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OPINION

Attitudes Toward China Harden Worldwide

SREERAM CHAULIA

If China were a stock, the people of the world wouldn't be buying it.

A recent survey of 14 developed countries by the Pew Research Center shows unfavorable views of China have risen to historic highs. Seventy-three percent of those surveyed on four continents—Australia, Asia, Europe, and North America—hold negative perceptions of China.

Distaste for China has increased by double digits compared to last year in Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United States, South Korea, and Spain. In Japan, no less than 86 percent of respondents said they had a poor opinion of China.

On being asked if people had confidence in Chinese leader Xi Jinping “to do the right thing in world affairs,” only 19 percent among the polled countries responded in the affirmative.

In developing countries, too, the word “China” is evoking emotions of dislike and anxiety. While Pew's latest poll didn't test public opinion in the Global South, evidence suggests China also is earning itself a bad name there. In India, the most populous democratic developing nation, a survey conducted by the Indo-Asian News Service and CVoter in June 2020 found 68.3 percent of respondents thought China posed a bigger threat than traditional rival Pakistan.

Even before the coronavirus pandemic originated in China and spread to devastate the world, feelings that China was dangerous had doubled to nearly 40 percent in Asia's second-most-populous democracy, Indonesia, according to the Indonesian Survey Institute (LSI). Given the popular resentment toward China as the reckless incubator of the COVID-19 catastrophe, which has wrought unparalleled human suffering and economic collapse, future surveys are likely to show a further

worsening of China's image.

In 18 countries of Africa, where China has historically fared better in opinion polls due to its infrastructure aid projects, surveys conducted by Afrobarometer prior to the full extent of the COVID-19 destruction gave China a healthy average of 59 percent approval. As the calamity of the virus unfolds, here, too, one can expect China to be unfavorably re-evaluated. The catchphrase “China Lied, People Died” also resonates in Latin America, which is geographically far from China and historically saw China in a relatively benign light.

Besides the coronavirus tragedy, there are other reasons for the serious dip in China's reputation in the eyes of ordinary people in many parts of the world. In Asia, where several nations are confronting Chinese military aggression and expansionism, the sense that Beijing has crossed all red lines and is making a naked grab for territory and natural resources by pressuring weaker countries while they struggle with the public health emergency of the pandemic, has raised alarms.

China's bid to impose its will on adversaries when they are vulnerable reminds people of past imperial powers and evokes fear rather than respect.

In Western countries, China's atrocious human rights record has horrified people on the street. The impunity with which the police state has cracked down on Muslim Uyghurs in Xinjiang, Buddhists in Tibet, and youthful democracy activists in Hong Kong has created a picture of China as a relentless crusher of human life and liberty.

Communist China always ranked at the bottom of the world in ratings of civil and political freedoms. But the manner in which the regime in Beijing has unleashed surveillance and intimidation to emasculate dissent among his own citizens has been frightening.

Westerners wonder if allowing such a hardline state to become dominant in the world is equivalent to permitting the proverbial fox to guard the henhouse. The so-called “Beijing Consensus” model of authoritar-

China's bid to impose its will on adversaries when they are vulnerable reminds people of past imperial powers and evokes fear rather than respect.

ian capitalism, which the Chinese regime has sought to export to the rest of the world as superior to the “Washington Consensus,” just isn't appealing enough to ordinary people who fear personal risk and insecurity if China accumulates more power. Concerns about stealing of technology and unfair trading practices are additional grounds for the Western public to turn their backs on China.

Cynics could contend that China has such a thick-skinned and power-hungry regime that however badly its foreign image crashes, it won't moderate its overbearing and interfering behavior.

But if China hardly cares how popular it is abroad, why does it spend trillions of yuan on propaganda to burnish its reputation by funding Confucius Institutes, television programs, state-run print newspapers, and “medical diplomacy” around the world?

The budgets that China allocates for defending its international image and promoting a rosy picture of its actions are enormous. They imply that Beijing prioritizes shaping the global narrative about China. It wants to be seen as doing good so that greater resistance doesn't build up against its hegemonic push.

But no matter how much money is thrown at the problem, people in many countries appear to be seeing through China's designs and challenging them. The more hard power China pursues with obsessive ruthlessness, the worse its soft power gets.

Chinese elites had envisaged that the years from 2000 to 2020 would be a “period of strategic opportunity” for enhancing comprehensive national power under a favorable international climate. But from 2020 to 2030, they foresaw a “decade of concern” where resistance to China would rise. Xi has acknowledged this unwelcome turn with a new phrase—“period of turbulence.”

The hardening of international public attitudes as well as economic and geopolitical pushback from affected governments indicate that China's window for unfettered growth has indeed closed.

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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.



The U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Nimitz receives fuel from the Henry J. Kaiser-class fleet replenishment oiler USNS Tippecanoe during an underway replenishment in the South China Sea on July 7, 2020.

OPINION

The US-China Neo-Cold War Is Happening Now

CHIN JIN



The United States and China have virtually entered a new Cold War, sparked off by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). This year, the CCP has carried out three operations to demonstrate it is a nuclear threat.

The first was when the CCP sent nuclear submarines into the waters of Midway Island at the end of January to conduct military exercises which simulated attacks on Pearl Harbor and tested the integrity of the Third Island Chain. The chain is considered the final strategic boundary between the United States and China, and runs from the coast of Alaska to Hawaii and then New Zealand.

The second was when a CCP propaganda mouthpiece announced in March that a nuclear submarine with the capability to launch a strategic attack on the United States identified a safe launch position in the South China Sea, placing the United States within striking distance of Chinese nuclear threats.

The third incident was at the end of June, when the CCP claimed that its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, a rival to the GPS, was complete. It would provide eyes for the CCP's nuclear missiles and allow them to carry out precision strikes across the United States.

The combination of these three threats is equivalent to the Cuban Missile Crisis during the U.S.-Soviet Cold War. Thirty years later, the United States now faces a threat from another red nuclear power.

The United States—forced to defend itself—has entered a Cold War-style all-round confrontation with the CCP.

It began its public response in July and delivered four consecutive milestone speeches, expounding in detail its new foreign policy towards the CCP.

A page of the past four decades of U.S.-China relations has now been turned. From now on, the United States will perceive the CCP as an adversary, and take comprehensive countermeasures to maintain

Having dropped their guard against the CCP, the predominant neo-appeasement policy, which has lasted for over three decades, has helped boost the threat of the CCP to global heights.

national security, while weakening Beijing.

This confrontation has manifested in four areas, in order of importance: military, espionage, economics, and politics. The U.S.-Soviet Cold War was only a confrontation on the military front, and there was no economic globalization at that time.

Today's U.S.-China Cold War is taking place during a period of globalization, and the United States has experienced all-out infiltration by the CCP, providing an extremely difficult challenge for the United States to cope with.

In late September, there was a brief confrontation with Chinese nuclear submarines when the United States was conducting military exercises in the Bashi Channel just south of Taiwan.

On Oct. 2, before U.S. President Trump was admitted to hospital with COVID-19, two U.S. Boeing E-6B Mercury nuclear command aircraft (doomsday planes) were seen flying over U.S. airspace, sending a clear warning to adversaries not to act rashly.

The CCP's global strategy has deeply penetrated democratic nations. Regarding the behavior of the CCP, I warned the Australian government as early as 2003, but received no response.

Having dropped their guard against the CCP, the predominant neo-appeasement policy, which has lasted for over three decades, has helped boost the threat of the CCP to global heights.

If the policy continues to offer a free hand to the CCP to develop and prosper, then it is not hard to imagine how pathetic and dangerous the future will be.

Economic globalization has resulted in serious setbacks to the U.S. economy, and it has also given the CCP strong penetrating capabilities against the United States. Today, the operation of the CCP's “fifth column” within the United States and other Western democracies is strong and rampant, with public or private assistance from famous people like Henry Kissinger and Wall Street tycoons who have been very keen to side with the CCP. It is definitely the same kind of

people in Australia who have done the same work as Kissinger. But it is not the time to “name and shame” them here.

At present, the most noteworthy issue is when the United States can establish diplomatic relations with Taiwan. We look forward to this happening.

It is my fervent hope that Australia will help the United States in this particular regard, and actively seek to enhance relations with Taiwan so as to help Taiwan get out of diplomatic isolation.

As long as the United States and Taiwan can establish diplomatic relations, this will sink the CCP into a combined crisis of diplomatic, political, and weakening popular support. If Chinese leader Xi Jinping brazenly launches a war across the Taiwan Strait in order to make a political breakthrough, the United States, Taiwan, Japan, Australia, and India can fight the CCP together, and the CCP will be immediately defeated and collapse.

The result would force China to undergo drastic political change, and democratization will be kick-started.

The U.S.-CCP neo-Cold War is happening in the present—not somewhere in the future.

The United States is being forced to go to battle with the CCP but it must find correct opportunities and good reasons. It seems that the United States is now eager to restore its former diplomatic relations with Taiwan (Republic of China), but Taiwan is also now apparently nervous.

The United States does not want to fire first; she wants the CCP to fire the first shot. Then, the United States has the legitimacy to go to war as a defender. Therefore, the establishment of diplomatic relations between Taiwan and the United States is the best way to force China to fire the first shot.

But Taiwan is timid. Although it is now the best moment for Taiwan to restore relations with the United States and possibly return to the United Nations, the Tsai Ing-wen government is very cautious about whether it can withstand an initial attack by an increasingly desperate mainland regime, which may cost,

according to estimates, hundreds of thousands of casualties.

The advisory team of China experts to the U.S. government has always advocated for the restoration of diplomatic relations between Taiwan and the United States, to force Beijing to fire the first shot. This then will need the military intervention of the United States, Japan, and Australia to resolve the CCP regime's ambitious aggression, once and for all.

If Xi's Communist Party makes an error of judgment and refuses to budge, the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations between Taiwan and the United States will greatly increase.

I was tipped off that Professor Miles Yu, Chief Advisor for China Policy Planning to the U.S. Secretary of State, made a low key visit to Taiwan regarding this matter.

Therefore, the 2020 U.S. presidential election is related not only to the United States but more to the destiny of the world.

If Trump wins, yesterday's demise of the Soviet Union will be the CCP's tomorrow. If Biden wins, I believe the neo-Cold War between China and the United States will very likely lose momentum, and the CCP will be relieved and continue to push forward to eventually defeat the United States and rule the world.

I hope that Australia will continue to stand firm with the United States to join the coalition of justice of democracies at this critical moment in international politics, until the CCP regime is completely defeated and the more advanced (albeit flawed) systems of democracy prevail.

Australia-based Dr. Chin Jin is the global chair of the Federation for a Democratic China. The group advocates for the democratization of China through opposition to the Communist Party and support for human rights. It was founded following the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests.

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Chinese security stand guard in a shopping area in Beijing on Oct. 8, 2020.

KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES

CHINESE INFLUENCE

Exclusive: Hunter Biden, CCP-Tied Billionaire Had Close Relationship, Texts Reveal

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV & SEAMUS BRUNER

Hunter Biden and an energy tycoon with extensive ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) had a cozy relationship, according to text messages disclosed to U.S. Senate investigators by Tony Bobulinski, one of Biden's former business partners.

In text messages sent to Bobulinski on Oct. 14, 2017, Biden wrote that he and Ye Jianming, the founder of multibillion-dollar Chinese energy conglomerate CEFC China Energy, had a "solid" relationship. Biden said he was the first guest at Ye's new apartment and that the billionaire cooked lunch for him.

"I've been talking to the Chairman on a regular basis. I was his first guest in his new apartment/he cooked me lunch himself and we ate in the kitchen together," Biden wrote, according to text message screenshots obtained by The Epoch Times.

Biden added that Ye "has me helping him on a number of his personal issues," including for "staff visas and some more sensitive things."

The close relationship between the pair began as early as 2015, according to a report by the Republicans on the Senate Homeland Security Committee. The text messages raise significant questions considering the extensive ties between the communist regime and both Ye and his company.

While on paper a private enterprise, CEFC had a rare contract to store part of China's strategic oil reserves, received financing from a regime-owned bank, and hired a number of former top officials from state-owned energy companies, according to Reuters. The company also had more layers of Communist Party committees than many private Chinese companies have.

The text message from Biden, the son of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, was in response to a question from Bobulinski, who had at that point spent months trying to figure out why Ye hadn't yet wired \$10 million to SinoHawk LLC, the U.S. joint venture incorporated by Ye, Hunter Biden, James Biden, Bobulinski, and two more partners, James Gilliar and Rob Walker.

SinoHawk LLC was created through a web of corporate entities, according to corporate records obtained by The Epoch Times. Hudson West IV, a limited liability corporation controlled by Ye, owned half of SinoHawk. Hunter Biden and his partners owned the other half through Oneida Holdings LLC, which they in turn owned through five more corporate entities, one for each partner, the corporate documents show.

According to Bobulinski, the "Sino" in SinoHawk stood for China, while "Hawk" was picked because it was the favorite animal of Beau Biden, Joe Biden's deceased son.

The emails, text messages, and documents reviewed for this article were produced by Bobulinski to the media and later to the Senate Homeland Security Committee. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), the committee chairman, told The Epoch Times last week that the committee's ongoing review has found nothing to put the authenticity of the documents in doubt.

"What I can say about all of those sources, we're continuing to do our due diligence to verify and authenticate the genuineness of those emails," Johnson said. "And to date, we have found nothing that disputes them. All we've found is verification, validation of their authenticity."

At least one of the emails in



Then-Vice President Joe Biden waves as he walks off Air Force Two with his granddaughter Finnegan Biden and son Hunter Biden in Beijing, on Dec. 4, 2013.



Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) chairs a Homeland Security Senate hearing at the Capitol on March 4, 2020.

the batch provided by Bobulinski matches word-for-word the emails purportedly obtained from a laptop belonging to Hunter Biden and published by The New York Post. Bobulinski reportedly turned over three of his smartphones to the FBI on Oct. 23.

Ye's underlings in China and the United States kept telling Bobulinski that the wire was coming while putting up baffling roadblocks, such as asking Bobulinski what the goals of the joint venture were, despite signing off on corporate paperwork that listed the mission of the enterprise. Throughout the process, Bobulinski couldn't get in direct contact with Ye and had to deal instead with his lieutenants.

"So u 1000% [didn't] reach out to Chairman Ye or Director Zang and create parallel noise?" Bobulinski wrote to Hunter Biden on Oct. 14, 2017. "I didn't [think] so but just trying to manage chaos."

Biden responded by talking of his close relationship and regular talks with Ye, including that Ye engaged Biden as his attorney in the United States. Biden also curiously distanced himself from the acquisition deals in Oman and Luxembourg for which SinoHawk was ostensibly created.

"Anyway, he and I are solid so when and if you or James feel like I'm capable of telling him about your Oman and Luxembourg or The Russian guys deal just let me know. We have a standing once a week call as I am also his personal counsel (we signed an attorney client engagement letter) in the US," Biden wrote.

"I assumed you lost interest as we haven't spoken for so long. Are any deals that you said were closing—," Biden wrote.

Bobulinski's responses suggest he was baffled by the response, considering the amount of effort he and other partners expended to get in touch with Ye to secure the promised \$10 million in funding for SinoHawk.

"About 'my deals' they apparently are our deals not my deals," Bobulinski wrote. "Not much for games, they were supposed to fund 10 MM USD, which they never did, and am assuming u know that."

Ye never wired the money to SinoHawk, but Bobulinski would later learn from the Homeland Security Committee report that Hunter and James Biden received money from Ye via another channel.

According to confidential doc-

uments obtained by the Senate Homeland Security Committee, on Aug. 4, 2017, more than two months before the Biden-Bobulinski text exchange, CEFC Infrastructure Investment (US) LLC, a subsidiary of Ye's company, sent Hunter Biden's law firm, Owasco, a payment for \$100,000.

Four days later, CEFC Infrastructure Investment wired \$5 million to the bank account for Hudson West III, another entity controlled by Ye. On the same day the money arrived, Hudson West III started sending frequent payments to Hunter Biden's firm.

"These payments, which were described as consulting fees, reached \$4,790,375.25 in just over a year," the Senate report stated. A month later, on Sept. 8, 2017, Hunter Biden and Gongwen Dong, Ye's U.S. operative, applied for a credit line. Hunter Biden, James Biden, and James Biden's wife, Sara Biden, were authorized users for the credit cards linked to the accounts. They subsequently used the credit cards to buy more than \$100,000 in luxury items, including airline tickets and multiple items at Apple Inc. stores.

When Bobulinski learned two years later about the money that flowed to the Bidens, he reached

out to James Biden. "Hope you and family are well, safe and healthy. You can imagine my shock when reading the report yesterday put out by the Senate committee. The fact that you and HB were lying to Rob, James and I while accepting \$5 MM from Cefc is infuriating," Bobulinski wrote, using Hunter Biden's initials.

"And so disappointing based on the years of work that James, Rob and team invested to get things done."

Further hints about Ye and Biden's intentions for SinoHawk are revealed in an email from one of Ye's lieutenants to Bobulinski. On July 26, 2017, Zhao Runlong wrote about the \$5 million of working capital intended for SinoHawk as money "lent to BD family."

"This \$5 million loan to BD family is interest-free. But if the 5 M is used up, should CEFC keep lending more to the family?" Zhao wrote, using "BD" as shorthand for "Biden."

A review of nearly 1,800 pages of emails and more than 600 messages Bobulinski handed over to Congress suggests that Bobulinski's insistence on running SinoHawk by the book may have resulted in Hunter Biden abandoning his partners and accepting money from Ye via another route.

Bobulinski summed up the events prior to the last presidential debate on Oct. 22, telling reporters that Hunter Biden wanted to use SinoHawk as a personal "piggy bank" before Bobulinski intervened. President Donald Trump invited Bobulinski as a guest to the debate because the emails and texts Bobulinski handed to Senate investigators can be viewed as damaging to Joe Biden.

Joe Biden's name doesn't come up in any of the corporate documents used to set up SinoHawk. At the time the company was formed, he was no longer in the White House.

The texts and emails show that Gilliar brought Bobulinski into the deal to work full-time as the CEO of SinoHawk. Hunter Biden began to voice concerns about the direction of the company in mid-

May 2017, less than two weeks before the paperwork incorporating SinoHawk was signed.

On May 13, 2017, Gilliar sent an email to Biden, Bobulinski, and Walker about proposed "remuneration packages" and an equity breakdown between the five partners. Under the proposal, Hunter Biden would receive an \$850,000 salary and a 20 percent stake in Oneida Holdings, which, in turn, owned half of the joint venture with Ye's company. The equity breakdown also included a 10 percent stake, which was to be held by Hunter Biden "for the big guy," Bobulinski told reporters on Oct. 22 that the "big guy" was Joe Biden.

Hunter Biden reacted to the proposal by pointing out that he would need more than \$850,000 because after alimony and taxes, he would be left with only \$100,000 for himself.

"I have been the only one asked to give up all other active commercial interests—no consulting fees no promoting another business no continuing to work on existing projects etc...so I have to admit I do expect that if I can't keep my toe in other things I will need a hell of a lot more than 850 p/y on a monthly basis," Biden wrote.

On the same day, Bobulinski wrote a text message to Gilliar: "We need to manage Hunter as every discussion makes me feel like he thinks things are going to be his personal piggybank."

On May 16, 2017, Bobulinski responded to Hunter and partners by pointing out that the company would need an operating budget in order to make a profit.

"We should all discuss so you are covered but you also have to be conscious of the moving parts and operating budgets and we have to pay a team of people who will be working 100 hours a week so we generate enough profits so we are distributing \$10s of MM out to the owners," Bobulinski wrote.

"I will be circulating the Terms for Oneida later today. In that I have included an [additional] payment to you and I as sitting on the board of SinoHawk. We can all discuss."

In the following days, the money

We need to manage Hunter as every discussion makes me feel like he thinks things are going to be his personal piggybank.

Text message from Tony Bobulinski to James Gilliar

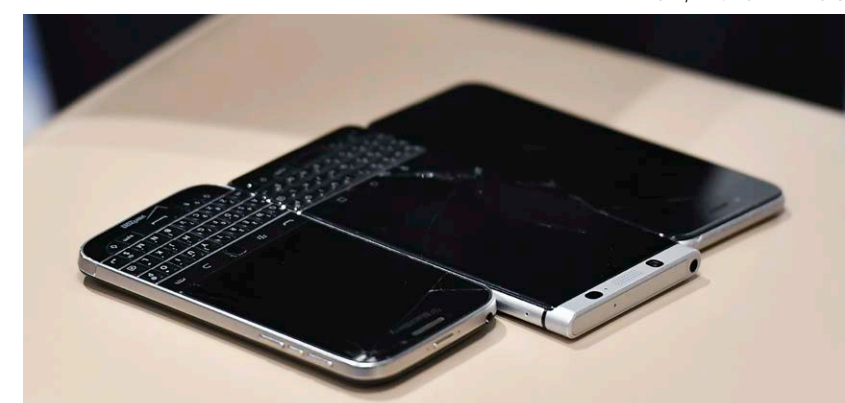
1. Text messages between Hunter Biden and his partners at SinoHawk.

2. Text messages dated May 13, 2017, between Tony Bobulinski and James Gilliar.

3. Text message from Tony Bobulinski to James Biden.



Tony Bobulinski, who claims to have been an associate of Hunter Biden, departs after speaking to reporters at a hotel in Nashville, Tenn., on Oct. 22, 2020, ahead of the final presidential debate on Oct. 22, 2020.



Three mobile phones belonging to Tony Bobulinski, who claims to have been an associate of Hunter Biden, are seen as he speaks to reporters at a hotel in Nashville, Tenn., on Oct. 22, 2020.

fight. The argument exposed that Bobulinski didn't want to end up being a figurehead CEO to cover for the Biden family's involvement without any control over the company.

"And to add to it, if you are so worried about your family, you wouldn't be doing this because as u said, all of your dad's lawyers and any lawyer would advise you and Jim not to touch this with a 100 foot pole," Bobulinski wrote. "So if you are willing to take a risk so be it, I am willing to stand by your side and take risk as well but there has to be balance in governance and the board."

While Joe Biden's name doesn't appear in any of the corporate records disclosed by Bobulinski, the Biden family name was nonetheless one of the key offerings to Ye from Hunter Biden and his partners.

An April 25, 2017, business proposal prepared by the partners

The text messages raise significant questions considering the extensive ties between the communist regime and both Ye and his company.

for CEFC, features a photo of Joe Biden with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos. The proposal touts Joe Biden's relationship with Santos as a "strong one throughout the Obama administration." A section dedicated to potential CEFC investments in Oman noted that Hunter Biden's "family & friends" could be used to endorse Ye and CEFC and solicit a special exemption from the leader of Oman to establish a "CEFC vehicle" that is uniquely [sanctioned] by His Highness to omit the required local partner element.

In a June 1, 2017, letter to Ye, Hunter Biden, after sending wishes from "my family and I," wrote "I hope you are very happy with the progresses [sic] that has been made in Oman, this in my opinion cements our common belief, that by combining our connects and skills, we will create new opportunities in third geographies and economies, as well as the benefits for our two great countries."

SinoHawk never got off the ground, but Hunter Biden and Gilliar appear to have been providing the same services for Ye in a less formal fashion since as early as February 2016.

In an email to CEFC sent on March 13, 2017, Gilliar referenced "several strategy documents that [were] prepared earlier in our relationship," including a proposal for the CEFC acquisition of Westinghouse Electric Corporation in the United States. The Westinghouse proposal attached to that email was dated Feb. 22, 2016.

CEFC China Energy was China's largest privately held oil company before it was caught in Beijing's crosshairs in 2018. The oil conglomerate made billions of dollars in Russia, Europe, and parts of Africa, while Ye fostered ties with high-level Chinese Communist Party (CCP) officials.

Ye has been missing since early 2018 after he was placed under investigation by the Chinese regime for "suspected economic crimes" and detained. A state-owned enterprise took control of CEFC in March 2019, and, according to Chinese media Caixin, the firm declared bankruptcy early this year.

Hunter Biden, James Biden, Gilliar, Walker, Bobulinski, and the Joe Biden campaign didn't immediately respond to requests by The Epoch Times for comment.

Seamus Bruner is an author and contributor to The Epoch Times.

Epoch Times staff member Jan Jekielek contributed to this report.



A woman holds a photo of a man killed by the Chinese regime's persecution of Falun Gong, during a parade in Washington on July 17, 2014.

OPINION

The New York Times' Troubling Descent Into Falsehoods and Biased Attacks

LEVI BROWDE

On the front page of the Oct. 25 New York Times was an article titled "How an Obscure Newspaper ..." The paper sought to attack The Epoch Times, in part by attacking the religious beliefs of some of its founders, who are Chinese Americans who practice Falun Gong.

As the executive director of the Falun Dafa Information Center, I would like to respond to this attack against Falun Gong.

The article raises serious concerns about the NY Times' reporting on Falun Gong. Specifically, this article propagates false narratives and inaccuracies about the Buddhist-based spiritual practice, as well as a striking trivialization of the nature and scale of human rights abuses faced by people who practice Falun Gong in China.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, involves practicing meditative exercises and living according to teachings based on the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. In 1999, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) launched a brutal persecution of this peaceful practice, fearing that 70 million to 100 million Chinese people had adopted a belief whose teachings provided an alternative to the Party's dogmatic materialism and atheism.

At a time when millions of innocent Falun Gong believers in China—who have no connection with the U.S. media and political landscape—continue to face abduction, torture, and extrajudicial killing at the hands of the CCP, these problems constitute a gross negligence, or perhaps even mal-intent, on the part of the NY Times.

Indeed, the mistakes made in this article signal a bizarre and troubling downturn of what was once a pillar of American journalism.

Sadly, the problematic reporting in this article isn't an anomaly. Rather, it comes in the context of a 20-year-long, near complete silence by the NY Times on terrible human rights abuses in China against ordinary Chinese who practice Falun Gong, despite reporting on other persecuted religious groups in China and elsewhere.

Suspicious Silence Amid Terrible Atrocities

The NY Times article reduces the sum-total of human rights abuses faced by Falun Gong in China to mere accusations made by Falun Gong and Falun Gong alone: "The group ... accuses [the CCP] of torturing Falun Gong practitioners and harvesting the organs of those executed." A parenthetical reference notes that tens of thousands of practitioners were sent to labor camps "in the early years" implying that few Falun Gong practitioners in China face life and death persecution today.

This depiction couldn't be further from the truth.

Freedom House estimates 7 million to

20 million people in China continue to practice Falun Gong today. Not only has the Falun Dafa Information Center documented and reported on thousands of illegal abductions, long sentences, torture, and deaths in custody during 2020 alone, but Chinese government websites indicate a new campaign to "zero out" Falun Gong in towns and villages across the country.

And just as importantly, it isn't Falun Gong sources alone that have documented the extreme violence meted out to peaceful believers in China. For 20 years, millions of people have been harassed, detained, imprisoned, tortured, or killed by Chinese authorities, a fact that has been regularly documented in annual reports by the United Nations, Amnesty International, Freedom House, and the U.S. State Department, among others.

Here are a few brief examples: In 2016, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 343, "expressing concern regarding persistent and credible reports of systematic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting" from Falun Gong practitioners in "large numbers." The text of the resolution noted that "in many detention facilities and labor camps, Falun Gong prisoners of conscience comprise the majority of the population, and have been said to receive the longest sentences and the worst treatment."

A 2017 Freedom House report that included a comprehensive chapter on Falun Gong found that despite the CCP's 17-year campaign to eradicate the group, millions continued to practice. It noted that "Falun Gong practitioners across China are subject to widespread surveillance, arbitrary detention, imprisonment, and torture, and they are at a high risk of extrajudicial execution."

Amnesty International's 2017-2018 report stated, "Falun Gong practitioners continued to be subjected to persecution, arbitrary detention, unfair trials and torture and other ill-treatment."

On the topic of organ harvesting, the reality of Falun Gong practitioners being killed for their organs in China is now widely accepted among human rights organizations, policy makers, and academic circles.

In 2019, Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, a former prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, who led the prosecution of Slobodan Milosevic, convened the China Tribunal, an independent tribunal of medical, legal, and China experts in London. After assessing all the evidence, the panel concluded that Falun Gong practitioners were and continue to be killed for their organs "on a significant scale." This story was covered by the BBC, Forbes, The Guardian, Newsweek, The Telegraph, The Wall Street Journal, and NBC.

The New York Times failed to report on this story.

In the face of such extensive documentation by human rights organizations, demo-

cratic governments in the West, the United Nations, and many of other media outlets, why would the NY Times characterize the entirety of the evidence as "the group ... accuses"? Furthermore, this story comes on the heels of 20 years of near complete silence on the plight of Falun Gong.

Blatant Falsehoods

This NY Times article also carries blatant falsehoods about the Falun Gong teachings and beliefs.

For example, the article propagates the idea that Falun Gong "forbids interracial marriage." Yet, even the most casual examination of Falun Gong communities anywhere around the world, including here in New York, demonstrates that interracial marriage, and mixed-race children, abound.

I myself, a Falun Gong practitioner, am married to a woman of a different race, and we have two lovely mixed-race boys. Clearly, this idea that Falun Gong "forbids interracial marriage" has no basis in reality.

Then, where does this lie come from? In recent years, Chinese Embassy websites throughout the West have started to use this phrase to demonize Falun Gong in their English-language propaganda because they know it will be triggering in the West. By including this falsehood in the article, the NY Times demonstrates that it either failed to conduct even a basic level of fact-checking, or worse, knowingly included it to strengthen the narrative of the story.

Implying Thuggery or Worse

There were more subtle, yet no less misleading, statements made in this NY Times article as well.

When characterizing some of his sources, the author indicates that they spoke anonymously because they "feared retaliation ... [from] Falun Gong." The article presents no evidence or credence for this "fear," but its connotation of violence is the polar opposite of the peaceful nature of the practice, and the manner in which Falun Gong believers conduct themselves.

Furthermore, there is an abundance of notable figures who have actually come to know the Falun Gong community well and can testify that such a sentiment is groundless.

David Kilgour, former Canadian secretary of state (Asia-Pacific), describes Falun Gong practitioners as "wonderfully sweet, kind people without a vicious bone in their body."

Professor Arthur Waldron, Lauder professor of international relations in the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania, has said Falun Gong "are outstanding people by any standard: intelligent, well-educated, hard-working, moral in their behavior, courageous."

In fact, for more than 20 years, millions of people across China have faced terrible violence and oppression, and there's not a single known case of a Falun Gong practitioner raising their hand in retaliation

against their oppressor.

By contrast, in a recent case reported by the Falun Dafa Information Center, a Falun Gong practitioner came to the aid of his sister who was the victim of domestic violence. Instead of arresting the abuser, the Chinese police detained the protector and sentenced him to seven years in prison because of his faith.

But again, none of this context is included, and readers are left to consider Falun Gong as a group prone to "retaliation"—a notion that is highly misleading, at best.

20 Years of Near Silence, Obfuscation

All this begs the question: Why has the NY Times, by and large, ignored the horrific human rights abuses meted out against people who practice Falun Gong in China for the past 20 years? And when it does cover Falun Gong, why is the reporting riddled with falsehoods and glaring omissions?

Perhaps it has something to do with the meeting between NY Times publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr. and then-CCP leader Jiang Zemin (who single-handedly started the persecution of Falun Gong) back in 2001? After this meeting, there was no meaningful reportage about the Falun Gong persecution for the next 20 years (with one notable exception: the work of Andrew Jacobs).

What is clear from one of NY Times' own is that this approach toward Falun Gong may be very intentional, even mandated. While giving testimony to the China Tribunal, former NY Times Beijing correspondent Didi Kirsten Tatlow suggested that not only was forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience such as Falun Gong taking place in China, and that it was an open secret among transplant surgeons, but that the NY Times had actively discouraged her from reporting on this fact.

The NY Times has been a consistent presence on the kitchen table in my household for three generations. In recent years, however, we have become increasingly alarmed as the perspectives injected into its news, as well as those omitted from it, veer dangerously off course from news that's "fit to print" and tacks strangely close to a narrative that would certainly please Beijing.

We implore the NY Times to remove whatever policies, influences, or biases are currently in place that are preventing fair and accurate reporting on Falun Gong, and get the story, the whole story, right. As millions across China who practice Falun Gong remain vulnerable to wrongful imprisonment, torture, and killing, doing so could literally save lives.

Levi Browde is executive director of the Falun Dafa Information Center. This article is adapted from one first published on the Falun Dafa Information Center website.

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

ORGAN HARVESTING

Medical Field Ignoring China's Organ Harvesting: Experts

CATHY HE

Among abdominal transplant surgeon Dr. Alexander Toledo's first patients at UNC Medical Center was a 41-year-old mother of three diagnosed with liver cancer.

The woman's only hope for survival was a liver transplant. But that wasn't an option because she failed to meet transplant criteria—a conclusion validated at several other medical centers. Meanwhile, non-curative treatments might prolong her life by six to nine months.

But two months later, the woman returned to the clinic with a new liver; she had flown from North Carolina to China to get a transplant.

"She had received a liver transplant essentially on demand, which, of course ... raised questions as to the source of the organs," Toledo recalled of the 2008 case during an online panel hosted by the UNC (University of North Carolina) Center for Bioethics on Oct. 26.

In normal medical procedures, the primary source for a liver transplant is a deceased donor, or in some cases a living donor. In the case of the woman's surgery in China, there was "no meaningful donor information provided to the family beyond that the donor was young and healthy," he said.

The mysterious information prompted Toledo to start digging. He found disturbing evidence that the Chinese regime was harvesting organs from prisoners of conscience for sale in the transplant market.

At the time, China didn't have an official organ donation program, and had said that organs for transplant came from executed prisoners. But investigations revealed instead that prisoners of conscience—adherents of the persecuted spiritual practice Falun Gong—were being executed for their organs.

Falun Gong, a meditation practice with moral teachings centered on the tenets of "truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance," became popular in the 1990s, with 70 million to 100 million practicing by the end of the decade, according to government estimates at the time. Deeming this a threat, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in 1999 launched an expansive persecution campaign. The Falun Dafa Information Center estimates that over the past two decades, millions of practitioners have been forced into labor camps, prisons, detention centers, and brainwashing centers,



David Matas, a Canadian international human rights lawyer and co-author of "Bloody Harvest: Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China," speaks during a press conference in Hong Kong on July 17, 2006.

where they are often tortured.

In 2019, an independent people's tribunal, after a yearlong investigation, concluded beyond reasonable doubt that the regime has for years been killing prisoners of conscience—predominantly Falun Gong practitioners—for their organs. This has been happening "on a significant scale," and continues today, the tribunal said.

In 2015, the Chinese regime established an organ donation program and has claimed that it stopped using organs from executed prisoners.

Despite findings that have emerged for years about forced organ harvesting in China, the medical and international community "continue to struggle with their response to this," Toledo said.

David Matas, a Canadian international human rights lawyer who has spent more than a decade researching the issue, said during the panel that the international transplant community has failed to take concrete action on the issue.

As a result, he said, the medical community is faced with "two realities": first, the mass killing in China of prisoners of conscience for their organs, and the "second being the fact that all too many in the global transplant profession are determined to turn a blind eye to this first reality."

Matas added that only a "tiny minority of the transplantation professionals globally are willing to do anything about transplant abuse in China."

He said that some in the global transplant community have been buying "Chinese propaganda hook, line, and sinker" by uncritically repeating Party talking points seeking to discredit the evidence on mass organ harvesting.

"They echoed the Party line that

the research is unverifiable, though it is both verifiable and verified beyond any reasonable doubt," he said.

For instance, a 2017 conference on international organ trafficking and transplant tourism hosted by the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences sparked controversy when it invited Dr. Huang Jiefu, then-head of the Chinese regime's transplantation body, to attend. In response to protests against the invitation to Huang, who had consistently denied China's forced organ harvesting, the academy's chancellor said at the time that the conference was an "academic exercise and not a reprise of contentious political assertions."

Meanwhile, researchers into transplant abuse in China weren't invited to the conference.

In 2016, then-president of The Transplantation Society (TTS), Dr. Francis L. Delmonico, told a U.S. congressional hearing on organ transplant abuse in China that "I'm not here to verify. That's not my job. ... I'm only here to say that the international community has recognized this terrible practice in China and it wishes to change it."

Delmonico went on to express optimism that reforms would take place within China's transplant system under the stewardship of Huang and his protégé, Wang Haibo.

Matas said the leadership at TTS and national transplantation agencies need to change their position on this issue and speak out against transplant abuse by the Chinese regime. At the same time, he said, they should introduce ethical standards to ensure overseas medical professionals aren't complicit in the abuses.

He suggested 12 standards, including that doctors not refer transplant patients to other countries for surgery unless they can ascertain beyond a reasonable doubt that the organ donor consented freely, and that studies involving recipients of organs from prisoners of conscience not be accepted for presentation or publication.

A 2019 study found that more than 400 research papers on organ transplants in China published in English-language peer-reviewed journals between 2000 and 2017 may have involved organs harvested from unconsenting prisoners of conscience. These studies failed to report whether donors had given their consent, in breach of ethical standards.

The TTS didn't immediately respond to a request by The Epoch Times for comment.

All too many in the global transplant profession are determined to turn a blind eye to this ... reality.

David Matas, Canadian international human rights lawyer



Falun Gong practitioners stage a reenactment of China's organ harvesting from imprisoned practitioners, in Vienna, Austria, on Oct. 1, 2018.



TRUTH *and* TRADITION

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LEADING REPORTING ON
THE CHINESE COMMUNIST THREAT
FOR THE PAST 18 YEARS

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