

WEEK 50, 2020

THE EPOCH TIMES

# CHINA INSIDER

The Charging Bull  
statue in Lower  
Manhattan on Jan.  
21, 2014.

## WALL STREET COMPROMISED

BY BEIJING, CHINESE PROFESSOR REVEALS

See Page 4





Freedom Road Socialist Organization supporters during an anti-Trump march in Washington on Jan. 20, 2017.

OPINION

# How Pro-Beijing Communists Almost Stole the Election for Biden—the Old-Fashioned Way

TREVOR LOUDON



The American public is becoming increasingly aware of evidence of massive computer fraud, out-of-state and dead voters, and truckloads of fake ballots tilting the recent election toward Joe Biden. There are even whispers of Venezuelan, Iranian, and Chinese involvement. No one, however, is yet talking about that a network run by pro-Chinese Communist Party (CCP) activists solicited hundreds of thousands of votes for Biden in several key battleground states. Under our very noses, these CCP-backed American communists claim to have defeated their nemesis Donald Trump and won the election for the Biden-Harris ticket.

We know that the CCP wanted Trump defeated. His hard line on trade, his support for the Hong Kong democracy protesters, his upping of the U.S. military budget, and his loyalty to a free Taiwan made the president a major roadblock to the CCP's global ambitions.

It shouldn't be surprising then that the CCP might be tempted to mobilize its extensive U.S. networks to help defeat Trump at the polls.

This network was led mainly by members of the pro-CCP communist group Liberation Road (formerly known as Freedom Road Socialist Organization), its sister group LeftRoots, and allies in the Communist Party USA and Democratic Socialists of America.

Many of the Liberation Road/LeftRoots members involved are tied to the Chinese Progressive Association of San Francisco (CPA), which has used mass voter registration tactics to dominate Bay Area politics for many years.

Many of the comrades are also heavily involved in the Marxist group Black Lives Matter; some also have deep ties to CCP operatives in San Francisco.

The network targeted seven key states and mobilized at least 12,000 volunteers. Their voter registration and Get

Out the Vote operations probably made the critical difference in several key states—or at least gave Biden enough votes to more easily disguise alleged massive Democratic Party fraud.

Several network members have openly claimed credit for winning their respective state for Biden.

**Seed the Vote**  
Formed in 2019, Seed the Vote is a project of Everyday People PAC and is supported by Liberation Road front groups, including Bay Resistance, Bay Rising Action, San Francisco Rising Action Fund, and "other organizations and individuals throughout the Bay Area committed to building political power in our communities."

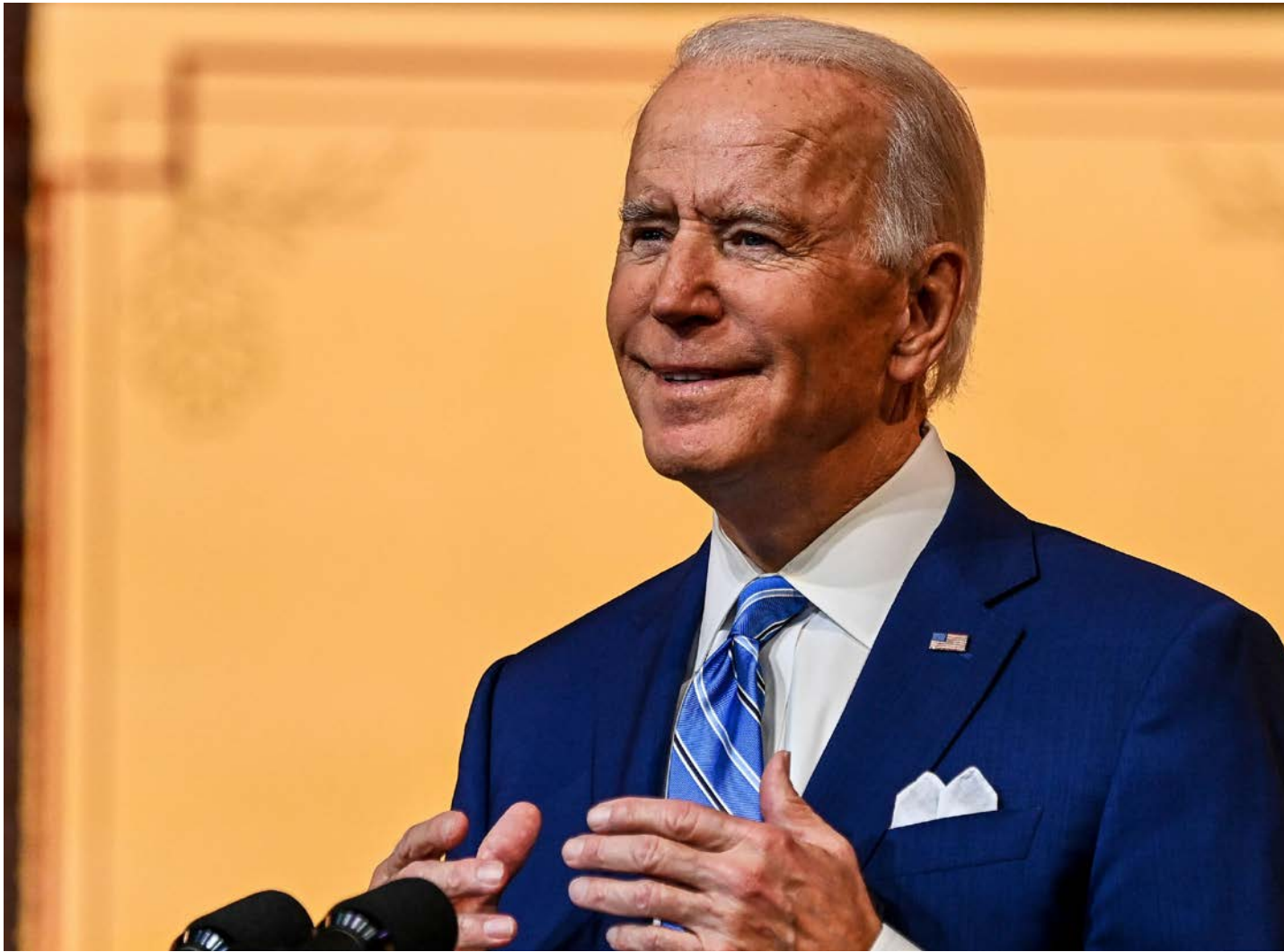
Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden delivers a Thanksgiving address at the Queen Theatre in Wilmington, Del., on Nov. 25, 2020.

Known Seed the Vote leaders include:

- Liberation Road comrades Sarah Jarmon and Michelle Foy, who was until recently the finance and administration director of the CPA.
- LeftRoots comrades Adam Gold and Alex Tom, who is immediate past executive director of the CPA and a longtime friend of another LeftRoots member, Black Lives Matter founder Alicia Garza.
- Former CPA board members Stacy Kono and Kimi Lee and current CPA executive director Shaw San Liu.
- Former Line of March communist Max Elbaum, a lifelong supporter of the Beijing regime.

The CPA has served Beijing's interests

CHANDAN KHANNA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



in the Bay Area since 1972.

In a May 22 webinar from the far-left Center for Political Education, Alex Tom of CPA and Seed the Vote boasted of his close relationship with CCP officials in San Francisco. He admitted to having "various conversations with them about our positioning," and said working to "get rid of Trump" was a main issue.

Seed the Vote is clearly a CCP-affiliated operation.

**Seed the Vote Impact**

While a relatively new entity, Seed the Vote has built ties to several existing voter registration movements across the nation—all in "swing states."

The Seed the Vote network includes LUCHA (Living United for Change in Arizona), New Florida Majority, New Georgia Project, and Pennsylvania Stands Up.

Seed the Vote's immediate goal is to defeat Trump. The longer-term goal is a socialist United States.

Seed the Vote claims:

"We want to leverage the experience, capacity, and expertise of organizers and activists in California in support of long-term organizing in our neighboring states.

"Our goal is not just to push Trump out of office, but to help shift the balance of power in the states where we are working in favor of communities of color, social justice organizations, and labor. We want to be tactically and politically smart, and move our politics and organizations forward."

In a recent webinar, Adam Gold of Seed the Vote stated: "We were really determined to defeat Trump. We were focusing on seven states this year and it looks like six of those went to Biden."

Seed the Vote's claimed successes include operations in several critical states.

In a post-election Zoom conference that involved several state organizing groups, Alex Gomez, co-executive director of Arizona's LUCHA, boasted that her organization was part of a coalition "able to drive 8 million calls ... able to knock on over 1 million doors" to deliver a surprise narrow win for Biden.

Pennsylvania Stands Up is a statewide network of voter registration organizations, including Berks Stands Up, Lehigh Valley Stands Up, Delco Stands Up, Erie Stands Up, and Reclaim Philadelphia. Most of these groups are headed by Liberation Road affiliates or Democratic Socialists of America members.

In May 2020, Reclaim Philadelphia signed on to a letter circulated by several Liberation Road-aligned figures criticizing candidate Biden for a campaign ad that was deemed too critical of China.

In a Nov. 13 Facebook post, Pennsylvania Stands Up claims that their 8,000 volunteers, 6,869,934 calls, 1,803,935 text messages, and 400,000 conversations delivered more than 50,000 votes and 14 key counties for Biden.

New Georgia Project eked out a narrow win for Biden with 1,230,000 text messages, 362,000 direct mail pieces, 2,200,000 phone calls, 98,000 conversations, and 371,000 doors knocked. The New Georgia Project, founded by former Georgia state Sen. Stacey Abrams, was led until recently by Rev. Raphael Warnock, who is now running for U.S. Senate.

Detroit Action is led by Laura Misumi, the daughter of lifelong California Maoist and current LeftRoots member Don Misumi. Her group helped to build big voting numbers in Wayne County, Detroit.

BLOC (Black Leaders Organizing for Communities) is based in Milwaukee. In the post-election Zoom conference, BLOC Executive Director Angela Lang boasted:

"They're getting really, really, really close to calling Wisconsin. Biden is up by 20,697 votes and in 2016 Trump carried the state by 22,748 votes. So it's almost that, that margin is still the same amount roughly but just inverse and that's due to the work that we've done."

**Maoist Models**

Seed the Vote's 2020 effort was modeled on the successes of Liberation Road front groups: the Carolina Federation in North Carolina and New Virginia Majority (NVM).

The recently established Carolina Federation unites more-established voter registration groups Durham for All, Down Home NC, Forsyth Freedom Federation, and New Hanover for All. Over the past four years, Durham for All has heavily targeted the black communities of the "Bull City" and has elected several sympathizers to the Durham City Council.



Statewide, the Carolina Federation is working to turn both houses of the state legislature blue and is a big part of the reason why North Carolina just reelected a Democratic governor. The Carolina Federation is led by several Liberation Road comrades including Sendolo Diaminah and Aiden Graham.

Founded in 2007 and led by Liberation Road communist Jon Liss, NVM can rightly claim credit for flipping Virginia to blue from red.

In 2018, NVM co-chair Tram Nguyen published an op-ed in The New York Times, saying, "Democrats could learn a lot from what happened in Virginia."

According to Nguyen:

"The national Democratic Party spent millions in Virginia this year, but the state wasn't always such a priority. From its position in the South to its prominent role in America's legacy of oppression, Virginia was long considered reliably conservative—unbreakable. As recently as six years ago, Republicans controlled the office of the governor and the General Assembly.

"Local organizations like mine understood the political potential of Virginia when we got started 12 years ago. We are winning because we recognize the power of an electorate that includes and reflects the diversity of our state. We don't talk to voters only when campaign season rolls around. We try to reach voters of all colors, women, low-income workers and young people where they are, which has made it possible for us to develop a robust base of support along Virginia's so-called Urban Crescent, from Northern Virginia to Hampton Roads. Long before Election Day, we registered more than 300,000 voters, knocked on more than 2.5 million doors, and organized within communities of color to help win significant policy changes like Medicaid expansion, which covered nearly 400,000 people."

This is all, of course, entirely legal. However, any Chinese involvement in this project would be a very different matter.

Steve McClure is a former Washington resident who has close ties to Liberation Road and NVM. Since 2010, he has worked with the Geography Department of Wuhan University in China, and is a research associate with the State Key Laboratory of Engineering Information in Surveying, Mapping, and Remote Sensing at the university.

For more than a decade, comrade McClure has used his skills in geographic information systems (GIS) mapping to supply highly targeted voter identification information to NVM.

According to an Aug. 25, 2011, post on McClure's blog:

"I have been recently working with New Virginia Majority to make a series of maps to inform planning for precinct walks in Virginia State house

Election personnel sort ballots in preparation for an audit at the Gwinnett County Board of Voter Registrations and Elections Office in Lawrenceville, Ga., on Nov. 7, 2020.

districts. ... The core data are lists of individual households by pan-ethnic census categories. ... The results are subjective but do suggest ... the ways that actual communities conform or diverge from the discrete territorial units which define an electoral terrain in a democracy."

All this wasn't theoretical. It was designed to help NVM flip districts across the state by micro-targeting potential Democratic voters in low-income and minority communities.

In another post, McClure wrote: "In the general elections of 2008, Virginia voted Democratic for the first time since 1964 with Obama carrying the state. Demographic shifts and increased voter participation rather than a shift in political allegiances account for this outcome. ...

"Focusing on Prince William County, Virginia, I applied spatial interpolation techniques in a GIS to translate the 2008 election returns from the geography of precincts to year 2000 zoning classification areas for further quantitative analysis. The goal was to produce actionable intelligence for working class organizations building popular power at the base."

Is it legal for an American citizen, working out of a Chinese university and presumably paid a Chinese salary, to attempt to influence U.S. elections?

For three years, we've heard repeatedly about Russian interference in U.S. elections.

However, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has been influencing U.S. elections for at least a decade with zero outcry. This isn't high-tech vote fraud. This is being done "legally," the old-fashioned way, with mass voter registration and Get Out the Vote efforts. The activity per se is legal. The CCP influence, though, may well be highly illegal.

This CCP influence in the United States needs to be stopped, and any law-breaking involved needs to be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Why should we allow a criminal regime to interfere in U.S. elections?

For three years, we've heard repeatedly about Russian interference in U.S. elections. However, the Chinese Communist Party has been influencing U.S. elections for at least a decade with zero outcry.

*Trevor Loudon is an author, filmmaker, and public speaker from New Zealand. For more than 30 years, he has researched radical left, Marxist, and terrorist movements and their covert influence on mainstream politics. He is best known for his book "Enemies Within: Communists, Socialists and Progressives in the U.S. Congress" and his similarly themed documentary film "Enemies Within." His recently published book is "White House Reds: Communists, Socialists & Security Risks Running for U.S. President, 2020."*

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



CHINESE INFLUENCE

# Beijing Manipulated Wall Street to Steer US Policy, Until Trump Became President: Chinese Professor

CATHY HE & LING YUN

The Chinese communist regime exerted influence over the United States for decades through its “old friends” in Wall Street, but this scheme was disrupted by President Donald Trump’s election in 2016, a Chinese professor recently revealed at a seminar.

Over the past 30 to 40 years, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) “took advantage of the core power circle in the United States,” said Di Dongsheng, associate dean of the School of International Studies at the Renmin University of China in Beijing, in a speech given at an event in Shanghai, live-streamed on Chinese online video-sharing platform Guan Video on Nov. 28. The clip has since gone viral, and the original video has been deleted.

Di was referring to Wall Street, a sector that started exerting “a very strong influence on U.S. domestic and foreign affairs in the 1970s.”

“So we figured out our path and those we could depend on,” he said.

But from 2008, Wall Street’s influence declined as the financial crisis hit, Di said.

“More importantly, starting in 2016, Wall Street had no influence on Trump,” he said, citing disputes the former businessman had with Wall Street financiers.

However, with a potential Joe Biden administration, Beijing may once again rely on its powerful U.S. backers, the professor said.

“The traditional elites, political elites, and the establishment have a very close relationship with Wall Street,” Di said.

He then referred to allegations that Joe Biden’s son, Hunter Biden, has extensive ties with the Chinese regime and other foreign governments through investments and business dealings.

In October, Tony Bobulinski, Hunter’s former business partner, revealed that the younger Biden in early 2017 asked him to execute a deal with the now-bankrupt Chinese energy conglomerate CEFC China Energy Company.

Bobulinski served as CEO of SinoHawk LLC, a business entity created to formalize the Biden–CEFC investment partnership with the Chinese company. SinoHawk was supposed to have been initially funded with \$10 million, which would then grow into billions in investment funds, Bobulinski said at the time. Then-chairman of CEFC Ye Jianming had deep ties with high-level CCP officials.

Di said: “Who helped him [Hunter] build the funds? You understand? There are transactions involved.”

### The Disrupter

In 2016, then-candidate Trump campaigned on a tough-on-China platform, focusing on the regime’s unfair trade practices that have cost thousands of American manufacturing jobs. As president, Trump in 2018 launched a trade war, slapping billions worth of tariffs on a range of Chinese imports.

In reference to the trade war, Di asked, “So why are we having trouble with Trump, when we were able to handle all kinds of problems between China and the United States from 1992 to 2016?”

He said that previously, “all crises” between China and the United States, such as the U.S. bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade in 1999, were able to be resolved “within two months.”

The reason for this is that Beijing had

President Donald Trump at the White House on April 6, 2020.



CHP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

In the past 30 to 40 years, the Chinese Communist Party ‘took advantage of the core power circle in the United States,’ said Di Dongsheng.

“people in high places [in the United States],” Di said.

Wall Street had tried to help the Chinese regime during the U.S.–China trade war, Di added.

“As far as I know, friends from the U.S. told me that they tried to help, but they were too weak,” he said.

### Friends in High Places

Di shared a story to prove his point.

Prior to Chinese leader Xi Jinping’s visit to the United States in 2015, all levels of the CCP had to help “warm up” and “build momentum” for the high-profile event, he said. One such warmup was to create positive public opinion about the Chinese regime. A book release event was organized for the publication of the first English-language edition of “Xi Jinping on State Administration”—a book containing Xi’s speeches on political ideology.

Di said he was assigned to find a venue for the event.

The location was set at a popular independent bookstore on Connecticut Avenue in Washington, D.C.

However, due to the short notice, the bookstore was unable to arrange the time slot. Di claimed the bookstore’s manager was a former reporter based in Asia and he was unwilling to accommodate Di’s request due to his “biases” toward the CCP.

But eventually, Di said, Chinese officials managed to hold the press conference at the bookstore because the store owner was pressured by an elderly Jewish woman who had some clout on Wall Street.

The woman was the chairman of the Asia division of a top financial institution on Wall Street, according to Di. She had Chinese citizenship and a Beijing-registered permanent residence.

A Chinese state media report praised the event afterward: “On Sep. 17, 2015, the bookstore hosted Chinese Ambassador to the United States, Cui Tiankai, and a senior Chinese government official for a discussion about Xi’s book on governing China.”

### Wall Street’s China Ties

Following the trade war, many American industrial sectors began to shy away from Chinese investments, but Wall Street has deepened its business ties after Beijing’s moves to open up the financial sector.

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro,

in an October Interview with The Epoch Times, described Wall Street as “writ large a sociopath,” in response to a question about Wall Street’s continued ramp-up of investments in China.

“They have no morals or patriotism. It’s all about the money,” Navarro said.

Meanwhile, global stock index providers have come under increasing scrutiny over their inclusion of Chinese stocks—with some Chinese firms being tied to the regime’s military or having aided its human rights abuses. Because many investment and pension funds track these indices, it means that Americans are unwittingly financing the CCP’s malign ambitions, U.S. officials have warned.

In November, Trump issued an executive order barring U.S. investments in Chinese companies deemed by the Pentagon to be “owned or controlled by” the Chinese military, to block the flow of American capital to fund the CCP’s military goals. The ban is to take effect in early January 2021. U.S. investors have until November 2021 to divest their securities.

In response, index provider FTSE Russell announced on Dec. 4 that it would drop shares of eight Chinese companies that were on the Pentagon list. These companies’ shares will be removed from its FTSE Global Equity Index Series and several others effective Dec. 21.

During the 2020 presidential election cycle, Wall Street contributed more than \$70 million to Democratic Party candidate Joe Biden’s political campaign, much more than Trump received from hedge funds and investment banks, according to CNBC. That’s also more than former President Barack Obama collected from Wall Street in his two presidential runs combined.

Since Democrats raised a substantial amount of money from the sector, “that means to me they’re making deals,” Trump told reporters on Nov. 3 at his campaign headquarters in Virginia.

“What I didn’t do is call up Wall Street and say, send me \$25 million ... to the head of every firm. I could have done that. I would have been the all-time king of fundraising if I did that. But once you do that, you can no longer deal properly with them. You just can’t,” he said.

Epoch Times staff member Emel Akan contributed to this report.



STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

A rocket carrying a satellite for China’s BeiDou navigation system lifts off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Xichang, southwestern Sichuan Province, China, on June 23, 2020.

### TECHNOLOGY THEFT

## China Seeks to Boost Satellite Navigation System Via US Study-Abroad Program

NICOLE HAO

A Chinese university dispatched researchers to study at Northern Illinois University to gain knowledge that can help develop China’s satellite navigation system, according to leaked documents recently obtained by The Epoch Times.

This year, the Chinese regime completed its rollout of the BeiDou Satellite Navigation System (BDS) in a challenge to the United States’ Global Positioning System (GPS). While the BeiDou system has both civilian and military applications, Beijing developed it primarily for military purposes.

The Epoch Times obtained a document from the Lanzhou Jiaotong University (LJU), in which the school applied to the China Scholarship Council—established by China’s education ministry to fund students to study abroad—seeking scholarships for three senior researchers, one visiting scholar, and one post-doctoral fellow to start a one-year program studying geographic information science at Northern Illinois University (NIU) this year.

In an application dated June 16, the university explains that it has already signed an agreement with NIU to “jointly train talent” in this field. The program would start in August.

According to an announcement on the LJU website, the agreement was signed on April 26.

In a section of the application about “the project’s importance,” LJU writes that geographic information science “has become part of the country’s national strategy” and that the program would assist in “fully deploying China’s BeiDou system.”

The program would help train LJU scholars to have an “international perspective,” the school wrote.

LJU also wrote that it signed another agreement with NIU to send 10 of its undergraduate students there each year for a two-year program in geographic information science, with tuition to be paid by the students. The school stated that the study-abroad program would serve the interests of Beijing’s 13th Five-Year Plan, which calls for advancing geological surveying and mapping related to

一、基本情况	
项目申报情况	□首次申报 □往年申报未获资助 □执行满三年
外方合作院校（中、外文）	北伊利诺伊大学（Northern Illinois University）
合作国别	美国
二、项目简介	
培养目标 (通过国际合作、为哪些行业、领域或部门培养何种特定人才，达到何种实施目标)	兰州交通大学已与美国北伊利诺伊大学签订“地理信息科学”专业“2+2”人才联合培养协议。具体由兰州交通大学测绘与地理信息学院实施，2020年开始招生。故本项目培养目标其一：为培养具有国际化视野的地理信息科学人才，保障地理信息科学“2+2”人才培养的顺利进行。其二：加强国际学术交流，促进国际化的学术合作，培养国际化的师资。
项目必要性 (与国家战略、区域社会经济发展、双一流建设等方面的结合度)	地理信息产业不任我国发展非常迅速，初步统计，其产值年增长率在20%以上。《国务院关于促进地理信息产业发展的意见》的出台标志着发展地理信息产业成为我国国家战略。充分彰显了地理信息产业的重要地位和作用，必将极大地促进地理信息产业的发展。 随着中国全面完成北斗全球卫星导航系统星座部署，高分系列遥感卫星、资源卫星全面应用，地理信息产业的迅速发展，随之而来的是数据处理与分析，与地理信息相关各

PROVIDED TO THE EPOCH TIMES

the BeiDou system.

Officials at NIU didn’t immediately respond to questions by The Epoch Times about its agreement with the Chinese university, or about the researchers.

It’s unclear whether the researchers ultimately enrolled at NIU.

### Military-Civil Fusion Projects

In August 2016, China’s National Development and Reform Commission issued a plan detailing how geographic information science would figure into economic policies outlined in the 13th Five-Year Plan.

The agency explained that this field would contribute to the mapping needed for the BeiDou system.

Using geographic information science, Beijing had plans to build at least 2,500 reference stations across the country, as well as overseas sites that would enhance the accuracy of positioning.

This sector would “deepen the development of military-civil fusion,” the plan stated. Military-civil fusion refers to the Chinese regime’s strategy of harnessing private-industry innovations to fuel military modernization.

The strategy has drawn the attention of the Trump administration; in early November, President Donald Trump issued an executive order banning U.S. investments in a group of companies

A screenshot of a report from Lanzhou Jiaotong University to the China Scholarship Council outlining its plan to send scholars to Northern Illinois University to gain knowledge that can benefit BeiDou Satellite Navigation System-related projects, dated June 16, 2020.

with ties to the Chinese military.

The U.S. State Department described military-civil fusion as “a national strategy of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to develop the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) into a ‘world-class military’ by 2049 ... not just through its own research and development efforts, but also by acquiring and diverting the world’s cutting-edge technologies—including through theft.”

### BeiDou

The BeiDou system’s military background is well-documented. The project was initiated by military forces in 1983, and the state-run defense company Norinco is its chief designer and developer.

State-run newspaper Beijing News reported in October 2012 that Norinco would donate 500 of its manufactured BeiDou terminal devices to the Beijing city police bureau to assist in its “social stability” efforts—a euphemism for stifling dissent.

Norinco is one of the PLA-linked companies that come under Trump’s executive order. U.S. investors will be given until November 2021 to divest from it and other PLA-linked firms as designated by the Pentagon.

Some officials were more explicit in their explanation of BeiDou’s function.

The director of state-run Xinjiang Satellite Application Engineering Center, Huang Xinli, stated on Sept. 4, 2014, that a good navigation system can guarantee victory during a military conflict, according to a report by news site Yaxin Net.

“Our weapons cannot rely on GPS. Once the United States turns off GPS [during a war], our weapons system will be paralyzed. It’s much safer to use our own navigation system,” Huang told Yaxin.

Huang said that in the Xinjiang region, BeiDou’s “most important use” is to maintain the ruling Communist Party’s stability through surveilling its citizens. Under the guise of combating extremism, Beijing has heavily monitored and suppressed the local population of Uyghurs and other Muslim ethnic minorities, and U.S. officials estimate that about a million people are currently being detained inside concentration camps in Xinjiang.

The Chinese university hoped researchers could start a geographic information science program at Northern Illinois University and assist in ‘fully deploying China’s BeiDou system.’



SCREENSHOT VIA YOUTUBE

We have our old friends in the United States’ core circle of power.





Soldiers of the People's Liberation Army's Honor Guard Battalion wear protective masks as they stand at attention in front of a photo of Chinese Communist Party leader Xi Jinping at their barracks outside the Forbidden City in Beijing on May 20, 2020.

OPINION

# With Coronavirus, Chinese Regime Launched a Geopolitical Masterstroke

CONRAD BLACK



Unless there is a way of conducting research so extensive that it can prove beyond a reasonable doubt the circumstances and where applicable, the motivations for the release of the coronavirus to the world, and some comprehensive international action against China results from it, it must be said that the coronavirus has been the most brilliant and imaginative geopolitical offensive of any major country since President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) was unveiled in 1983.

It will be recalled that despite being widely reviled as "Star Wars" and pilloried by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists and others as requiring the launch to an altitude of 150,000 feet of an apparatus the size of the inter-war luxury liner, the 45,000 ton Aquitania, this proposal so perplexed the Soviet leadership, that it despaired of its ability to maintain nuclear military parity with the United States, and started down the road to disintegration.

Of course, those who said that it would take decades to bring the non-nuclear laser-based antimissile defense system into efficient operation were correct, and no leakproof version of that system exists yet. But Mr. Reagan and his advisors calculated that the Soviet Union was spending close to 50 percent of GDP on defense to maintain parity with the United States, and that the emergence of the possibility of a comprehensive anti-missile defense system would seriously rattle the Kremlin, and they were correct.

I do not impute to the People's Republic of China the diabolical creation of the coronavirus in the Wuhan bacteriological laboratory, and then it's systematic transmission to the world. There is disputed evidence on this point and Chinese anti-regime scientific sources have persistently claimed that that is precisely what happened.

There have been persecutions and disappearances among such accusers, and it would be naïve to assume that the Chinese leadership were ethically incapable of such a thing. I am no scientist, but it is more likely that the coro-

navirus emerged accidentally from the laboratory and into the public of the city of Wuhan.

It suited the convenience and is a tradition for the Chinese regime to claim that such viruses are inadvertently transmitted through the Wuhan live animal food market.

**Executive Decision**

It is practically impossible to dispute that the Chinese state exercised its totalitarian authority in an attempt to stamp out the virus within China by taking drastic measures, while freely propagating it abroad. In support of this, the Chinese effortlessly co-opted the almost brainwashed complicity of the World Health Organization.

It is possible to grant the Chinese some latitude over their judgment of the likely damage their negligence in failing to contain the coronavirus or warn other countries of its dangers would cause. But it is now impossible to excuse them or to attach the slightest credence to its claims of innocence.

For a time Beijing blamed the coronavirus on itinerant members of the armed forces of the United States, and more recently on Italy, but it's all piffle. This makes even more absurd that it would otherwise be the whining of the American left that President Trump is engaging in racism when he refers to it as the Wuhan or Chinese flu.

Whoever took the executive decision in the Chinese regime to spread this virus throughout the world (and it must have been at a very senior level), would have had some idea of the likely consequences, but cannot be credited with the clairvoyance of realizing how severely they would dislocate Western societies and disrupt the politics of some Western countries.

It is possible that they were aiming directly at the United States. If so, they should be condemned for what amounts to bacteriological warfare, long recognized as a diabolical and subhuman method of conducting hostilities, one to which not even Hitler or Stalin descended in World War II after the experience of gas warfare in World War I, (by which Hitler was personally afflicted).

It is conceivable that the Chinese strategists recognized that sending the coronavirus abroad in January 2020 could cause an immense public health crisis in

the United States from which the president could be the political victim. That would not have been an unreasonable supposition. China might have expected even greater damage than has occurred, as none could be confident that a vaccine could be so quickly developed.

**A Crushing Defeat**

Prior to the arrival of the virus in the United States President Trump was generally thought likely to be reelected. He had almost ended illegal immigration and unemployment and was incontestably successful in most policy areas and had a huge following.

It is conceivable that the Chinese strategists recognized that sending the coronavirus abroad in January 2020 could cause an immense public health crisis in the United States from which the president could be the political victim.

His opponents were somewhat resigned, but the arrival of the coronavirus gave the Democrats new hope, which they skillfully exploited. They were assisted by the president's erratic public relations and tendency to minimize the importance of the illness, though his actual management of production of necessary equipment and development of a vaccine and his championship generally of a policy of determination rather than cowardice, were all commendable.

But his media opponents terrified the country with the specter of death from this virus, though it is only fatal to about one percent of people who contract it. His susceptibility to being accused of a cavalier attitude to the virus made him electorally vulnerable.

If President Trump is defeated, he will be replaced by a traditional appeaser of China, Joe Biden, whose family received millions of dollars for no obvious services rendered from China while Biden was the vice president, and he is pledging a more conciliatory policy towards China.

From the Chinese strategic perspec-

tive, the apparent decision of the American public to replace Donald Trump with Joe Biden would be a massive victory. And it is made even more delicious by the confused and enfeebled response to the coronavirus by almost all the principal European countries.

German chancellor Angela Merkel was on the skids anyway, but French president Emmanuel Macron and British prime minister Boris Johnson were lively and attractive young leaders when the coronavirus arrived and their on again-off again recourse to severe shutdowns imposed upon people with as great an aversion to government authoritarianism as any in the world has seriously diminished their political standing.

In a word, at little cost to itself, China, a country whose Party-state can enforce its will with no attention at all to the inconvenience of those whom it affects, may have gotten rid of its greatest rival in the world in President Trump and replaced him with a quavering former appeaser, reduced Western Europe to a gibbering flock of frightened geese, and has sent a message to Japan, India, South Korea, and its other neighbors that with a minor bacteriological indiscretion China can severely rattle any rival. It is one of the greatest triumphs of self-assertion in 3500 years of Chinese history and is a geopolitical masterstroke.

Should Trump in fact lose, it will be the responsibility of the feeble Biden administration and the shellshocked occupants of what used to be called the chancelleries of Europe, to try to counter, if not punish, this Chinese thunderbolt. Let no one doubt that the entire Western world has suffered a crushing, though far from irreversible, defeat at the hands of the masters in Beijing.

Conrad Black has been one of Canada's most prominent financiers for 40 years, and was one of the leading newspaper publishers in the world. He's the author of authoritative biographies of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Richard Nixon, and, most recently, "Donald J. Trump: A President Like No Other," which is about to be republished in updated form.

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

OPINION

# When Xi Jinping's Diplomatic Activities Become Fodder for Internal Propaganda

ZHONG YUAN

On Nov. 27, Chinese state-run media Xinhua published a special article titled, "Strike a Strong Tone for the Era of Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind." It was a high-profile summary of Chinese leader Xi Jinping's speeches during virtual conferences this year, such as the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization), BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation), and G-20 summits.

In the face of international isolation, these virtual diplomatic activities have become good diplomatic stages for Xi. Although they won't ease the international sanctions Beijing is faced with, they have become a platform for Xi's internal propaganda amid his power crisis within the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). However, the state media's efforts signal that Xi's power crisis is intensifying.

**Xi's Dilemma**

Xinhua's feature article began by stating that this year is a "special year," that "the pandemic of the century is intertwined with once-in-a-century changes, the global economy has plunged into a severe recession, and the world has entered a turbulent period." It also blamed the international community for "shirking responsibility."

2020 has become a "special year" for the CCP. It is entirely caused by the CCP's top leaders trying to use the epidemic to seek hegemony. First, they deliberately covered up the initial outbreak. Later, they launched "mask diplomacy" and demanded gratitude from other countries, followed by denying accountability. It was its series of insidious behaviors that spurred anger from world governments. After U.S.-China relations deteriorated sharply, Beijing continued to tighten its grip over Hong Kong. It drew the United States' rebuke.

The series of misjudgments and missteps were all caused by the CCP leadership. Xi suddenly became a target of public criticism, especially within the Party.

The Xinhua report was seeking to shift focus from China's epidemic to the global pandemic situation.

It also highlighted the global economic recession, but actually, large-scale shifts in global supply chains and U.S. sanctions have made it difficult for China's economy

to recover, leading to widespread unemployment; loan defaults and bankruptcy have begun to climax; the Chinese Communist regime is cutting costs while draining money from private enterprises.

China's economy was developed through the effects of globalization—not because of the Chinese Communist regime's efforts. This fact is known to everyone and Xi obviously feels that his power is being challenged. Before and after the Party's key political meeting this year, the Fifth Plenary Session, Xi saw that officials were already dispassionate. Seeing the rapid loss of authority, Xi could only display so-called "diplomatic achievements." The exquisite packaging done by Party media shows that Xi is still in power.

Xinhua's article praised Xi for "sending a strong voice for the era of building a community with a shared future for mankind."

Such high-profile praise from Xinhua actually reflects the inner weakness of the CCP leadership, and it also reflects that the CCP regime is heading for an inevitable collapse.

Xi Misjudged US Election Results

The CCP has openly signaled that it hopes for Joe Biden to win the presidential election. The delay in certifying the election results has made the CCP anxious. At a time when many allegations of election fraud have become public, Xi suddenly congratulated Biden, showing that the CCP's top leaders were desperate and had to make the last big bet.

For a period of time, the Chinese Communist Party media has avoided discussing the source of the virus and the issue of accountability for the COVID-19 pandemic. However, when Xi spoke about the epidemic, he boldly called on people to "replace bias with reason and stamp out the 'political virus'" and once again claimed that China could share its "experience on COVID-19 containment."

Xinhua also claimed that the regime has dispatched medical teams to more than 30 countries, provided \$2 billion in international assistance and \$50 million in cash assistance to the World Health Organization.

In fact, after Xi's virtual speeches, Party media once again played the "savior" role. It is not accidental. Recently, CCP media once again blamed local outbreaks in mainland China on imported frozen prod-

ucts, though experts have said the virus is not known to spread through contaminated food products.

At a press briefing on Nov. 27, foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian, who once publicly blamed the U.S. military for the outbreak, said again, "although China was the first to report cases, it doesn't necessarily mean that the virus originated in China."

Zhao shifted the blame after Xi delivered his talks and Xinhua touted Xi's addresses. These concerted acts show the regime is back to offensive tactics.

Two months ago, when Xi gave a video speech at the U.N. General Assembly, he was humble: "It's not up to whoever has a big fist." Two months later, Xi Jinping resumed his posture of "guiding" the world. This is directly related to the misjudgment that Biden was "elected." The CCP clearly fears the Trump administration.

Around the world, which country would think it is on the same boat as the Chinese communist regime?

An Anti-American Alliance

Xinhua quoted Xi as saying, "We will not reverse course or run against historical trends by 'decoupling' or forming a small clique to keep others out."

The second half of this sentence is of course attacking the United States. "Not reverse course or run against historical trends" means that the CCP will not give up its fight against the United States to achieve its hegemony. And of course, the CCP is challenging the "small clique" by plotting a larger anti-American alliance in the Asia-Pacific, Europe, and developing countries.

Xinhua specifically mentioned the recent Asia-Pacific RCEP Free Trade Agreement, saying that Beijing "will actively consider joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement," and claimed that Xi has expressed "a clear attitude to support the free trade system."

This claim was debunked the same day. On Nov. 27, foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao insisted that China's "anti-dumping" tariffs on Australian wine are "in line with

Chinese laws and regulations and international customary practices" and that "they are being responsible for Chinese consumers and domestic industries."

Zhao blatantly used trade tactics to intimidate Australia, which signed a bilateral free trade agreement with the CCP and is also one of the signatories of the RCEP agreement. The CCP's "free trade" is by no means an "international customary practice," but is shaping its own rules.

Zhao also stated that "China always regards ASEAN as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy." In late November, Xi also spoke with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and sent foreign minister Wang Yi to visit Japan and South Korea. The CCP is launching a new round of efforts to form an anti-U.S. alliance, attempting to transition with a diplomatic breakthrough to its hegemony.

Xinhua quoted Xi as saying that China was "actively involved in reforming the system of global economic governance," and claimed that the CCP "will play its significant role in the leadership."

Xinhua has completely ignored the diplomatic realities facing the Chinese regime, in order to paint a rosy picture for the Party leadership.

According to Xinhua, Xi also said, "all of us are indeed passengers in the same boat."

Around the world, which country would think it is on the same boat as the Chinese communist regime? The illusions of the top CCP leaders will undoubtedly lead to accelerated U.S.-China decoupling and further international isolation, and Xi's grip on authority will be even more precarious. Of course, the CCP leadership hopes that officials at all levels can continue to stay on the boat, but the CCP's boat is sinking at an accelerating rate. How many people are still willing to stay on this boat that is about to capsizes?

Zhong Yuan is a researcher focused on China's political system, the country's democratization process, human rights situation, and Chinese citizens' livelihood. He began writing commentaries for the Chinese-language edition of The Epoch Times in 2020.

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A video clip of Chinese leader Xi Jinping is seen on the outside of a police patrol station in Beijing on Nov. 2, 2020.





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