

WEEK 4, 2021

THE EPOCH TIMES

CHINA INSIDER



TRUMP'S TOUGH- ON-CHINA LEGACY

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Trump Administration Rewrote US Approach to China Threat



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ANALYSIS

CATHY HE

During the past four years, former President Donald Trump's administration broke with previous governments to confront the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) head-on, pushing back against its malign actions aimed at remodeling the world to its own brand of techno-totalitarianism.

The administration recognized the vastness of the Chinese regime's infiltration campaign that has left virtually no aspect of American society untouched, China experts say. Trump administration officials have described Beijing's threats as an all-out assault against America's economic prosperity, national security, and freedoms, as well as that of democracies around the globe.

In doing so, the United States repudiated the decades-held conventional wisdom that informed a policy of engagement toward Beijing—that economic liberalization would lead to a more democratic China. That thinking is now

Then-President Donald Trump boards Air Force One before departing Harlingen, Texas, on Jan. 12, 2021.

A facility believed to be a re-education camp where mostly Muslim ethnic minorities are detained, north of Akto County in China's northwestern Xinjiang region on June 4, 2019.

widely accepted as wrong.

The former president's biggest achievement was that he "completely changed the terms of debate in the United States about how to deal with communist China," J. Michael Waller, a senior analyst for strategy at the Washington-based think tank Center for Security Policy, told The Epoch Times.

Senior administration officials, notably former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, for the first time recognized the nature of the CCP (distinct from the Chinese people) as a "Marxist-Leninist regime," and how this ideology shapes its goal for global hegemony and the way in which it seeks to get there.

The transformation of U.S.-China relations under Trump was such that "it can never go back to the way it was," Waller said. He added that the Biden administration is now "hemmed in" from pursuing a more accommodationist approach toward Beijing. Indeed, Secretary of State Antony Blinken at his recent Senate confirmation hearing admitted that "Trump was right" to take a tough-on-China approach, although he disagreed in how it should be done.

While the U.S.-China trade war domi-

nated headlines for much of Trump's presidency, a range of other actions was set in motion tackling economic and national security threats from Beijing. But in early 2020, when it became evident that the Chinese regime covered up the severity of the CCP virus outbreak—allowing it to spread across the world—the administration turbocharged efforts to confront Beijing. The result was a "whole-of-government" clampdown.

Tackling Unfair Trade Practices

Fulfilling a campaign promise to take China to task for its unfair trade practices, Trump in the spring of 2018 announced tariffs on a long list of Chinese imports, igniting the U.S.-China trade war. The tariffs were levied following a "Section 301" probe that found that the regime was engaging in state-sanctioned intellectual property theft. Trump would go on to levy tariffs on hundreds of billions worth of Chinese goods, before a phase-one trade was signed in January 2020.

The trade deal included commitments from Beijing to buy an additional \$200 billion in U.S. goods and services in 2020 and 2021, protect intellectual property, stop forced technology transfers, and provide transparency on foreign exchange practices. But a January 2021 report found that China has bought just 58 percent of the goods it had promised to.

Trump's tariffs, still intact on \$360 billion worth of Chinese imports, resulted in many manufacturers moving their production away from China to Southeast Asia. This trend accelerated amid the COVID-19 pandemic, as the crisis exposed the vulnerability of global supply chains, particularly in critical industries.

Walling Off Huawei, Chinese Tech

Over the course of 2020, the Trump administration managed to convince dozens of countries to boot out Chinese telecom giant Huawei from their 5G infrastructure, under the "Clean Network" initiative.

Launched last spring, the program quickly took off with about 60 partner countries, representing more than two-thirds of the world economy, and 200 telecom companies joining the alliance by January.

"Countries and companies are terrified of the CCP's doctrine of intimidation, retaliation, and retribution. And that,

basically, is a bully. When you confront a bully, they back down. And they really back down if you have your friends by your side," Keith Krach, then-under-secretary of state for economic growth, energy, and environment, the official who spearheaded the initiative, told The Epoch Times in December 2020.

Trump officials were vociferous in their warnings that Huawei and other Chinese technology companies, in both software and hardware, could be used by Beijing for spying. They cited Chinese laws that compel companies to cooperate with intelligence agencies when asked, as well as that all entities in the country are beholden to the CCP.

The former president's executive orders last year banning Chinese-owned apps TikTok and WeChat were aimed at blocking Beijing's access to large volumes of American data that could be used for intelligence operations and to enhance the regime's artificial intelligence tools, officials said. Those bans are now entangled in court battles, and it remains to be seen if the Biden administration will continue defending the orders.

A man uses his mobile phone as he walks past a Huawei store in Beijing on May 16, 2020.



WANG ZHAO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

I really applaud many of the things that the administration has done to move away from this naïve idea that you can just engage with such a repressive regime behind closed doors only with words.

UK rights activist Benedict Rogers

In early 2020, when it became evident that the Chinese regime covered up the severity of the CCP virus outbreak—allowing it to spread across the world—the administration turbocharged efforts to confront Beijing. The result was a 'whole-of-government' clampdown.

Combating Espionage

The Justice Department's historic crackdown on Chinese espionage and infiltration under its "China Initiative" was another campaign that went largely unnoticed. Launched in late 2018, the initiative led to a dramatic upsurge in prosecutions targeting Beijing's state-sanctioned theft of trade secrets. FBI Director Christopher Wray said last year that the agency is opening one China-related case every 10 hours, and has almost 2,500 active investigations across all bureaus.

The campaign zeroed in on Chinese hackers, spies, and employees at U.S. companies who allegedly stole IP for China's benefit. It also extended to U.S.-based academics and researchers, who have been targeted by Beijing for years through recruitment programs, known as talent plans, designed to facilitate the transfer of technology and know-how to China. A spate of researchers have been charged for hiding their links to these programs, the most high-profile individual being Harvard University's former chemistry chair Charles Leiber.

Last year, the campaign disrupted a vast network of undercover Chinese military officers posing as students in the United States. The FBI investigation, coupled with the closure of the Chinese Consulate in Houston over its espionage and malign influence activities, led to more than 1,000 military-linked Chinese researchers leaving the country, according to John C. Demers, assistant attorney general for national security.

Bolstering National Security

Guided by the 2017 National Security Strategy and the 2018 Indo-Pacific Strategy, the administration sought to enhance its alliances in the Asia-Pacific to counter the regime's growing influence abroad. In 2018, the U.S. military renamed U.S. Pacific Command to Indo-Pacific Command, signifying a strategic pivot. In 2020, the United States strengthened its defense cooperation with India, a key counterweight to China. The Chinese regime's hostilities on the border with India further antagonized their relationship.

The administration also revitalized the informal framework known as the Quad between Australia, India, Japan, and the United States, becoming a military and diplomatic force in the region.

The United States' relationship with Taiwan also warmed significantly during the Trump administration. Last year, it sent two high-level officials to visit the democratic island, the first of

whom was then-Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar. He was the highest-level U.S. Cabinet official to visit since the United States switched formal relations to China from Taiwan in 1979. Arms sales to the self-ruled island, which Beijing threatens to seize by force if necessary, also increased.

The administration also took aim at the Chinese regime's "civil-military fusion" strategy, which directs private industry innovations to be leveraged in support of China's military modernization. Chinese graduate students affiliated with institutions that support the strategy were banned from obtaining visas. Dozens of Chinese companies were placed on a trade blacklist over their role in supporting Chinese military activities.

In a groundbreaking move, Trump banned U.S. investments in a list of 45 Chinese companies deemed by the Pentagon as having ties to the Chinese military. The order sought to block the flow of American capital, including through public pension and retirement funds, into firms that aid the regime's military—jeopardizing U.S. national security. It was a problem overlooked for years, according to security experts.

Taking Action on Human Rights

In a marked shift from previous governments, the Trump administration backed up its tough rhetoric condemning Beijing's rights abuses with action. In 2020, it sanctioned 20 CCP and Hong Kong officials, primarily over the regime's crushing of Hong Kong's freedoms and persecution of Uyghurs in the region of Xinjiang.

"I really applaud many of the things that the administration has done to move away from this naïve idea that you can just engage with such a repressive regime behind closed doors only with words," UK rights activist Benedict Rogers recently told The Epoch Times.

In December 2020, Pompeo also sanctioned a Chinese police chief over his involvement in "gross human rights violations" against practitioners of Falun Gong, a spiritual practice violently suppressed by the CCP for more than 21 years. This marked the first time the United States has punished a Chinese official for participating in the persecution.

In one of his final acts as secretary of state, Pompeo declared the CCP's repression of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities as "genocide," a move that will likely make firms think twice before doing business with Xinjiang, a leading global supplier of cotton.



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A NASA Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle, or drone aircraft, is stored inside an airplane hangar during a Hurricane and Severe Storm Sentinel, or HS3, mission at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Wallops Island, Va., on Sept. 10, 2013.

MILITARY

Beijing Building Military Drones to Rival US in War, Leaked File Shows

EVA FU

The Chinese regime has been actively growing its fleet of unmanned aircraft to spy on and compete with adversaries such as the United States, a leaked document from China's Ministry of National Defense reveals.

The July 2017 document, supplied to the Epoch Times by a trusted source, described Beijing's ambition to dominate what it called "full dimensional warfare"—referring to control over sea, land, air, space, and the electromagnetic spectrum where military equipment communicates—by developing advanced military drones.

To accomplish the above, the regime detailed a plan to design one to two types of small, long-range military drones and establish a factory to produce 1,000 drones per year. The document stated there would be a 130 million yuan (about \$20 million) investment to build the drone-making firm that would begin production by the end of 2018.

The Chinese defense department document branded such drones as critical to 'whether a nation could engage in modern-day combat.'

"Implementation of the program will arm our national defense with the latest combat power in future vertical warfare and make it capable to contend with U.S. military weapons, giving it marked military significance," the document stated.

While the file did not reveal the cost for making such drones, a 2017 directive from the Party's Equipment Development Department described a project that matched the description of the above-mentioned drones, with an estimated budget of around 6 million yuan (\$927,859) to build a prototype and publish a flight test report by 2020.

The Chinese defense department document branded such drones as critical to "whether a nation could engage in modern-day combat."

"In future warfare, seizing more information resources while controlling and restricting other nations' information will be a key component for competing with nations during peaceful periods, and an

important combat strategy in times of war," it said, citing "low costs" and the "ability to fight in a dangerous environment" as some of the features that made these drones desirable.

The project called for collaboration with a number of Chinese engineering and aeronautical universities. Zhejiang University, one of the schools named, houses an institute for drone development that has received roughly 100 million yuan (\$15.5 million) for projects from the Chinese air force and other state agencies.

China-made commercial drones have dominated the world market. Shenzhen-based dronemaker DJI, which has come under U.S. sanctions for providing "high-technology surveillance equipment" that enable human rights abuses in China, holds around 70 to 80 percent of the global market share as of October 2020, according to market research firm Drone Industry Insights.

In the combat zone, however, China still had a long way to go. The current engine types found in Chinese military drones, such as piston and turboshaft engines, are unfit for long flights and high altitude, the leaked document stated. It further noted that Beijing has "made some breakthroughs in replicating Rotax 914," a four-stroke, four-cylinder turbo-charged

engine built by Austrian company BRP-Powertrain that it said has been the world's leading engine system.

The Epoch Times has sent an email inquiry to the BRP-Powertrain for comment. The file also mentioned four drone models currently deployed in the U.S. Air Force: RQ-1A Predator, MQ-9 Reaper, MQ-9A Reaper, and RQ-4 Global Hawk. It described the last one, developed by Virginia defense tech firm Northrop Grumman, as the most advanced one used in the U.S. military. That model is known for its ability to fly at high altitudes of up to 60,000 feet for over 30 hours.

The new drone, the document said, should be able to fly for more than 24 hours with a carrying capacity of 6 kilograms (13.2 pounds). Two lines of Chinese military drones, Wing Loong and Caihong (also known as Rainbow) made by subsidiaries of state-run aerospace firm Aviation Industry Corporation of China, were also cited in the document. Military experts have suspected some models to be clones of U.S. drones due to their visual resemblance to the Predator and Reaper models, manufactured by San Diego-based firm General Atomics.

In recent months, DJI has faced scrutiny from the United States for copyright

infringement issues and for security vulnerabilities, which the U.S. Army warned could be exploited by the Chinese regime to control the vehicle or hijack data.

The Justice Department has prosecuted multiple individuals for conspiring to export drone-related technologies to China. In August 2017, Chinese national Sun Fuyi was sentenced to three years in prison over a scheme to procure high grade carbon fiber for the Chinese government, which has applications in drones and other aerospace technologies.

In August 2016, California resident Man Wenxia was sentenced to 50 years in prison for attempting to export military equipment, including a drone, to the Chinese military.

In 2014, two Taiwanese nationals pleaded guilty to their roles in a conspiracy to traffic parts from a small drone known as "RQ-11B"—manufactured by U.S. defense contractor AeroVironment—and manuals for the RQ-4 Global Hawk drone.

A retired University of Tennessee professor in 2009 received a 48-month sentence after admitting to illegally exporting 15 different defense materials to a Chinese national. The data he transported involved a U.S. Air Force project to develop an advanced form of weapon system drone.



An employee shows the new Mavic Pro 2 drone in a DJI store in Shanghai on May 22, 2019.

OPINION

Chinese Officials Publish Dubious Figures on Poverty Alleviation

ZHONG YUAN

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) media repeatedly reported last month that the goal of alleviating poverty in 2020 has been reached. The CCP's spokesperson called it a contribution to the world—a small praise that Party leader Xi Jinping needs at this time in order to maintain his authority while facing pressures both at home and abroad.

Poverty Alleviation in Guizhou Province

Local officials in Guizhou Province announced on Nov. 23, 2020, that the last nine impoverished counties they identified in 2019 were lifted out of poverty. Beijing's mouthpiece Xinhua News Agency reported that Li Jian, director of Guizhou's poverty alleviation and development office, said at a press briefing, "The average annual net income of impoverished people in these nine counties has risen to 11,487 yuan, well above the 4,000 yuan national poverty line set this year, also 1,562 yuan [about \$234] higher than the per capita net income of 9,925 yuan [about \$1,518] among the poorest group in Guizhou."

So far, all 66 poverty-stricken counties in Guizhou have been lifted out of poverty and "all 832 counties nationwide on the poverty list established by the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development have been lifted out of poverty," the report said.

According to a report published by Chinanews.com on Nov. 23, Tang Chengpei, deputy minister of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, said at a press conference that the national minimum allowance for each rural resident is 5,842 yuan [about \$901] per year and their monthly allowance is 289 yuan [about \$44].

The report sounds too good to be true and something doesn't add up due to the following reasons.

First, at the beginning of 2020, the nine impoverished counties reported a per capita income of under 4,000 yuan [about \$617]. In less than 11 months, net income jumped to 11,487 yuan [about \$1,772] per person, an increase of at least 7,487 yuan (about \$1,155).

In other words, the per capita income of these counties increased by a factor of 2.87 this year. The number is unrealistic.

This information has not been widely publicized by the Chinese media and they won't refute the information. Second, according to data from the Chinese Statistics Bureau, in 2019 the per capita disposable income of rural residents in the mainland was 16,021 yuan [about \$2,472]. Income was sorted into five classes: the income of the low-income group was 7,380 yuan [about \$1,139], the lower-middle-income group was 15,777 yuan [about \$2,434], the middle-income group was 25,035 yuan [\$3,862], the upper-middle-income group was 39,230 yuan [\$6,052], and the high-income group was 76,401 yuan [about \$11,787].

The data did not specify how many Chinese peasants or rural residents were included in the low-income group.

Compared with the national figures, the per capita net income of the nine Guizhou poverty-stricken counties and

The per capita income of these counties increased by a factor of 2.87 this year. The number is unrealistic.

People eat dinner in a migrant village on the outskirts of Beijing on Aug. 17, 2017.



Boys play cards at night in a migrant village on the outskirts of Beijing on Sept. 7, 2017.

even the net income of its poorest group, significantly exceed the income of the low-income group in the mainland.

In other words, the most impoverished group in Guizhou should not be labeled low-income. So where are the low-income peasants in China?

The latest figures in Guizhou reflect that peasants in the low-income group are the real poor households in China today. A yearly income of 7,380 yuan equals a monthly income of 615 yuan, which is less than \$100. Yet, Zhao Lijian, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman, described the wage increase as "a contribution to the world."

Third, based on a per capita net income of 11,487 yuan [about \$1,772] in nine poverty-stricken counties in Guizhou, the income of a family of three (two parents and one child) should be 34,461 yuan [about \$5,317]; and a family of four should have an income of 45,948 yuan [about \$7,089].

On Sept. 16, Guizhou Province adjusted the minimum monthly wage standard for the year 2020 to 1,600 yuan [about \$247] for first-class areas, 1,500 yuan [about \$231] for second-class areas, and 1,400 yuan [about \$216] for third-class areas, effective Oct. 1.

According to the standard for the third category, the annual income of a family of three would be 33,600 yuan [about \$5,183] if each parent receives 1,400 yuan [about \$216] per month.

The income of a family of three in Guizhou's nine poor counties exceeds the income of a family from third-class areas. Where are the poor?

A family of four with two children in a poor county has an average income of 45,948 yuan [about \$7,089], but if the parents in a family of four earn the minimum wage, their income is still 33,600 yuan [about \$5,183], making them even poorer.

The per capita income of nine poverty-stricken counties in Guizhou rose sharply this year, accidentally surpassing the national low-income group of people, and also surpassing the lowest-income families in the third-class area in mainland China. Guizhou's poverty allevia-

tion seems to have been accomplished, but it reflects the fact that there are poorer households. No wonder the CCP's media dare not hype up the false figures.

Of course, to back up the lies, Xinhua reported, "An assessment conducted by third-party agencies earlier this month showed that the overall incidence of poverty in the nine counties in Guizhou had been reduced to zero percent, and the satisfaction rate among locals was over 99 percent, said Li Jian, director of the provincial poverty alleviation and development office, at a press briefing."

Poverty-stricken Households in Beijing and Shanghai

The minimum wage in Guizhou may be considered ridiculously low, but what about other regions in China?

On Nov. 24, Beijing announced that the minimum wage guarantee line of 26,400 yuan [about \$4,073] is a comprehensive annual calculation based on last year's adjusted minimum wage of 2,200 yuan [about \$339] per month. This number is not much higher than the 1,600 yuan [about \$247] in first-class areas in Guizhou. The minimum wage guarantee standard in Beijing involves workers in 13 industries such as food manufacturing, automobile manufacturing, housing construction, department store retailing, tourist hotels, real estate development and management, and publishing.

It is difficult to know what the minimum wage standards set by Beijing were based on and how many people actually receive the minimum wage. But Chinese premier Li Keqiang did admit that 600 million people in mainland China live on 1,000 yuan (about \$154) a month.

Among the 31 province-level administrative regions, the monthly minimum wage in Shanghai, Beijing, Guangdong, Tianjin, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang exceeds 2,000 yuan [\$309], with Shanghai taking the lead over the country with a monthly minimum wage standard at 2,480 yuan [about \$383].

The minimum wage guarantee standard of 26,400 yuan [about \$4,073] means that the per capita income of a family of three or four will be even lower. It is no wonder that young couples are reluctant to have children.

China's GDP per capita reached 70,892 yuan [about \$10,937] in 2019, according to the regime. However, the Chinese Statistics Bureau reported that in 2019 the national per capita disposable income of residents was 30,733 yuan [about \$4,741] and the per capita disposable income of urban households was only 42,359 yuan [about \$6,535].

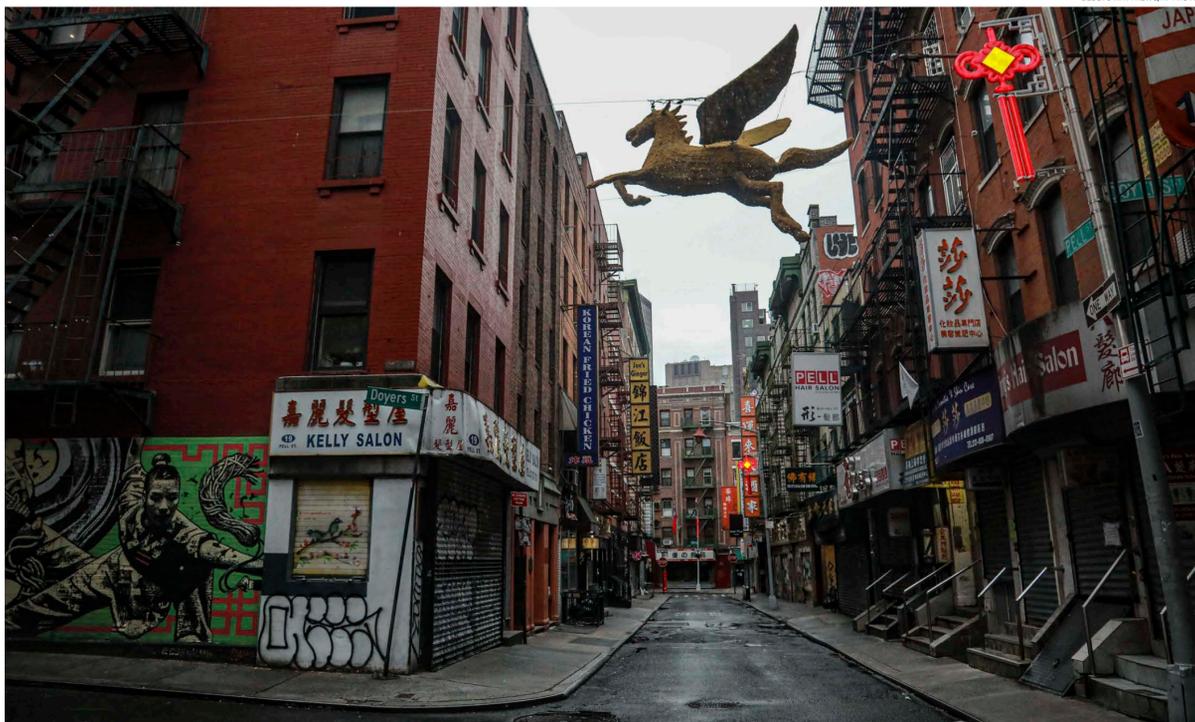
What's the actual number of Chinese people living in poverty? After the poverty alleviation figures of Guizhou Province were announced, many lies were exposed. The regime recently rolled out economic policies that called for expanding domestic consumption. With such low incomes, where would the ability to consume come from?

Zhong Yuan is a researcher focused on China's political system, the country's democratization process, human rights situation, and Chinese citizens' livelihood.

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



People eat dinner in a migrant village on the outskirts of Beijing on Aug. 17, 2017.



A street in New York's Chinatown is empty, the result of citywide restrictions calling for people to stay indoors and maintain social distancing in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19, in New York on March 28, 2020.

ANALYSIS

China Institute Acting as a Cultural United Front in the US

CAI RONG

The role of the China Institute, or Huamei in Chinese, is different from that of ordinary Asian institutions in the United States. The China Institute in New York has become part of Beijing's efforts to infiltrate the international community.

Founded in 1926, the China Institute is the oldest base in the United States to promote Chinese culture in American society. At the beginning of its establishment, it was sponsored by the Boxer Indemnity Scholarship Program.

The original building of the China Institute in the Upper East Side of Manhattan was an elegant red brick building with a beautiful Chinese garden. The villa was donated by Henry R. Luce, then President of Time Inc. in 1946. Many people in the Chinese community enjoyed the cultural atmosphere for its elegance and etiquette.

But after the Tiananmen Square Massacre in June 1989, the China Institute adopted a different political tone, enjoyed an ample supply of funding, and became an organization that promoted the Chinese regime's agenda in the United States.

The United Front Work Department

It took 40 years after the establishment of the U.S.-China diplomatic relations for the United States to realize the CCP's pervasive united front work. According to a November 2020 Newsweek report, more than 600 American groups have been identified as United Front Organizations that have already established multiple channels at the federal, state, and local levels in the United States, fostering a positive view of China that can "be leveraged to Beijing's gain" and thereby exert influence on the United States.

The report mentioned a China Institute event as an example of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP)'s United Front work.

The United Front Work Department is charged with overseeing the CCP's foreign influence operations. It coordinates and supports thousands of overseas organizations to spread propaganda, influence local elites, and suppress dissident groups.

So what exactly does the United Front Work Department do? How did an organization dedicated to non-governmental exchanges between China and the

If the target begins to keep silent about right and wrong, equality and justice, and stops criticizing the CCP, it means that the CCP has succeeded in the United Front.

Chinese writer Liang Muxian on United Front Work



The bust of Confucius at the Confucius Institute on the Troy University campus in Troy, Ala., on March 16, 2018.

United States become influenced by the CCP's United Front? Are there any examples that can help people understand how the United Front works?

This article will try to uncover the history of the China Institute to find out whose interests it promotes and for whom.

At press time, the China Institute has not responded to a series of questions about its operations.

What Is the United Front?

"United Front" means "uniting with a secondary enemy to strike the main enemy." It was one of the three strategies, and also the most important one, manipulated by the CCP to defeat China's ruling Kuomintang Party and to seize power within a year. Later, when the CCP decided to open the country, former leader Deng Xiaoping clearly formulated a "Patriotic United Front" to exert influence on overseas Chinese and to enhance China's reputation and influence. After Xi Jinping came to power, the goal of China's United Front was to serve the "rise of China."

In fact, the targets of the United Front are constantly shifting according to changes in the external environment. For example, in recent years, the international community has gradually reached a consensus against the Communist Party, and the United States has taken the lead in decoupling from the CCP. Now "building a community with a shared future for mankind" has become the banner of the United Front with a list of consequences after "decoupling."

Mao Zedong was not the first Communist Party leader to use the concept of a "United Front," but he once summarized it: "There are two principles of the united front. The first is unity, and the second is criticism, education, and reform. To reform, we must first unite." In other words, the uniting, communicating, and inviting is meant to reform and subdue the target.

Chinese writer Liang Muxian, a former CCP member herself, once wrote an article on the United Front. Liang (aka Florence Leung Mo-han) wrote, "If the target begins to keep silent about right and wrong, equality and justice, and stops criticizing the CCP, it means that the CCP has succeeded in the United Front."

When Did the China Institute Start Kowtowing to the CCP?

Chinese writer Cai Kefeng said that in

the old days, the China Institute focused on traditional Chinese culture. However, he stopped visiting the institute after discovering that it was increasingly leading towards communist ideology, with more guest lectures being provided by mainlanders or pro-CCP people.

This change took place from 1988 to 1993 when Charles P. Wang, now deceased, was president of the China Institute. At that time, the institute was in financial difficulties, especially after the Tiananmen Square student massacre in 1989 when the Sino-U.S. relations hit rock bottom. The China Institute had to either merge with the Asia Society or shut down.

According to a Singtao Daily report in November 2019, Wang raised \$500,000 and spent four years propping up the China Institute.

In September 2019, Wang accepted an interview from Wall Street Times, an overseas outlet of the CCP-run media Xinhua. The report listed Wang's accomplishments and contributions, including turning the China Institute into a bilateral cultural communication agency between Chinese and Americans.

Specifically, Wang arranged the first-ever cultural relics and arts exhibition from Beijing's National Palace Museum and Liaoning Provincial Museum. He also facilitated the loan of a pair of Chinese pandas to the New York City Zoo for a period of six months. In addition, Wang was the main fundraising planner for the construction of a \$7 million Suzhou style garden in the Staten Island Botanical Garden.

Charles Wang's Role in Bridging Sino-U.S. Relations

Charles Wang was born in 1940 in Sichuan Province, China. He moved to Taiwan before 1949 and then came to the United States for graduate school studies.

From 1989 to 1993, Wang served as president of the China Institute. According to the online information, he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as a member of the President's Commission on Mental Health/Asian American Panel, and served on the Asian and Pacific Islanders Advisory Committee under Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan.

Wang also held public office in China as Director of the China Overseas Friendship Association, and as a consultant of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Liaoning Province. These two

organizations are both under the direct administration of the United Front Work Department.

In 1989 after the June 4 student massacre, Wang joined the establishment of the Committee of 100, a Chinese-American organization under the influence of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and served as the founding secretary general. The association exerts influence in the field of Sino-U.S. relations.

These experiences earned Wang at least 22 awards and honors, including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which is regarded as the highest achievement for American immigrants. Wang has been referred to as a "bridge" between the U.S. government and the Chinese community. People in the Chinese community believed that he was the key individual for Sino-U.S. relations at a critical time.

In a 2015 online article by TodayFocus, Wang was quoted as saying that his work can be described as helping minority ethnic groups, and promoting Sino-U.S. cultural and trade exchanges.

Functions in US Society and Contacts With the CCP's Ministry of Culture

Chinese contemporary art exhibitions have been arranged by the China Institute in places outside China through collaboration with China's Ministry of Culture. For example, in 2014, an article posted on the ministry's website reported that Sun Guoxiang, then Chinese Consul General in New York, told Thomas Moore, the acting president of the China Institute at the time, that the culture division at the consulate was ready to launch a series of lectures, and the Institute would be the best venue.

The China Institute's website showed Chinese singer Li Guyi, CCTV host Ni Ping, and Chinese diplomat Ji Chaozhu giving presentations at the Institute.

In 2004, the China Institute organized the Economic Summit Forum. In 2009, the forum was held in Beijing for the first time. On Oct. 13, 2020, the Institute held a three-day summit on "Finding Success in an Age of Crisis." Three of the four "knowledge partners" of the summit directly or indirectly belonged to the United Front Work Department.

The United Front, Through CI@CI, Infiltrates US K-12 Classrooms

A 2009 article by Chinese Social Sciences Today talked about a "Teaching Chinese" project launched in 1997 from the China Institute. The project invited 15 American school teachers to visit China for nearly one month each summer, and the institute would coordinate the course instructions and teachers' reports after the trip to ensure the teaching was "advancing with the times." In addition, it provided a 7-week summer class experience in Beijing to high school students and teaching experiences to teachers from all over the United States.

In 2006, with the approval of Hanban (an office under China's Ministry of Education), the China Institute cooperated with East China Normal University to establish the Confucius Institute American Center, aka Confucius Classroom at the China Institute (CI@CI). The Confucius Institute states that it is committed to letting teachers use the educational resources provided by the CCP, so that students in the classroom can only receive information after it has been screened by the regime.

In 2009, the China Institute launched

Although Chinese regime leader Xi Jinping publicly stated that the United Front should be strengthened, the actual operations of the United Front Work Department are often kept secret.

the first stage of an online platform called the "China360 Project" to teach Chinese language classes to K-12 students (kindergarten through high school grade 12) in the United States.

According to the China Institute website, since 2013, CC@CI has successfully established Confucius Classrooms in partnership with public and independent schools in New York and Massachusetts.

In New York: Trinity School, United Nations International School (UNIS), White Plains High School.

In Massachusetts: the Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter Public School, Boston College High School, Boston Latin Academy, Boston Latin School, Brockton High School and Snowden International School.

Confucius Institutes have recently come under scrutiny in the United States and abroad for spreading Chinese propaganda and exerting malign influence on college campuses.

Funding for the China Institute

Funding sources of the China Institute include fixed donations from many organizations, regular annual fundraising dinners, and membership dues. Among the many board of advisers are many Chinese celebrities, including Nobel Prize winner David Ho; Chinese TV host Yue-sai Kan; Chen Guoqing whose brother, Chen Feng, is the founder of HNA Group; SOHO China CEO Zhang Xin, and others.

The China Institute's 2018 Blue Cloud Gala is one example. Its live auction raised more than \$250,000 within 30 minutes.

The Newsweek report mentioned that "the budget of the United Front system, both at home and abroad, was more than \$2.6 billion in 2019. ... Nearly \$600 million of that was earmarked for work aimed at overseas Chinese communities

and foreigners," and "the total budget outstripped the Chinese Foreign Ministry's."

A search of the United Front Work Department's annual budgets published on the internet by some Chinese provinces and cities such as Shanghai, Wenzhou, and Tibet shows that there are overseas liaisons and inspections, receptions of foreign guests, state-owned capital operating budget allocations, overseas associations under the category of "special work funds for United Front organizations." Shanghai also lists funds for the United Front Work for students abroad.

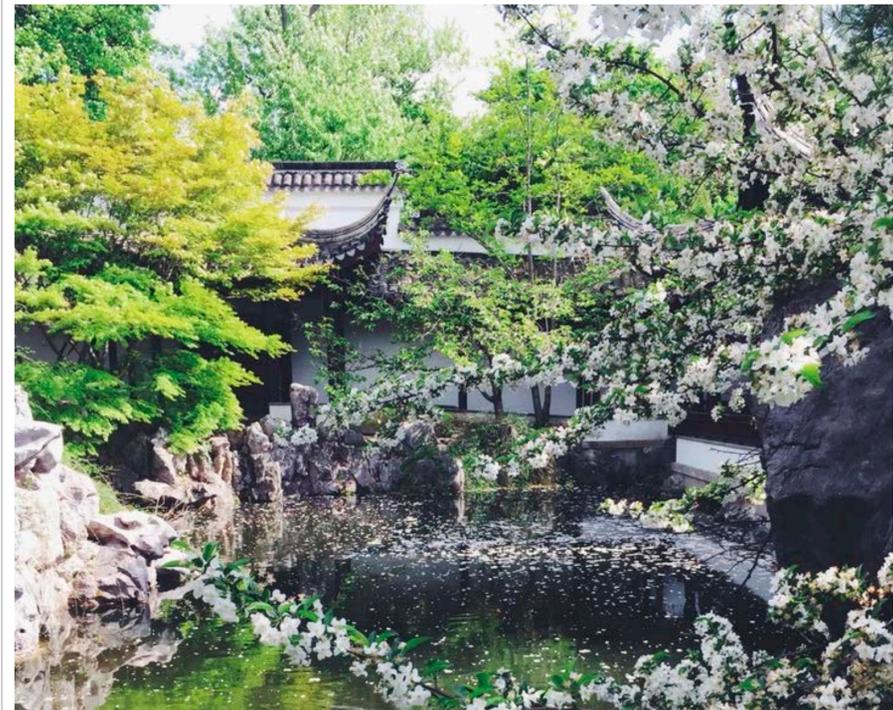
Secret Activities

Although Chinese regime leader Xi Jinping publicly stated that the United Front should be strengthened, the actual operations of the United Front Work Department are often kept secret. Who would "openly" reveal having a connection with the United Front Work Department?

The CCP indirectly influences Western society by funding, mentoring, and supporting a large number of various overseas Chinese organizations that rarely disclose their close ties with Beijing. Therefore, anyone could be associated with a United Front Work Department group or representative without knowing it.

The most recent example is the arrest of Baimadajie Angwang, a New York city police officer who allegedly worked as a spy for the CCP. Prosecutors alleged Angwang fed intelligence about the local Tibetan community to his handler at the Chinese consulate. The handler was assigned to the United Front Work Department division, the China Association for Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture. Angwang was charged with illegally acting as an agent for the Chinese regime.

The New York Chinese Scholar's Garden in Staten Island, N.Y., in this file photo.







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