in this case, firing professors."

Syracuse University said its speech policies "are designed to balance free expression with the University's obligations under federal and state civil rights laws to maintain an educational environment that is devoid of discrimination or harassment aimed at certain protected groups."

"As a community, we cannot and will not condone speech that harasses, threatens, or intimidates an individual or a group of individuals," the university said in a statement.

### Voice of Support

While some Chinese students at Syracuse have expressed being offended by Zubieta's descriptors of the pandemic, one Chinese student from nearby Buffalo University recently penned a letter

communists and save the world.

One thing is clear: The Chinese people are ready for a country without communism. Since The Epoch Times published the series "Nine Commentaries on the Chinese Communist Party" in 2004, more than 350 million Chinese people have been inspired to withdraw from the CCP and its affiliates. The Chinese people will forever be grateful if America ends the CCP soon.

The United States' policy on China should recognize that the communist state is a murderous totalitarian regime with the blood of tens of millions of Chinese people on its hands.

While the Trump administration has taken a strong stance against Chinese infiltration, it's not clear yet that ending the CCP should be the No. 1 goal. Just about all the problems we have internally or internationally are caused by the CCP. Not enough people realize that the CCP is really life-threatening—and more vicious and sly than the Soviet Union ever was.

Trump has an opportunity to become to China what President Ronald Reagan was to the Soviet Union. The regime's strategy is to create a state of crisis by replicating the purges and policies of Mao Zedong, using them to tighten its grip over the nation, and, with its chokehold on China secured and unbreakable, to rise out from the crisis.

The Trump administration and the leadership of many other

decrying Syracuse's move.

"As a native Chinese, I do not feel offended when I heard [sic] these words," Liu Tianyu, a graduate student at Buffalo's history department, wrote in a letter to the editor that was published on the school newspaper The Spectrum on Sept. 14. The student said that "many Chinese people use the words 'Wuhan Flu' and 'Chinese Communist Party Virus,'" noting that earlier in the pandemic, Chinese people commonly referred to the outbreak as the "Wuhan Flu" before the Chinese regime prohibited its usage.

"The two words...easily remind people of the shortcomings of the Communist Party system, and that is the reason that the Chinese Communist Party forbids people to use [it]," he wrote.

Liu, in an interview with The Epoch Times, said he was "very surprised" when he first saw the news about Zubieta's case.

"If this happened in mainland China, a professor being fired for saying CCP virus, that would simply be a common occurrence," he said.

"But I never expected that something like this could happen in the United States."

This initial surprise later morphed to anger, Liu said. He believed Syracuse's decision amounted to punishing an individual for a "speech crime," a move Liu described as a "big mistake." Liu wrote the letter to the editor because he was worried something similar might happen at Buffalo University, he said.

He believed that the professor's expression did not amount to racial discrimination, as it was not directed against any racial group or other groups of students.

"He raised a personal opinion, and perhaps he wants to use this to make people think more deeply about how this pandemic broke out and the virus' connection with the CCP system. Regardless, he has the right to express these views," Liu said.

The Epoch Times refers to the virus as the CCP Virus. As explained in a March editorial, the word choice was to hold the Chinese regime accountable for its coverup of the outbreak, which led to the global spread of the disease.

The trade war and other policies ultimately act as merely a speed bump on the regime's long road toward achieving its goal to overtake the United States. Any policy short of ending the CCP will result in only a short-term solution to a long-term problem, deferring the crisis now facing the world to future generations, at a time when the CCP may not be in as weakened a state as it is now.

The United States' policy on China should recognize that the communist state is a murderous totalitarian regime with the blood of tens of millions of Chinese people on its hands. It's a regime that commits every atrocity the free world has always claimed to oppose. And its publicly stated goal is to export this style of rule to every corner of the globe.

Mr. Trump, tear down this regime and secure the future of freedom not just for the United States, but for the Chinese people and the entire free world as well.

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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.*

## OPINION

## Now Is the Time for the US to Take a Stronger Position Against the CCP

Ending the CCP should be the No. 1 goal

DIANA ZHANG

May President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump speedily recover from the CCP virus. Their contracting it is a reminder to us all.

Their falling ill from this disease that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) allowed to spread around the world underscores how close the CCP threat has come to cutting out the heart of our nation.

The Trump administration has already taken an unprecedented level of action against the CCP, but this has been at the level of waking up to the threat and defending our country from further damage. There is still a lack of understanding that this is a life and death fight to save humanity.

During the 71 years of its rule, the CCP has always seen the United States as its No. 1 enemy. To the regime in Beijing, the very idea of freedom is an existential threat. Because of this, it has built its economy and policies with a goal of beating America, at any cost and with no limit on the methods used.

During the 1950s, the CCP pushed a movement called The Great Leap Forward. Its real aim was to try to catch up with the United States within 10 years, and its mad dash to do so resulted in a



A paramilitary police officer stands guard in Tiananmen Square in Beijing on March 11, 2018.

great famine that cost at least 30 million lives.

This disaster, however, never changed the CCP's determination to compete with and beat the United States. The CCP recruited U.S.-educated Chinese scientists to develop nuclear weapons. In recent decades, despite huge investment from the United States and the great transfer of wealth and technology, the CCP's goal has remained unchanged: to defeat the United States.

The CCP has long known that a strong America will ultimately result in the end of the Party. Communist ideology, at its heart, is against humanity, and the ex-

ample of America's principles and the idea of freedom would result in its demise.

This is why any engagement, any negotiation, or any other kind of agreement with the Chinese communist regime will fail. You can't put your trust in the devil, so to speak, nor should you acknowledge it as a normal entity.

America is strong because we are blessed. We are blessed because we are bestowed with great responsibility. We are at a historical moment where we either give in to the communists and let this cancer of communism take over the world, leading freedom and moral decency to perish, or we fight the

GREG BAKER/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## CHINESE REGIME

# People of All Classes Try to Flee China's Repressive Society, Seek Refuge in European Countries

NICOLE HAO

A leaked document revealed that some Chinese politicians, billionaires, and criminals obtained Cypriot passports by investing over \$2 million in the country.

In fact, Chinese people from different social classes are trying to flee China. Besides immigration through family or work visas, wealthy Chinese have invested their money abroad, while ordinary Chinese or those with less financial resources take the illegal route.

The U.S. Migration Policy Institute reported on Jan.15 that 2.5 million mainland Chinese immigrated to the United States legally in 2018.

Meanwhile, more and more mainland Chinese immigrated to Canada, Japan, Australia, South Korea, Singapore, European countries, and many developing countries, according to the United Nations Population Division.

"In fact, both rich and poor mainland Chinese are trying to immigrate overseas legally and illegally in recent years, based on the information I received from China," U.S. based commentator Tang Jingyuan told The Epoch Times in a recent interview. "Mainland Chinese share the same fears."

Tang explained that the Chinese regime's social credit system and tight restrictions on internet speech have made life in China increasingly stifling. "We can see that Chinese people don't even have basic human rights."

The Chinese regime installed a gigantic surveillance system that employs facial recognition and other technology to assign each person a social credit. With a low score, a person can be punished with restrictions on public transportation or where their children can go to school.

At the same time, the Chinese economy is in bad shape, which was acknowledged by Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang.

"We witnessed that the Chinese regime used the name of reform or developing a new region as an excuse to take away rich and middle-class people's houses, factories, and so on. People feel that their property might be taken away by the regime overnight," Tang added.

In the past few months, the Beijing municipal government moved homeowners away from the property they bought over ten years ago, and the Shanxi provincial government confiscated shops and stores from owners and claimed that the land belonged to the government.

"Feeling threatened by the government and the state of the economy, many Chinese people choose to leave [China]," Tang concluded.

## Golden Visa/Passport

Since 2010, more and more European countries have launched "Golden Visa" programs, which grant residence permits to non-European Union residents if they invest a certain amount of money in the country.

Chinese nationals are one of the biggest groups that participate in these visa programs.

For example, Portugal first launched its "Golden Residence

Permit" in October 2012 and is the most popular program in Europe, according to Portugal's Golden Visa website. Through the program, a family can gain a residency permit, including their dependent children, after investing 500,000 euros (\$591,900) or 350,000 euros (\$414,330) in real estate in Portugal. The golden visa can be renewed every two years based on certain residency requirements.

The applicant can apply for a permanent resident permit or passport after holding the residency permit for five years.

In September, Portuguese Foreigners and Borders Service (SEF—Servico de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras) released the latest statistics about its Golden Visa program, which showed that 9,015 people obtained Portuguese permanent residency permits via investments from Oct. 2012 to July 2020.

Among them, 4,652 or 51.6 percent are from China, followed by 956 from Brazil, 433 from Turkey, 370 from South Africa, and 340 from Russia.

Cyprus has an attractive immigration policy for non-EU residents. It offers citizenship, which has a different investment scheme from a residency permit.

To obtain a Cypriot passport, an applicant needs to invest two million euros (\$2.37 million) in real estate and make a donation of 100,000 euros (\$117,000) to the government's Research and Development fund, plus 100,000 euros to the Land Development Organization, according to the policy.

To get Cyprus permanent residency permits for the whole family (includes parents of both the main applicant and spouse plus dependent children up to the age of 25), the applicant needs to invest 300,000 euros (\$352,000) in real estate property.

Cyprus is an EU country. Its citizens can work and live in any of the EU countries and its perma-

nent residents can travel across the Schengen Area without a visa.

To make cross-border travel easier, 26 European countries have joined the Schengen Agreement that was first signed on June 14, 1985. Member countries abolished their national borders and allowed their citizens to travel freely without having to obtain visas.

## Cyprus Papers

The Qatar-headquartered news outlet Al Jazeera reported on Aug. 26 that it had obtained Cypriot passport application data from leaked documents called the "Cyprus Papers."

Al Jazeera reported that more than 500 Chinese nationals and 350 Arabs obtained Cypriot citizenship via its Golden Passport program, according to the documents. However, some of the applicants have criminal records.

Among the 500 Chinese, Li Jiadong was charged with laundering over \$100 million in cryptocurrency in the United States on March 2. The U.S. Treasury Department also imposed sanctions on him.

Li, 33, is a native of Liaoning Province. According to the Justice Department, North Korean hackers gained access to a virtual currency exchange in 2018 and stole nearly \$250 million worth of virtual currency through several transactions.

Li and another Chinese national, Tian Yinyin, laundered the cryptocurrency between December 2017 and April 2019. They also did business in the United States but failed to register with the Treasury Department, as required by law, U.S. prosecutors alleged.

Li obtained Cypriot citizenship in 2018 by investing in the local real estate market.

Chinese elite with criminal records were also approved for Cyprus passports.

60-year-old Zhang Keqiang is a

I will definitely go back if the Chinese regime can take care of the young and elderly.

Arnold Song, Chinese from Jilin Province who now lives in Paris illegally

Jiang Semniao, 18, a Golden Visa holder, poses holding up his awards and diplomas in central Athens on Oct. 31, 2019.

former member of China's rubber-stamp legislature and a billionaire from Guangzhou city of southern China's Guangdong Province. He and his wife obtained Cypriot passports in 2018.

Zhang was arrested in January 2011 in China, on suspicion of fraudulently acquiring a state-run mining company. He was sentenced to four years in prison. He lost his legislature delegate status in 2011.

The Chinese regime doesn't allow dual citizenship, and also requires that delegates, senior officials, and key leaders of state-run companies be a Chinese passport holder. However, according to the Cyprus Papers, several current Chinese delegates and state-run company presidents have Cypriot citizenship.

Al Jazeera listed some Chinese politicians, including Chengdu city's rubber-stamp legislature delegate Lu Wenbin, current member of the Huangpi district (located in Wuhan city) political consultative body Chen Anlin, current member of Binzhou city political consultative body Zhao Zhenpeng, and vice president of Zhejiang Province-based Zhesang Economic Development Center Fu Zhengjun.

Real estate company Country Garden Holdings' majority shareholder and co-chair Yang Huiyan and her husband, Chen Chong, were also on the list.

Yang was listed as the wealthiest Chinese by Forbes magazine in 2007. In 2020, Forbes listed Yang as the fifth wealthiest Chinese with a \$20.3 billion net worth. Chen is a current member of the Guangdong provincial political consultative body.

Granting an EU passport to individuals with criminal records or who are hiding from authorities is a violation of EU regulations.

A spokesperson for the European Commission responded to The Epoch Times by email on Aug. 31, saying that each EU state

YIANNIS KOURTOLOU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Tourists walk past a real estate promotion billboard—with text in Chinese that states buying an apartment can earn permanent resident status—on the seafont promenade in the Cypriot resort of Paphos on Jan. 24, 2013.

must follow the Union's laws, and "the commission has frequently raised its concerns about investor citizenship schemes and certain inherent risks, in particular in regards to security, money laundering, tax evasion, and corruption." The spokesperson said the commission had raised concerns directly with Cypriot authorities following the leaked documents, because "such schemes have implications for the Union as a whole." The Cypriot government had announced that it would review all previous applications.

## Ordinary Chinese

Ordinary Chinese are also trying to immigrate to western countries. In recent months, a new channel has become popular.

Ms. Sun and her 11-year-old son fled China and are now settled in a small southeastern European country. They are from Guangdong, one of the most developed regions in China.

"The Chinese economy is very bad. Even young people are unemployed," Sun told Radio Free Asia (RFA) by phone in August. "[The Chinese regime] is harvesting the wealth of the people [without a proper reason]."

Sun then gave an example: "One of my friends is a rich businessman in Foshan city. He has three factories. Two were frozen [taken away] by authorities. Even the wealth he transferred to Hong Kong was taken away."

"I don't plan to go back [to Chi-

na]. I'm planning my future here," Sun added. "My rich friends also plan to escape."

China has a free visa agreement with several small countries in the Balkans, such as Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Albania during the tourist season.

Knowing this policy, Sun left China on June 30 by plane. At the airport, she and her son were investigated by Chinese customs. They lied and said they would visit the Balkans as tourists.

"More than ten Chinese arrived in this city before us [in June]. As I know, a big number of Chinese will arrive soon," Sun told RFA. "Our final destination is Western European countries."

Sun didn't say how she planned to enter the European Union from this small non-EU country. She said living expenses here are relatively low, but she still wants to live in the EU.

"Rich Chinese are immigrating to member states of the Five Eyes [Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK, and the United States]. Middle-class Chinese are trying to live in Europe's Schengen Area. Less rich Chinese like me are escaping China as well," Sun concluded.

Like Sun, many middle- and lower-class Chinese left China but they don't have a legal status overseas.

## Smuggling

Arnold Song (alias) is a cook at a restaurant in Paris. He was smug-

gled into France from his hometown in Gongzhuling in northeastern China's Jilin Province in 2018. The smuggling fees cost him about 180,000 yuan (\$26,200). His reason for leaving China was to earn more money for his elderly parents and young daughter.

Song, a single father, told The Epoch Times by phone on Aug. 29 that the smuggling trip was full of hardships.

The trip started in Shenzhen city, Guangdong, which borders Hong Kong. The smuggler arranged for Song and more than ten Chinese to go to the Hong Kong airport by bus, after helping them obtain a Hong Kong travel permit for mainlanders.

At the Hong Kong airport, the smuggler gave each of them a Japanese passport. Song said the passport given to him had his photo with a Japanese name on it. Hours later, they took a flight to Kiev, Ukraine.

At the Kiev airport, a man picked up Song and the other travelers and collected their Japanese passports. Seven or eight hours later, they were driven to a house located in a forest.

"The driver was Chinese. He asked all of us to sit inside the back of a truck. We were only allowed to get off the truck once during the long trip. It was hard to breathe because there were over ten people inside and it was a bumpy ride," Song said.

The real ordeals came later. Song said the house was about

an hour's drive to the Polish border, and there were no other buildings around. When they arrived, there were eight or nine Chinese inside the house. They told Song that they had been waiting there for half a month.

The following days were very dull. "No fresh food, no hot water, no bed, no internet connection, nothing to read or watch. ... The driver sent some dried bread every three or four days. I had lived there for a month," Song said.

Finally, Song and another four men were picked up by a stranger, a Chinese, who accompanied them to cross the border by walking through the forest.

"We spent about one week inside the forest ... I don't want to mention the details. It's too hard," Song said. "In Poland, another driver picked us up and sent us to Slovakia. Then another driver sent us to Hungary."

Song said the smuggler had promised to send him to Holland, but left him in Budapest after he received all the payment. Then, Song hired a Chinese man to drive him to Paris.

Within the Schengen Area, border officers still check passengers' passports and visas if they take a bus or train. But officers don't check the ID of a driver in a private car.

Song said that if things were easier in China, he would not have escaped.

"I will definitely go back if the Chinese regime can take care of



ARIS MESSINIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



AMIR MAKARJ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



TRUTH *and* TRADITION

# COVERING IMPORTANT NEWS OTHER MEDIA IGNORE

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**THE CHINESE COMMUNIST THREAT**  
FOR THE PAST 18 YEARS

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