

WEEK 6, 2021

THE EPOCH TIMES

CHINA INSIDER

AMERICAN DNA

**FUELING
CHINA'S
BIOTECH
AMBITIONS**

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Medical workers walk on Temple Street in the lockdown area of Jordan District in Hong Kong, on Jan. 24, 2021. The Hong Kong government recently enacted mainland-style lockdowns in its efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19.

OPINION

Xi Jinping's Ambition to Communize Hong Kong

TANG QING

After the Chinese regime implemented the national security law in Hong Kong, the situation in Hong Kong has deteriorated drastically. With mass arrests of pro-democracy activists and the frequent deployment of his trusted officials to Hong Kong, Chinese leader Xi Jinping has shown his determination to transform Hong Kong into a place akin to communist China.

Recently, the sudden unannounced lockdowns and mass compulsory testing for COVID-19 have all happened in Hong Kong just like in mainland China. The Hong Kong government also announced that it would require citizens to register phone SIM cards with their real names. The company that approves internet domain names recently said it would now reject any sites that "incite illegal acts."

Xi has also placed his cadres in key positions within the Party departments in charge of Hong Kong affairs.

The banner of "patriots ruling Hong Kong" is actually part of Xi's "red dream" for Hong Kong. And it is Xi's first step into attacking the free world.

Virus Lockdowns, Freedoms Restricted On Feb. 1, in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19, the Hong Kong government designated four "restricted areas" for lockdown and compulsory testing: the neighborhoods of Yuen Long, Tsim Sha Tsui, Yau Ma Tei, and Hung Hom.

Prior to that, the government has imposed sudden neighborhood lockdowns three times within a week.

On Jan. 23, the government closed off the area of Jordan for 44 hours, dispatching 3,000 staff to test 7,000 people, and found 13 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

On Jan. 28 to 29, in North Point, 475 residents were tested and there was no positive case. Approximately 15 people did not do the test and the Hong Kong government issued a fine of 5,000 Hong Kong dollars (about \$645) for each person.

These measures have shaken Hong Kong society. Many criticized them as inefficient and a waste of taxpayer dollars. As a model of Xi's "great fight against the epidemic," these tough measures may get even more intense in Hong Kong.

The government announced on Feb. 1 that areas will be closed off more frequently in the next 10 days until Chinese New Year's

Eve. At the same time, it was announced that as long as there is one confirmed case of no known source within a residential building, or if sewage from the building tests positive, testing for the whole building will be mandatory.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said that in order to prevent residents from escaping the compulsory testing, it will be done "ambush style." One can imagine the extent of the government's distrust of its people.

Since January this year, HK's freedom of information has also been increasingly restricted. The website Hong Kong Chronicles, dedicated to information about pro-democracy protests, was blocked. The Hong Kong Broadband Network said it did so in compliance with the national security law.

On Jan. 29, the government announced its plan for mandatory registrations for mobile phone SIM cards with full name and ID and/or company registration information. The government's public consultation period for the proposal is one month—less than the conventional three-month period.

In the beginning of 2021, Beijing is quickly tightening its noose on Hong Kong.

Personnel Changes

The Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) Central Committee thinks the Party's grip in Hong Kong is never enough. The CCP recently changed the staff at the Liaison Office, Beijing's representative office in Hong Kong.

On Jan. 26, Shi Kehui, a former subordinate of Xi while they worked in Zhejiang Province, was appointed to lead the anti-corruption watchdog unit within Beijing's top office in charge of Hong Kong affairs, known as the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection in Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office (HKMAO). Shi was previously director of the anti-corruption watchdog in Guangdong Province, which borders Hong Kong.

Shi worked closely with Xi; he was deputy Party secretary of Zhejiang while Xi was the Party secretary. The anti-corruption unit within the HKMAO, as is the case with other Party agencies, has become Xi's way of supervising officials and implementing his economic and pandemic prevention policies.

Then, sometime in late January, Chen Feng, director of the police bureau in Putian city, Fujian Province, took over the police liaison department within Hong Kong's Liaison Office. Chen was an old sub-

ordinate of Wang Xiaohong, member of the CCP's Central Committee and executive vice minister of the Ministry of Public Security. Wang was close to Xi. When Xi was the Party secretary of Fuzhou city, Wang was director of the police (public security) bureau and was Xi's chief security officer.

The South China Morning Post reported on Jan. 29, citing insider sources, that the Liaison Office will carry out major personnel replacements. Beijing reportedly arranged 200 cadres to join the Liaison Office, 100 of whom were new additions. Sources told the newspaper that many of them were familiar with social media and that the Liaison Office would carry more responsibilities, including making sure that the city is "ruled by patriots."

Communizing Hong Kong

On Jan. 27, Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam reported her work to Xi via a video link, according to Chinese state-run media Xinhua. Xi stressed that "patriots should govern Hong Kong." The so-called patriot is someone who believes in CCP rule. Under the Chinese regime, the country is the Party, and the Party is the country.

"Xi said that Hong Kong can only maintain its long-term stability and security by ensuring 'patriots govern Hong Kong,'" Xinhua reported.

In short, Xi believes that to solve the Hong Kong problem, the city must be governed by patriots, that is, people trusted by the Party to govern Hong Kong. This is why Hong Kong has undergone frequent personnel changes recently.

Xi has a Hong Kong dream, which is to make Hong Kong more "red" and increasingly like the mainland. Xi has also said he hopes to build a global "community with a shared future for mankind"—bringing communist influence to the world. Governing Hong Kong under the CCP model is Xi's first step toward infiltrating the free world.

But this dream is a double-edged sword. Hong Kong was once part of a free society and was known as the Pearl of the Orient. The more Xi controls Hong Kong the way he does China, the easier it will be for people to realize the true menace of the CCP.

Dr. Tang Qing, based in the United States, is a senior journalist.

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

Chinese Anti-Ship Ballistic Missile Threat Requires Navy, Space Force Cooperation

US naval forces face an unprecedented threat from Chinese anti-ship ballistic missiles

JOHN ROSSOMANDO



The U.S. Navy views China's anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM) capabilities with great concern.

The United States has been able to project power all over the world with carrier strike groups (CSG)—an aircraft carrier with layered defenses. CSGs are more secure than land bases—it's harder to destroy something that moves—and would allow aircraft to hit hundreds of targets daily for months.

China's military considers its ASBMs "trump cards" against the U.S. Navy's ability to deploy its ships off the Chinese coast, according to Andrew S. Erickson, a scholar of Chinese military strategy who taught at the U.S. Naval War College.

Vice Adm. Jeffrey Trussler, deputy chief of naval operations for information warfare, said at a virtual event hosted by the Intelligence and National Security Alliance: "I'm not going to get [into] much more detail of what we know and don't know about it. But they're pouring a lot of money into the ability to basically rim their coast in the South China Sea with anti-ship missile capability. It's a destabilizing effort in the South China Sea, in the East China Sea, all those areas. When their claims of some of these contested islands—they're militarizing those areas.

"It's something that confuses the international order and concerns the allies in the region. It's one reason we work to keep the global commons open and the free flow of traffic."

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Vice Adm. Jeffrey Trussler, deputy chief of naval operations for information warfare

ASBMs are a greater threat compared to conventional anti-ship missiles and can be launched from well outside the 100-nautical-mile maximum range of the SPY-1 Aegis radars. These radars are mounted on fleet escorts, such as the Ticonderoga-class cruisers and Arleigh Burke-class destroyers. The Chinese DF-21D missile has a range of 1,300 miles while the DF-26 has a range of 2,400 miles. This gives them the ability to launch a surprise attack that could make it harder to defend the fleet.

These weapons can be fired from mobile launchers. Experience from the 1991 Persian Gulf War showed that finding mobile missile launchers to destroy them can be among the most challeng-



Chinese military vehicles, carrying DF-21D anti-ship ballistic missiles, drive past Tiananmen Square during a military parade in Beijing on Sept. 3, 2015.

ing things to do in a combat situation, because they can move, and it can be a bit like finding a needle in a haystack.

The U.S. Navy currently has 48 Aegis-equipped vessels capable of fielding the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) system, which can intercept missiles and protect U.S. carriers and other warships. That number is projected to increase to 65 by 2025, and seven Japanese destroyers also have the BMD system. This system proved its worth during a November test. A Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) on the destroyer USS John Finn successfully intercepted an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) that had been launched from Kwajalein Atoll in the South Pacific.

However, serious upgrades of their capability to negate China's ASBM advantages are needed.

Vice Adm. Jon A. Hill, director of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, noted that "you can't shoot what you don't see." Space Force-controlled ballistic-missile launch detection satellites provide the fastest and most accurate missile defense. Hill stressed the need for cooperation between space assets and the Aegis system, last August. Space assets are crucial because they can see targets beyond the range of the ship's radar.

A year ago, the infant Space Force played an integral role in alerting American forces in Iraq that Iranian ballistic missiles were inbound. This warn-

ing saved lives and kept casualties to a minimum. The Space Force must do the same to support the Navy's fleet activities in the Chinese theater of operations in the Western Pacific, Taiwan Strait, South China Sea, and the East China Sea.

Last August, China proved its "carrier killers" could hit moving ships when it test-fired its DF-21D and DF-26 ASBMs at targets located between Hainan Island and the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea. China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) fired the DF-26 from a base in northwestern China's Qinghai Province and the DF-21D from a base in the country's Zhejiang Province, located north of Taiwan.

The DF-26 can carry a nuclear warhead and can conduct precision strikes in the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean, and the South China Sea while remaining safely deep inside Chinese territory, the Pentagon's 2020 report on Chinese military power states.

Intelligence analysis suggests that the DF-21D's warhead can maneuver like an aircraft through the atmosphere upon reentry, which makes it harder for defenders to kill. China is believed to have approximately 94 launchers capable of firing the DF-21D missile. This necessitates the development of improved abilities to track and shoot down the hypersonic glide vehicles, capable of traveling at between Mach 5 and 10—between 3,806 and 7,680 mph—that are deployed

by the DF-21D. By comparison, jetliners travel at 0.785 Mach or 583 mph.

The Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) awarded a contract to Aerojet Rocketdyne a year ago to develop an interceptor to negate the advantage of hypersonic weapons under its Glide Breaker program. A sea-based component of this program that can counter theater-based weapons systems such as the DF-21D is a must. These improvements are crucial due to the short time between when the PLA would launch its ASBMs and when they would be in range for the Aegis system to intercept before they disable American carriers or other warships.

A change in thinking is required such that the BMD can counter ICBM threats to the U.S. homeland and to the fleet.

U.S. missile defense almost exclusively focuses on strategic threats from Russian and other nuclear missiles. The way the BMD system is deployed must be entirely reevaluated, and neutralizing China's ASBM advantage must be the top priority. If aircraft carriers are vulnerable, America's ability to protect itself and ensure freedom of navigation for the rest of the world will be in jeopardy.

John Rossomando is a senior analyst for defense policy at the Center for Security Policy; he served as senior analyst for counterterrorism at The Investigative Project on Terrorism for eight years.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

US Counter-intelligence Warns of Risks From China's Collection of DNA Data

CATHY HE

The Chinese regime has for years been collecting large amounts of health care data of Americans, including sensitive genetic information—which poses serious privacy and national security risks, a top U.S. counterintelligence agency has warned.

Alongside illegal means such as cyber hacking, Beijing has used investments in U.S. biotech companies and partnerships with hospitals and universities to gain access to health care and genetic data, the National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) stated in a fact sheet released on Feb. 1.

Vast amounts of genomic information (a person's entire genetic sequence) can fuel developments in the cutting-edge field of precision medicine (or personalized medicine), allowing China to overtake the United States to become a global leader in biotech, the paper stated. Such data can also be weaponized to target individuals in the country toward intelligence and military goals.

The warning came as Chinese genetics firm BGI Group has come under scrutiny over its aggressive efforts to push its COVID-19 test kits and support labs around the world, raising data security concerns. As of August 2020, the company had sold 35 million rapid COVID-19 testing kits to 180 countries and built 58 labs in 18 nations.

The company also approached sev-

eral U.S. states last year about building and operating COVID-19 testing labs, although none accepted after U.S. officials warned against the potential risks of a partnership, according to a recent CBS report.

While BGI says it doesn't gain access to patient data from its COVID-19 labs or test kits, former NCSC Director William Evanina told CBS that the labs are like Trojan horses: by setting up its gene-sequencing equipment in the United States, the company could later exploit the equipment to mine Americans' genetic information. Sequencers are machines used to decode and analyze a person's entire genome.

The company was able to gain access to the U.S. market and user data after it bought California-based sequence-machine maker Complete Genomics for \$118 million in 2013, the document noted.

Chinese companies, including BGI, have also formed partnerships with U.S. hospitals, universities, and research institutes, offering low-cost gene sequencing services.

"These partnerships allow U.S. entities to expand their research capabilities, while Chinese firms gain access to more genetic data on more diverse sets of people, which they can use for new medical products and services," the fact sheet said.

A 2019 report found that at least 15 Chinese firms were licensed to perform genetic testing or sequencing on U.S. patients, giving them access to genetic data.



A laboratory technician working on samples from people to be tested for COVID-19 at "Fire Eye" laboratory in Wuhan in China's central Hubei Province on Feb. 6, 2020. BGI Group, a genome sequencing company based in southern China, said it opened a lab in Wuhan able to test up to 10,000 people per day for COVID on Feb. 5, 2020.

Americans' genomic information is particularly valuable to China due to the ethnic diversity of the U.S. population, the paper noted. This is because varied data sets are more useful in research to identify genetic diseases. The Chinese regime last year passed laws to severely limit the ability of foreign firms to access Chinese people's biological data.

The NCSC also warned that the regime could combine genomic data sets with Americans' personal information stolen in previous cyber attacks to "precisely target" individuals in foreign governments or companies for poten-

tial "surveillance, manipulation, or extortion."

For instance, the regime may be able to identify vulnerabilities, such as addictions or mental illnesses, of a target by analyzing genetic data and health records. Such information could be leveraged for blackmail, used to both recruit foreigners to spy for the regime, and suppress dissidents abroad.

The Chinese regime has amassed vast amounts of American personal data through several massive cyber hacks in recent years. These include intrusions on the U.S. government's personnel agency, credit reporting

agency Equifax, and health insurer Anthem, which resulted in the theft of personal information of tens of millions of Americans.

Inside China, the regime has already started exploiting genetic data to control and repress ethnic Muslim minorities in the far-western Xinjiang region, the NCSC said.

Last year, the U.S. Commerce Department blacklisted two BGI subsidiaries for their roles in conducting genetic analysis on Uyghurs, aiding the regime's persecution in the region. BGI denies that it's been involved in human rights abuses.

These partnerships allow U.S. entities to expand their research capabilities, while Chinese firms gain access to more genetic data on more diverse sets of people, which they can use for new medical products and services.

National Counterintelligence and Security Center

STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

KIMIMASA MAYAMA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Top diplomat Yang Jiechi speaks after meeting then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the latter's official residence in Tokyo on Feb. 28, 2020.

OPINION

Leveraging Corrupt Media, China Draws a Red Line for Biden Administration

AUSTIN BAY



February 2021 reprises a red-line drama, Yang Jiechi, gave a speech to a virtual audience hosted by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.

Yang reportedly told his audience, "The United States should stop interfering in Hong Kong, Tibet, Xinjiang"—western China where Uyghurs live—"and other issues." Yang said these three regions are Chinese "internal affairs."

Then Yang added the most nuanced phrase: "They"—the so-called internal affairs—"constitute a red line that must not be crossed. Any trespassing would end up undermining China-U.S. relations, and the United States' own interests."

"Red line" meaning China's rules. Let's deal with the nuanced reference. Please recall John Kerry derided former President Barack Obama as not being sufficiently nuanced, though Kerry's slur lacked specifics.

Here's a genocidal specific. On Aug. 21, 2013, Syria's Assad dictatorship attacked Eastern Ghouta (a rebel-held area near Damascus) with rockets carrying sarin nerve gas warheads. The chemical weapons killed over 1,200 people.

The Assad dictatorship's attack violated former President Barack Obama's now-infamous August 2012 "red line" speech in which he forbade the use of chemical weapons against civilians by Assad's forces. Obama said he would not permit a chemical weapons war crime on his watch. Yet he did.

When the nerve gas killed, Obama dithered. He didn't enforce his red line. It's 2021. Machiavellians worldwide will credit Yang for constructing a shrewd and early "red line" test of Joe Biden using "cocktail power warfare."

Yang's threat comes less than a week after Chinese aircraft intruded on Taiwanese air space. That was a military show of force to test the Biden administration. Yang escalated the diplomatic challenge.

Military power, diplomatic challenge? Mix them and you've got a cocktail of the military and diplomatic elements of power.

But information power is also in play. In the immediate background lurks Hunter Biden and his potentially billion-dollar deal with Chinese communist entities. Scrutiny and analysis and totally relevant preselection examination of the Biden family's financial arrangements with China were suppressed by social media tech titans and anti-

Trump mainstream media.

Which leads us to the real Machiavellian stroke: Yang exploits America's greatest strategic weakness—a corrupt press.

In strategic terms—a fancy way of saying the long run—former President Donald Trump's defeat of the corrupt mainstream media was his most important 2016 election victory. Since 1968, mainstream media bias (a wicked bias favoring leftist Democrats) has been America's most grave strategic weakness. America is extremely powerful. Given America's military and economic power, our enemies pursue "judo strategies" that exploit internal weaknesses. How do you defeat America? You let America defeat itself.

Here's the weakness in two nutshell.

Nutshell One: America's biased mainstream media won't let Republicans fight and win wars. Nutshell Two: The biased media won't let Republicans win an election, period.

Machiavellians worldwide will credit Yang for constructing a shrewd and early 'red line' test of Joe Biden using 'cocktail power warfare.'

Corrupt media outlets like The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN, CBS, and MSNBC pushed the Russia-collusion hoax for over three years. Hoax it was—concocted by Hillary Clinton's campaign to deflect scrutiny from her utterly illegal disregard of national security rules governing classified information.

Oh, yeah. The crooked press portrayed it as an email issue. It was calculated criminal disregard of rules governing the protection of classified information. Hillary Clinton and her campaign knew this, and so did James Comey's FBI, which chose not to indict her. Instead, Comey's FBI and the corrupt media falsely accused the Trump campaign of "collusion" with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The failure to put ex-FBI attorney Kevin Clinesmith in prison for his criminal alteration of a legal document is a stain on the Department of Justice. Who is in charge of the DOJ that made the decision in February 2021?

Joe Biden.

Austin Bay is a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, author, syndicated columnist, and teacher of strategy and strategic theory at the University of Texas-Austin. His latest book is "Cocktails from Hell: Five Wars Shaping the 21st Century."

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

CHINESE REGIME

Don't Fall for China's 'Negotiation Traps': Former Trump Adviser

EVA FU

The new U.S. administration should stand firm when dealing with Beijing and avoid falling into the communist regime's crafty "negotiation traps," a former White House security official has said.

"Don't fall for a trap that Beijing sets time and again for administration after administration, which is to try to lure the United States into a long, formal, mid-level bottoms-up negotiation," said former deputy national security adviser Matthew Pottinger in his first public speech since leaving the White House in January.

Pottinger, whose role was central to forging the Trump administration's China policy, made the remarks during a Feb. 3 panel hosted by Florida International University's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs.

He said that the former White House cabinet only learned "not to let China draw out the clock" after a year of back and forth negotiations, and after reviewing the previous dialogues of the last two decades in which the United States got "trapped," leading to the "U.S. trade deficit and our hemorrhaging of intellectual property."

For about a decade after 2006, the two countries engaged in semi-annual talks, dubbed "Strategic Economic Dialogue,"

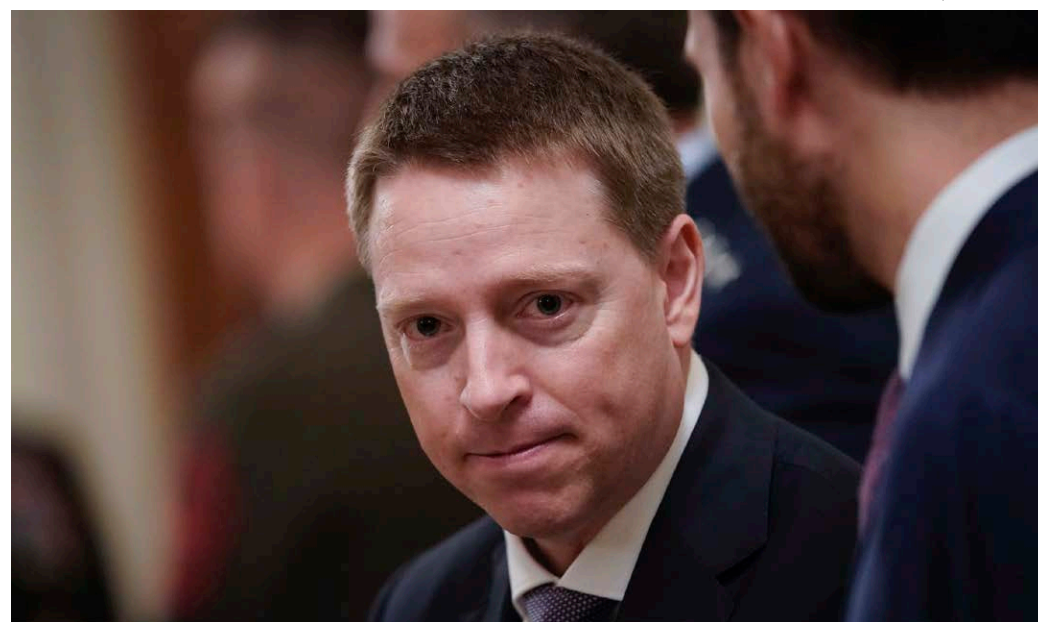
to resolve economic disputes. But the Trump administration criticized the process for not delivering enough tangible outcomes, and eventually abolished it as the United States shifted toward a hardline approach on communist China.

"It got worse and worse with each successive administration, each successive formal dialogue," Pottinger said. "So we should be talking on our terms, and we should be speaking with actions."

Top Chinese officials have, in recent speeches, indicated that the ruling communist party has no intention of changing its plans for China. Yang Jiechi, China's top foreign policy diplomat, on Feb. 1 told the Biden administration to play by the party's rules, warning that potential actions on the regime's handling of Hong Kong, Tibet, and Xinjiang constitute "a red line that must not be crossed."

Beijing has long claimed the self-ruled island as a renegade province, threatening to "reunify" it with the mainland by force. With Hong Kong now firmly under its grip, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is escalating military aggression toward Taiwan, sending dozens of military craft just days after President Joe Biden's inauguration.

"The people of Taiwan need to understand how significant and dangerous the situation is getting, and that that's no fault of their leadership. That is all about Beijing, and its appetites and ambitions,"



Deputy national security adviser Matthew Pottinger arrives for a Medal of Honor ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington on Sept. 11, 2020.

Pottinger said. "The people of Taiwan need to really rally around their leadership and understand that they are going to have to make sacrifices. There are things that they are going to have to do to prepare for war in order to hopefully deter war."

Speaking at the same conference via pre-recorded video, Sen. Jim Risch (Idaho), who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called the CCP

"our greatest foreign policy challenge for years to come."

"The CCP's record of aggression, suppression, and broken commitments should give the United States pause before rushing into signing agreements and pursuing expansive cooperative initiatives" such as a climate deal with Beijing, Risch said.

Pottinger, whose wife is a virologist with years of experience at the U.S. Cen-

DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES

ters for Disease Control, urged people to revisit a Jan. 15 fact sheet issued by the State Department under the Trump administration, which slammed the CCP's "deadly obsession with secrecy" around the origin of SARS-CoV-2.

The fact sheet has been "very carefully vetted" by officials across U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the intelligence leadership, and the White House, he added.

Although the Wuhan Institute of Virology, located in the world's first COVID-19 hotspot, regularly handles dangerous viruses, it claimed to have "zero infections" among its staff at the onset of the pandemic. But according to the fact sheet, the United States "has reason to believe that several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019" with symptoms similar to COVID-19.

On Wednesday, World Health Organization investigators visited the Wuhan lab as a highlight of their mission to probe the origins of the virus outbreak. The Wuhan trip took place after months of delays and lengthy negotiations, with Beijing turning back the team last minute in early January.

The WHO team left the lab after roughly three hours, without speaking to the reporters who were waiting outside.

"Very interesting. Many questions," said Danish researcher Thea Fischer as the team's vehicle sped away.

It got worse and worse with each successive administration, each successive formal dialogue. So we should be talking on our terms, and we should be speaking with actions.

Matthew Pottinger, former deputy national security adviser for the Trump administration

OPINION

American Complicity: Export Money—Import Chaos

RICHARD SMITH



The American people are finally beginning to understand the connection between chaos in the United States and phony promises of wealth from China.

American investors, industrialists, money managers, and their enabling politicians have poured American assets into communist China for decades—almost killing our manufacturing base; always chasing the promise of greater financial return in a larger global marketplace. Some even thought our commercial engagement would democratize China.

In reality, they have aligned their financial future with the totalitarian regime of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Now they're beholden to it and fear losing everything. All wealth in China is controlled by the CCP. Investment value and growth is whatever the CCP says it is in their party-controlled economy. China retains all corporate assets and keeps foreign executives happy with big salaries and bonuses (paid by their own companies) based on false statements of financial growth within China that can't be verified or audited under international norms.

Let's be clear: There's inherently no free enterprise in communist China. The controlled economy of the CCP is a classic Ponzi scheme. China only survives and grows on a continuous stream of outside capital and resources.

While Americans arrogantly thought they were "playing" China for greater profit, it was precisely the opposite. China was always playing a long game

against them. And mutual benefit had nothing to do with it. Anyone in 2021 who still says China "just wants to be a business partner" is delusional or lying. China makes promises, but doesn't honor external agreements of any kind. It engages for advantage and dominance.

The CCP approach has always included graft, corruption, theft, threat, disinformation, espionage, and a devious multi-faceted asymmetric approach to sucking out American wealth, knowledge, and technology (industrial and military) by exerting financial influence and control over American corporations and politics. It's always a stacked deck, smoke, mirrors, and more empty promises.

The CCP strives toward global domination with all other nations serving them as willing, obedient, vassal states. Let the recent examples of Xi Jinping's "Belt and Road Initiative" be our warning.

With this understanding, we can easily see the reasons "High Tech," for example, usually sides with China in political matters. It's all about money and the false perception of financial growth. Collectively, High Tech went all-in with full blinders on and arrogantly still sees its "global" future aligned with a growing mega-China. When President Donald Trump's fairness tariffs became a problem, High Tech (and others) began to financially support political and social chaos here at home. Huge, quiet donations were funneled to the perpetrators. Chaos and regime change in the United States serves China—and High Tech obediently kowtows.

High Tech is the term I use here in broad reference to Big Tech, Big Phar-



One dollar and 100 yuan notes are on display at a bank in Beijing on May 15, 2006.

ma, Silicon Valley, and banking and investment types of industries with a corporate base in the United States and significant business interests in China—corporations with earnings and share values dependent on working cooperatively with the CCP.

These same corporations have officers, board members, and senior executives who reportedly authorized or helped mobilize large financial donations (or large numbers of smaller donations) to quietly help defeat the re-election of President Trump and impede the policies toward China from his first term.

I understand most donations from High Tech went to the Democratic Party or directly to their candidate campaigns. These donations also had apparent trickle-down capability to support campaigns of radical-left and progressive candidates, who embrace even more divisive policies such as a

"Green New Deal" and "open borders."

Anti-Trump elected officials and candidates for office openly supported the street chaos perpetrated by organizations, networks, and movements with mysterious financial backing such as Antifa, ActBlue-Thousand Currents-Black Lives Matter, Portland anarchists, Seattle CHOP, Defund the Police, and other offshoots. They usually declared the chaos was non-violent and justified—all acting in loud concert with anti-Trump "mainstream news" and manipulative "social media." The identity politics of chaos quickly became routine. And it all worked in China's favor.

But, the controlled CCP Ponzi-economy remains a paper tiger. It will either self-destruct or quickly fold whenever the United States stops feeding it. Those deeply invested in China are rapidly becoming known. To survive, they should simply come home and take the

paper loss. America has real substance and will recover quickly. There's no future in the totalitarian state of communist China.

By the way: Before you say "This can't be true," guess where your retirement or pension funds have been invested on your behalf (and without your permission). Well, don't guess. Make them tell you. And don't let them give you the old "it's like a big financial pool" baloney. Follow the money.

Born in California, Richard Smith is the son of a career U.S. Marine (31 years enlisted). He worked for many years from Seattle in civil engineering design and construction up and down the West Coast. He is now retired.

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

While Americans arrogantly thought they were 'playing' China for greater profit, it was precisely the opposite.



A GameStop store in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Jan. 28, 2021.

ANALYSIS

Chinese Stock Trading App a Clear Winner in Retail Trading Frenzy

FAN YU

The Chinese stock trading app Webull has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of the retail trading frenzy that has gripped the U.S. stock market this year.

Reddit-based retail investors generated huge volumes across U.S. financial markets, sending heavily shorted stocks such as GameStop and AMC skyrocketing in late January. The trading frenzy has been especially fortuitous for Webull, a Chinese competitor of Robinhood that saw a sudden surge in downloads after the latter was heavily criticized for restricting trades in certain stocks.

Demand from retail investors, including those who follow the popular WallStreetBets Reddit page, had driven up the prices of certain heavily shorted stocks. This sparked intense media coverage and general interest in stock trading. The Webull app experienced a huge surge in downloads during the last week of January, at one point becoming the No. 2 free Apple iPhone app in the United States behind Robinhood. As of the first week of February, Webull's popularity has tapered off, but it's still in the Top 10 personal finance apps on Apple's App Store.

Webull's sudden popularity was credited to consumer backlash against Robinhood, which decided to temporarily restrict trading in GameStop and other stocks, due to margin requirements governing stock settlement.

While investors were encouraged by the WallStreetBets Reddit moderators to jump ship to Webull, it (and another popular stock trading app called MI) also enacted similar restrictions after increased trading volumes, as mandated by its clearing agent. Both Webull and Robinhood use Apex Clearing Corp. for stock settlement.

Webull was estimated to have 2 million users a few months ago, but its total customer base is likely many times that today.

Webull's Chinese Roots

But most U.S. retail traders are unaware of Webull's Chinese origins. In many respects, it seems like any other fintech company. Webull states that it operates at the intersection of finance and technology. It has a non-Chinese CEO, Anthony Denier. Webull's registration information on the FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority) website states that it's headquartered at 44 Wall Street in New York.

Webull hides its Chinese origins well. It is operated by a parent company with a different name, Fumi Technology. It has several established partners, including Danish investment bank Saxo Group.

Fumi's lead founder, former Alibaba and Xiaomi staffer Wang An-

quan, oversees an executive team that has work experience at Alibaba, Xiaomi, Huawei, and Bloomberg. In terms of financial backing, Fumi has raised approximately 600 million (\$92 million) in funding from a variety of investors through Series B. Seed funding was provided by Chinese smartphone manufacturer Xiaomi, with Series A and Series B equity provided by various China-based venture capital funds.

Late last year, Webull announced that it officially launched its stock trading platform in Hong Kong, through a locally registered broker-dealer named Webull Securities Ltd.

Robinhood's Pain

Is China's Gain

While most media have portrayed Webull as Robinhood's scrappy competitor in the free stock trading app space, Webull's Chinese origins should raise some red flags. For one, opening the doors of the U.S. financial markets to Webull is far from commensurate with the level of market access that Beijing grants to U.S. financial firms.

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It should also concern security experts and the U.S. government that a Chinese-owned company has direct access to U.S. user data.

The company says that it stores all of its user data within the United States. But a financial services company shouldn't be looked at with the same lens as say, TikTok. Financial firms collect confidential personal information such as users' Social Security numbers, home addresses, and bank account numbers.

In addition to personal information, Webull also has access to trading data and tendencies from all its customers, information that could prove valuable for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) regime.

All Chinese companies, private or state-owned, must ultimately answer to the CCP. As an Alibaba alum, Wang knows the scrutiny that his former boss—Jack Ma—has been under in recent weeks. The CCP unilaterally determines all Chinese laws yet at the same time isn't bound by them.

No company's privacy policy can supersede Party requests. While Webull stores user data in the United States today, it has little recourse when Beijing calls.

ORGAN HARVESTING

Relative of Shanghai Doctor Reveals Details About Forced Organ Harvesting

EVA FU

A California resident said his relative in China was involved in state-sanctioned forced organ harvesting and asked him for patient referrals in the United States, according to a recent human rights report.

Lu Shuping, a U.S. permanent resident originally from Shanghai who is more than 70 years old, shared his full name in making the revelation in October 2016 to the nonprofit World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (WOIPFG). The New York-based human rights group didn't release the interview details for four years, out of concern for Lu's safety.

Zhou Qing, who is the older sister of Lu's sister-in-law, worked as the director of the Shanghai Wanping Hospital in Xuhui district, according to Lu. During a trip to China in 2002, Lu recalled that Zhou—upon learning that he knew many doctors through his home renovation business in the United States—asked if he could connect her with anyone who needed an organ transplant, especially a cornea, kidney, or liver.

Lu said that when he, Zhou, and her husband were sitting together once, "her husband told me in person that she went to a military hospital to do [organ transplant surgery]."

"He also said that it's quick money and the sum is quite large," Lu told WOIPFG. "He said, 'You should get people over from outside,' and that 'this is in really good quality, all fresh and alive.'"



Doctors prepare for a kidney transplant in a file photo.

While the word "alive" puzzled Lu at the time, he began to piece the information together over the years, as he heard more about "live organ harvesting" in the media.

The information provided by Lu adds to a growing body of evidence that points to a massive "on-demand" organ industry, where prisoners of conscience, such as practitioners of the faith group Falun Gong, are killed for their organs, which are sold for profit for use in transplant surgery. Adherents of Falun Gong have been a target of severe persecution since 1999, when the Chinese Communist Party mobilized

its entire security apparatus to eradicate the discipline. Millions of adherents were arrested and thrown into labor camps, prisons, psychiatric wards, and other detention facilities.

In 2019, a London-based people's tribunal concluded, following a year-long investigation, that there was clear evidence of forced organ harvesting having taken place "on a significant scale" and that imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners were likely "the principal source."

Zhou, the Shanghai doctor, performed several organ removal surgeries but even-

tually stopped due to fear, Lu said.

"She said that she was having nightmares for doing this," Lu said. He prodded his sister-in-law, Zhou Yu, to reveal more details about what she knew of her sister's work. She relayed that when Zhou Qing did the surgeries, people who weren't sedated "would scream with all their might in sheer agony."

"She said anesthesia cannot be used in every place, and the area where [the organ] is needed cannot be anesthetized. The fresher and the less anesthetized, the better. The quality is guaranteed, you can rest assured,"

he recalled. The victims "kept saying 'Falun Dafa Hao'" when they were brought in for the organ harvesting, the sister-in-law told him. The phrase "Falun Dafa Hao" is often said by practitioners as an affirmation of their faith as they face persecution. It translates to "Falun Dafa is good."

A total of three to five people, including armed police and military doctors, were usually present in the operating rooms.

Lu said that when he, Zhou, and her husband were sitting together once, 'her husband told me in person that she went to a military hospital to do [organ transplant surgery].'

The job came with an emotional toll, Lu said. "She said that money is not that easy to make," he recalled, adding that Zhou Yu repeatedly told him not to ever mention that to others.

Lu's account is eerily similar to information from whistleblowers such as Annie and Peter, who first approached The Epoch Times in 2006 with information about organ harvesting in China, drawing international attention to the issue.

Annie, whose ex-husband was a neurosurgeon in Liaoning Province in northeastern China, said her husband had removed corneas from Falun Gong practitioners

who were alive during surgery. The victims' bodies were then thrown into incinerators after the surgeries, she said.

In 2009, a man who was working at the police bureau in Liaoning at the time recounted in vivid detail how he had witnessed two military surgeons cut open a middle-aged Falun Gong practitioner while she was fully conscious to extract her organs.

While China claims that it's been sourcing all organs through voluntary donations since 2015, WOIPFG, in a 2015-2020 investigation, received confirmation from doctors, including some in Shanghai, that they had used Falun Gong practitioners' organs in transplant surgeries.

Eight doctors from various Shanghai hospitals promised during phone calls short waiting times, from "immediate" to "one to two months." While Shanghai received a total of 400 legal organ donations from August 2013 to August 2017, according to official data, the city's Renji Hospital alone boasted that it conducted more than 800 liver transplant surgeries in 2017, which Chinese media hailed as "the world's highest annual liver transplant record for one institution."

In Shanghai's Pudong area, about a dozen practitioners recently reported that police officers had come to their homes and forcibly entered to draw samples of their blood, at times threatening arrest if they didn't cooperate. Experts have said the blood samples could potentially be used for organ matching.



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