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WILL BIDEN REALLY STAND UP TO CHINA?

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SAUL LOEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



President Joe Biden participates in a CNN town hall at the Pabst Theater in Milwaukee

OPINION

Biden's Misinterpretation of Chinese History May Affect US Policy Toward China

ZHONG YUAN

hen CNN asked U.S. President Ioe Biden about his China policy during a televised event held in Milwaukee on Feb. 16, he said he couldn't then made bizarre remarks. He not only misinterpreted Chinese history but also justified Communist Party leader Xi Jinping's authoritarian policies. The direction of the new administration's China policy is truly

"If you know anything about Chinese history, it has always beenthe time when China has been victimized by the outer world is when they haven't been unified at home," Biden said.

"So the central—to vastly overstate it—the central principle of Xi Jinping is that there must be a united, tightly controlled China. And he uses his rationale for the things he does based on that."

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His statements are surprising because such rhetoric usually comes from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). No wonder former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo immediately said Biden was echoing "Chinese propaganda" with regards to the CCP's human rights abuses against minorities and political dissidents.

The history that Biden was referring to is the past 71 years in China—the shameful history after the CCP seized power. Biden was born in 1942. It isn't unusual for him to lack knowledge about Chinese history. In fact, most Americans and even many Chinese people don't understand Chinese history. The CCP has tampered with Chinese history textbooks and deceived generations of Chinese with their inaccuracies.

Biden's statement, "when China has been victimized by the outer world" refers to incidents that only happened after the CCP seized power. In fact, the last time China was victimized by outsiders was during the War of Resistance against Japanese aggression during World War II. The CCP may also consider the Korean War as the last time China was victimized. However, the Korean War was supported by the CCP, and the outside world didn't invade China.

The CCP sees China as the victim when it was isolated from the world before the United States developed diplomatic relations with Beijing. However, the CCP had ousted U.S. itself off. During the Korean War, the CCP army supported the North Korean troops invading South Korea. The United Nations condemned the aggression of the Chinese troops and dispatched soldiers from 21 countries to aid South Korea. The CCP continued to fight the U.N. forces. How can such a government expect to be recognized by other countries?

After the CCP and the former Soviet Union feuded, military conflicts between the two occurred. The former Soviet Union threatened to use nuclear bombs on China. This may be regarded as some kind of "being victimized." In fear, the CCP rebelled from the communist camp and pretended to no longer be enemies of Western democracies. Only then did U.S.-China diplomatic relations develop and the CCP regime become recognized by the international com-

After U.S.-China diplomatic relations were established, Western society opened its doors and actually embraced the Chinese communist regime. How did the outside world victimize China? I don't understand why Biden would put it that way.

In contemporary history, China was victimized most by the Japanese invasion of its borders. The Chinese nation became unexpectedly united as never before as warlords united to counter the invasion, but not with the CCP. The CCP armed itself and played the role of a separatist to divide the

When the country was badly hit on July 7, 1937, the CCP instructed Zhang Xueliang's troops to detain then-national leader Chiang Kaishek, and tried to put him to death. But the CCP had to release Chiang because then-Soviet leader Joseph Stalin needed Chiang to lead the war against Japan. According to Biden's interpretation, the CCP should have been well aware of the need for unity in the event of a foreign invasion; but the "rationale" of the CCP leaders?

the CCP was precisely the traitor.

Today, China hasn't been victimized by the outside world. In 2020, the CCP continued on its aggressive path of global domination through its ambassador to China John Leighton wolf warrior diplomacy, and it tried to Stuart and turned itself to the com- conceal and manipulate facts about munist camp of the former Soviet the source of COVID-19, which led to cuses for Communist China's preda-Union. It stood on the opposite side a pandemic. The international comof Western democracies and closed munity wants to hold the Chinese regime accountable for the pandemic. Is the CCP being victimized or is it

victimizing the world? The CCP regards the United States as its greatest enemy, but the United States has actually been its victim. It's indeed puzzling to hear that Biden would refer to the CCP as "the most serious competitor" rather than an

Looking at China's long and true history, before 1949 when the CCP took over, for 5,000 years China hasn't been "tightly controlled," as Biden put it. There were the Hundred Schools of Thought in Chinese history. A large number of people believed in Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. The mainland was first united in the Qin Dynasty, but Qin was a short-lived dynasty because it violated the providence by trying to rule with strict laws. Unlike the dictatorship of the CCP, past dynasties had governed the people with benevolence, and each kept China on the world stage for hundreds of years. There has never been so-called tight control—the way the CCP is ruling China. Biden's "tightly controlled China" doesn't exist in authentic Chi-

Even the former Kuomintang (KMT) government, which the CCP has always slandered, had allowed the CCP's official newspaper Xinhua Daily to operate and publish. Lu Xun, who was repeatedly praised by the CCP, had been writing articles cursing the KMT, but he was still allowed to publish articles at will. After the KMT government retreated to Taiwan, it finally realized democracy in Taiwan. Biden's "tightly controlled China" only occurs in the mainland under the control of the CCP. The CCP can't wait to "tightly control" Hong Kong, and the next step is to "tightly control" Taiwan. As far as the truly "tightly controlled China" is concerned, why is Biden trying to justify

Biden said, "Culturally, there are different norms that each country and, their leaders are expected to

In response to this statement, Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.) wrote on Twitter, "Why is our President making ex-

Biden doesn't know China's history and certainly doesn't know China's true culture. The "tightly controlled China" has never been a part of traditional Chinese culture. The CCP has almost completely destroyed traditional Chinese culture with its socialist and communist ideologies, or Party culture, that have been harming the country and the people. The Chinese culture that Biden refers to and perceives is actually the Party culture of the CCP.

As the president of the United States, how can Biden determine an appropriate policy toward China

based on such misunderstandings? I believe there are people in the Biden administration who really know Chinese history and culture, and I hope they'll speak up soon. It needs to be pointed out that the Biden team hasn't been able to clearly distinguish the CCP from China, and the CCP regime from the Chinese people. Biden's words show that he makes no distinction between traditional Chinese culture and CCP culture, which is indeed concerning. This could be the result of the infiltration of the CCP's Confucius Institutes in the United States, and of course, Xi Jinping will also try his best to promote the CCP's rhetoric

Biden and his administration should learn about the real history and culture of China, but not through the Confucius Institutes.

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Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of **OPINION**

Will Biden Really Stand Up to China?

U.S.-China policy lacks direction now, but what will it eventually look like?

Several cabinet

members have

close or at least

significant ties

to China.

JAMES GORRIE



How will President Joe Biden handle China? What's America's position on China's alleged slave and torture

How will Biden stop Beijing from stealing U.S. jobs and intellectual property? How will the United States deter China from invading Taiwan?

At this point, we still don't have any concrete policy statements toward China from the new administration. Unlike Trump, who made decoupling from China his guiding policy, the Biden administration has offered no such overarching policy concept.

And, given that the Biden administration has delayed forming a China policy, it's anyone's guess as to what their approach might be. However, if Biden's recent appointments are any indication, U.S. policy may be much more accommodating than that of the prior administration.

China Links

Several cabinet members have close or at least significant ties to China. That includes, of course, Biden himself. But there are also several other White House players who have disturbingly close relationships with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

For example, Douglas Emhoff, husband of Kamala Harris, has been suggested to have longstanding business ties to China via his former law firm. The firm worked closely with Chinese businesses associated with the CCP, according to the National Pulse. That's unfortunate. But since Harris occupies the vice presidency, any influence she may feel from her husband or his CCP contacts is baked into the administration.

Antony Blinken, Biden's secretary of state, may also be problematic. Blinken is cofounder of WestExec Advisors, a consulting firm that helped from China "without jeopardizing Pentagon-funded research grants," according to the Washington Free Beacon. One might imagine that tiptoeing around U.S. defense regulations to attract money from the CCP into U.S. higher education institutions would be a deal-breaker, but for Biden, apparently it's not.

pert, was an executive vice president and director of studies at the Center for a New American Security before being named the administration's chief principal adviser on China at the Pentagon. Ratner is a long-time Biden aide who, perhaps not so coincidentally, was also a colleague of Blinken at WestExec. That, too, may be problematic.

Then there's Colin Kahl, Biden's choice for undersecretary of defense. Kahl is a senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University, which has a deep relationship with China's Peking University. According to the Free Beacon, the latter institution is directed by CCP ex-head-spy Qiu Shuiping and has been linked to espionage cases in the United States.

Notably, a warning from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute underscores the "high risk" of partnering with Peking University due to its close ties with China's military establishment, the Free Beacon notes. Again, if one is known by the company one keeps, such a close connection to the CCP ought to throw at least a shadow of doubt on Kahl's judgement. But not for the Biden administration.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, a veteran of the State Department and Biden's pick for U.N. ambassador, also has questionable ties to China. She's a former senior vice president for the Albright-Stonebridge Group, a global business strategy and commercial diplomacy firm with offices in China and whose leadership includes a "former senior Chinese government official," Jin Ligang.

Diversity and Groupthink?

This group is representative of the Biden appointees responsible for forming a cohesive and effective China policy. Although diverse on both the gender and race scale, it be to keep the American public from seems much more aligned from an knowing or understanding a China ideological perspective.

Having everyone on the same it tends to foster group think. Policy meetings become echo chambers, where the same assumptions and analysis are baselined to similar policy objectives and interpretations of events. This particularly poses a significant risk when diplomacy becomes not just a means to an end, but an end in itself.

Ely Ratner, a veteran East Asia ex- **Diplomacy Over Outcomes?**

Biden comes from a generation where supreme American power in the world was more or less a fact. That tacit understanding allowed for the luxury of exercising diplomacy with the consequences of American power unspoken, but yet clearly understood.

Those days are ending, and in particular with regard to China. Beijing's plans don't include sharing power with the United States but rather, replacing the United States.

But does Biden understand this? Do his advisers?

Or do they think that their relationships with Beijing will give them some kind of diplomatic advantage? This may be the case, especially given that the Biden administration has branded itself much smarter and more sophisticated than the

But will the unusual degree of financial engagement with China on the part of the administration result in outcomes that favor American interests? Or will they result in an overreliance on short-term diplomatic gestures that cede American power to Beijing over concrete actions that challenge China?

Challenging China, after all, isn't easy politically at home or abroad. Recall, for example, how little the Trump administration relied on the nuance of diplomacy when dealing with China. Rather, Trump relied on using hard-hitting trade policies to bring China to the negotiation table. Still, he was roundly criticized here and overseas.

Like Obama before him, Biden's approach is based on outmoded assumptions and multilateral globalist objectives rather than more narrow American interests. That may be why no China policy has been annunciated from Washington. It seems probable that Biden's biggest challenge will policy that doesn't favor America.

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





Chinese leader Xi Jinping and then-Secretary of State John Kerry (R) listens as then-Vice President Joe Biden speaks during a State Luncheon for China hosted by Kerry at the Department of State in

ate with the regime given the conditions

"China's position is that you either

have good relationships with us on ev-

erything, or on nothing," Chang said.

"If we're given that choice, it should

be nothing. Because China is trying to

a constructive discussion."

constrict those areas where we can have

In any event, the United States does not

"The Chinese are on the same planet that

need to offer anything to get the regime

to take action on climate, Chang noted.

we are," he said. "So they've got the same

interest in preventing climate change to

the extent that it's occurring, so we don't

Any negotiations with the regime on

climate change would also be a waste

of time, according to Clyde Prestowitz,

Down: America, China, and The Strug-

Prestowitz, who was a trade negotia-

tor for the Reagan administration, said

author of "The World Turned Upside

need to give them anything for it."

gle for Global Leadership."

Major Audit Firms Draw Heat Over Allegations of Misconduct in China

wo of the "big four" global accounting firms are facing scrutiny in China for audits related In February, a staffer at Deloitte's China affiliate sent a 55-page PowerPoint presentation to employees documenting alleged auditing and oversight violations in the firm's audits of Chinese clients. The presentation went viral on Chinese social media Weibo and Zhihu, with many online commentators expressing support for the whistleblower and calling for government investigations into auditing practices.

The presentation, drafted by an unidentified Beijing-based employee who referred to themself as YW, detailed several potential auditing issues dating back to 2016 and involving 10 clients.

Some of the more material accusations involve senior managers of the firm failing to abide by proper auditing procedures. For example, during the audit of RYB Education—a New York Stock Exchange-listed company—the whistleblower found certain information in the auditing wallpapers that weren't consistent with actual receipts and vouchers provided by the company and was told that they "needn't to be so careful, [and] just fill in it casually," the presentation

In another instance related to RYB Edu cation, the auditor found certain expenses incurred by the company were not business-related but personal overseas shopping and consumption expenses of the company's senior management, including golf tuition paid for the founder's child in New York. After raising these issues to senior management at Deloitte, the whistleblower alleged that no further investigation was deemed necessary by Deloitte managers and partners.

The whistleblower also alleged that the partner in charge of Deloitte's RYB audit accepted a gift card to a beauty salon worth tens of thousands of yuan from the client, and increased audit fees charged to RYB in exchange for covering up certain problems for the company. That could jeopardize the independence of

RYB Education itself hasn't been free of

controversy. The education services provider in 2017 was accused of child abuse at a Beijing nursery after Chinese state media Xinhua reported that children were reportedly sexually molested and pierced by needles.

Other clients named in the presentation include Sinotrans, a subsidiary of state-owned conglomerate China Merchants Group, LG CNS China, a subsidiary of Korean conglomerate LG, and China Boqi Environmental.

"Deloitte's toleration, connivance, shielding, and concealment of the personnel involved in the audit quality problems have seriously damaged the order of domestic and foreign financial markets, affected the quality of audit reports, and brought huge risks to the investment decision," the presentation's author concluded.

Deloitte said that it was aware of the allegations and have internally reviewed the matter, "and found no evidence that affects the adequacy of our audit work," a Feb. 5 Deloitte statement reads.

The presentation also drew the scrutiny of Chinese regulators. China's Ministry of Finance reportedly has called a meeting with Deloitte China's management.

Deloitte, which is one of the world's largest accounting firms, along with PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG, and Ernst & Young, isn't the only big four firm mired in controversy in China. Ernst & Young is also facing whistleblower claims related to audit work for major Chinese clients. According to a UK Telegraph report, a whistleblower accused senior EY managers of "looking the other way when large client Xinwei Group

failed to disclose a risky stock purchase." Ernst & Young did not respond to a request by The Epoch Times for comment.

It's arguable whether these infractions are material enough to alter the audit opinion of these companies' financial statements. But the claims do offer a window into arcane intricacies of the auditing profession, and could bring about more regulation and scrutiny around the ethics and procedures of auditors.

Auditing, With Chinese Characteristics There are a few ways to dissect these al-

For one, it is well known that during

the annual busy season, auditors are extremely busy and need to review hundreds if not thousands of documents per week. According to a big four staffer in New York who wished to remain anonymous, at a micro-level, small infractions are common and senior audit managers must constantly juggle meeting tight deadlines, versus addressing and documenting audit issues raised.

Some issues are indeed "documented away" if they are deemed too immaterial to alter the outcome of the audit or integrity of the financials, the source said. But small items do add up. This is one reason why audit quality among the big firms have been called into question. EY is facing scrutiny in Europe following the collapse of once high-flying German payments provider Wirecard. In 2020, KPMG was sued in the UK for its audit of bankrupt British construction giant

Large Chinese companies are audited by local affiliates of big four auditors who don't answer to the PCAOB or the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

In its latest report, the U.S. Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB)—the industry oversight body for auditors—found that 30 percent of all PricewaterhouseCoopers and KPMG's audits in 2020 had significant deficiencies, with EY and Deloitte at 18 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

Compounding these issues are challenges that are more specific to China.

There have been a series of financial scandals involving U.S.-listed Chinese businesses, most notably Chinese coffee chain Luckin Coffee, which was delisted from Nasdag in 2020 after the company was found to have fabricated sales. Other U.S.-listed Chinese firms, including TAL Education Group and iQiyi, have been the target of whistleblowers and short-sellers for alleged accounting and financial improprieties.

Large Chinese companies are audited by local affiliates of big four auditors who don't answer to the PCAOB or the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) leadership views the accounts and financial records of Chinese companies as confidential and private "state se-

But U.S. regulators have begun to push back. The Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act was signed into law in December to force U.S.-listed foreign companies to submit to PCAOB inspection or face delisting.

The risk of arbitrary government inter-

ference and executives' acquiescence to the ruling CCP regime presents another challenge, one which is harder to overcome than access to audit work papers. Chinese companies, even privately owned ones, must implicitly answer to the local CCP bosses and Party cells. Almost every company in China has CCP members who implicitly answer directly to the CCP in addition to their duties to the company. It's one of the key reasons why Huawei—a privately owned company—poses a national security risk to

the United States. There are allegedly thousands of CCP members employed by the big four accounting firms in China, including at least one partner at each of the four firms, according to a recent Telegraph report. EY and Deloitte each employ more than 800 CCP members.

Yang Jie, a partner at KPMG China, was quoted on a Chinese website praising the country's ruling regime, stating that "we often organize to learn the spirit of the party, and Xi Jinping thought of reforming and arming us," the Telegraph reported. She also participated in the 19th National Congress in 2017 as an honorable representative.

This fact itself isn't breaking news. Almost anyone important in China is a CCP member, including corporate executives and wealthy entrepreneurs (such as Jack Ma).

Yet we know that the CCP demands absolute loyalty from its members and party interests are often paramount. This further complicates the role of auditors, whose fiduciary duty is to the public markets and independent shareholders of the companies they audit, not the CCP.

JUAVA DESIGNS/SHUTTERSTOCK

US-CHINA

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Beijing Wants to Sway US Policy Using Climate Change, Experts Warn

CATHY HE

The Biden administration should not allow the Chinese regime to use climate change as a bargaining chip to extract concessions in other areas, according to China experts.

The warning comes as the United States formally rejoined the Paris agreement on Feb. 19. President Joe Biden has described climate change as an "existential threat" and vowed to do more to reduce carbon emissions. But analysts are concerned that this may lead the United States to become cozier with the Chinese regime

While Biden officials have broadly indicated they would continue the Trump administration's tough-on-China posture, they have also pointed to "cooperative" aspects of the U.S.-China relationship.

On the campaign trail, Biden said he'd work with the regime in areas of common interest, such as climate change

and preventing nuclear proliferation. Experts fear that U.S. cooperation on climate change could lead the administration to give ground in other key domains such as human rights, trade, and national security.

The Chinese regime has already indicated that the United States would have to accept its own terms before the two sides could work together.

"China is ready to cooperate with the United States and the international community on climate change," Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Jan. 28.

"That said, I'd like to stress that China-U.S. cooperation in specific areas ... is closely linked with bilateral relations as a whole," Zhao continued, adding the regime has repeatedly emphasized that "no one should imagine they could ask China to understand and support them in bilateral and global affairs when they blatantly interfere in China's domestic affairs and undermine China's interests."

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has labeled a range of topics such as its repression of minorities in Xinjiang and Tibet, the crackdown in Hong Kong, and intimidation of Taiwan as part of its core interests, and not open for discussion.

Zhao's comments were made after Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry pledged that important issues including the CCP's theft of intellectual property (IP) and military aggression in the South China Sea "will never be traded for anything that has to do with climate."

But Kerry added that "climate is a critical standalone issue," noting that China is the world's largest emitter of green-

house gases at about 30 percent. "So it's urgent that we find a way to compartmentalize, to move forward," he

Gordon Chang, author of "The Coming Collapse of China," recently told The Epoch Times that it would not be possible for the United States to cooper-

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

"China is not going to negotiate any deal

that would be acceptable to us." "You cannot rely on China to keep its

word," he added.

China's position is that

everything, or on nothing. Gordon Chang, author of "The

Coming Collapse of China"

you either have good

relationships with us on

Former Trump security official Matthew Pottinger has similarly warned about getting stuck in "negotiation traps" set by Beijing. He said successive U.S. administrations squandered years in formal talks with China that did not yield concrete results, which allowed the regime to continue harmful actions against the United States such as IP theft.

To cut emissions, Chang suggested the United States stop buying from China and start re-shoring manufacturing back to the United States, given that the

shipping industry is a heavy polluter. "That way will do a lot for the climate, in addition to having, of course, some other very critical knock-on benefits for us," he said.



Then-Vice President Joe Biden and Chinese Vice Chair Xi Jinping talk during an expanded bilateral meeting with other U.S. and Chinese officials at the White House on Feb. 14, 2012.

US-CHINA

Rep. Banks Leads Republican Study Committee in Large-Scale Campaign to Counter CCP

BOWEN XIAO

For the first time in its history, the Republican Study Committee (RSC)—the largest conservative caucus on Capitol Hill—will make countering the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) a key part of its agenda under the leadership of its newly elected chairman, Rep. Jim Banks (R-Ind.).

As part of this large-scale effort, Banks said that he and others in the House committee will introduce more than 20 bills this week alone dedicated to confronting the China threat and holding the Biden administration accountable for weak poli-

The legislative barrage will touch upon a wide range of issues broadly focused on pushing back against the CCP's influence in the United States.

"We've made countering communist China a platform of the RSC for the first time, under my leadership," Banks told The Epoch Times. "It deserves our attention, and as the largest caucus, our members understand this is the greatest threat that

we face and that we have to confront it." The focus on the CCP is "uniformly sup-

ing the 116th Congress, there were 148 members of the committee, which accounted for nearly 75 percent of Republicans. Banks said the caucus

is in some ways an "internal policy think tank within the Republican Conference" that is dedicated to upholding conservative principles. As part of this agenda,

there will be full-time staff in the RSC devoted solely to this effort. The committee will also bring in leading thinktank experts to help craft policy solutions, according to Banks.

Rep. Jim Banks (R-Ind.)

on Capitol Hill on March

27, 2019.

Banks is introducing a number of measures including the "Stop Funding the PLA Act," which will protect U.S. investments from flowing to China's military-industrial base. Other RCS members are introducing legislation that would stop Biden from removing Huawei from the Commerce Department's entity list and legislation to stop Biden from lifting sanctions on People's ported within the caucus," said Banks. Dur- Liberation Army-linked firms.

"China's objective is to dominate the United States of America economically and militarily, to become the hegemonic power of the entire world, and to put the United

States of America under its thumb," the congressman said. "And for years, they've been steadily marching towards that end goal."

The RSC will continue this effort in thelongterm.Banks said countering Beijing will be a "very organization over the next couple of

During a town hall on Feb. 16, Biden appeared to downplay the genocide against the Uyghur population in China by saying that different countries and their leaders can be expected to follow "different norms." The president's comments

sparked criticism, and Banks described them as "deeply, deeply trou-

"I'm not quite sure what to make of it," he said. "It's so off the wall and wrong. It's really hard for me to wrap my head around." A number of Biden's Cabinet have made friendly overtures to the CCP, Banks said. In confirmation hearings, several members of Biden's administration declined to call the CCP an adversary and pivoted instead toward Biden's definition of China

as a key global competitor. On his first day at the job, Secretary of State Antony Blinken—who has a decades-

old relationship with Biden—told reporters the U.S.-China relationship is "arguably the most important relationship that we have in the world."

Blinken said he favors cooperation with China on climate change and other issues of shared concern, while also endorsing the determination made by the previous administration that China is committing genocide against Muslims in Xinjiang.

We've made countering communist China a platform of the RSC for the first time, under my leadership.

Rep. Jim Banks (R-Ind.)

Meanwhile, Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo, Biden's nominee to be secretary of the Department of Commerce, has refused to commit to keeping Huawei Technologies on the Commerce Department's Entity List, which would stop it from acquiring U.S. technology.

Banks said the friendly approach toward China is "deeply concerning" and pointed out that Biden has refused to directly call China a threat, in contrast to how former President Donald Trump handled the country. Under the Trump administration, the United States escalated its countermeasures and employed a more hard-hitting approach toward countering Beijing.

Biden spoke with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Feb. 10. According to a readout of the call, they discussed China's unfair economic practices, the suppression in Hong Kong, human rights abuses in Xinjiang, and assertive actions in the Indo-Pacific region, including toward Taiwan.



A Deloitte ad at an airport in Beijing on Oct. 30, 2018.

CCP Withheld Pandemic-Relevant Data From Public, Leaked Documents Reveal

large amount of data on influenza and other diseases that have symptoms similar to COVID-19, but hasn't disclosed it to the outside world.

Since completing an investigation into the origins of the CCP (Chinese toring data collected by the regime. Communist Party) virus pandemic, experts on the team assigned by the WHO regime's refusal to provide the related

Dominic Dwyer, a member of the WHO expert team and an Australian infectious disease expert, said that when the WHO expert team conducted an investigation into the source of the epidemic in Wuhan, the CCP refused to provide raw data of of the outbreak, The Wall Street Journal reported on Feb. 12.

The CCP also refused to provide data on pneumonia patients who may have mendations issued by the Beijing Chaoybeen infected by the virus earlier than ang District Public Health Management

December 2019. provided influenza surveillance data children's hospital and one general hospital. The report cites WHO experts regime's refusal to provide COVID-19 origin tracing data is its lack of early influenza data.

CHINESE REGIME

ained a number of internal documents issued in 2019 and 2020 by the Chinese **Previous Investigations** regime's health departments and centers for disease control that hadn't been disclosed to the public. It's unclear if this information was provided to the WHO. In a response to a query from The Epoch

nternal documents that were leaked Times, a spokesperson for the WHO said to The Epoch Times show that the the body was "awaiting the full report Chinese communist regime has a of the international team that will have more details."

> The documents recorded sharp increases in influenza cases and clustered fever outbreaks of an unidentified pathogen, as well as a large cache of influenza moni-

One of the documents is the 12th issue of the "Infectious Disease Epidemic have complained about the Chinese Information" report of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of Meihekou City in Jilin Province, published in December 2019.

It reports: "This month, 234 cases [of influenza] were reported, with an incidence rate of 40.70/100,000, an increase of 11600.00% compared with the previous month. An increase of 46.25% when 174 COVID-19 patients in the early stages compared with the same period in the previous year."

Another document is a report of recent influenza prevention and control recom-Committee on Dec. 6, 2019. It revealed According to the report, the CCP only an increase in infections in Chaoyang district between Sept. 1, 2019, and Dec. from before December 2019 from one 5, 2019. During those three months, there were four outbreaks of fever in clusters, of which one was an adenovirus outbreak, who said that one of the reasons for the one was caused by parainfluenza, and the other two had "no common respiratory pathogens detected."

In February 2020, CCP leader Xi Jinping inspected the epidemic prevention work

On Feb. 26, 2020, the Hebei Provincial Health Commission forwarded the "Letter on Requesting Cooperation in Tracing the Origin of [Virus] on Wild Animals" issued by the National Health Commis-



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A guard wearing personal protective equipment stands at the entrance of the Hubei Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention as members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of COVID-19 visit Wuhan on Feb. 1, 2021

sion to the health departments of various cities in the province. The document required the forestry and agricultural departments to conduct epidemiological investigations on wild animals, and sampling and testing of environmental and animal samples.

It also required all the blood samples collected from the close contacts to be sent to the local provincial centers for disease control for safekeeping until in Chaoyang district, where multiple out-However, The Epoch Times recently obbreaks of COVID-19 occurred that year. specified that after other environmental ket tested positive, and didn't disclose VID-19 nucleic acid testing, the results tracing the virus to its source, including should be reported to the local public the internal documents obtained by The security department.

Both the forwarding notice and the official letter on COVID-19 virus origin tracing from the National Health Com-

mission are marked as "non-disclosure to the public."

In December 2019, the Wuhan municipal government and China's National Health Commission conducted several investigations into and took samples at the Wuhan Huanan Seafood Market, which the Chinese regime initially claimed to be "ground zero" of the CO-VID-19 outbreak. Afterward, the regime only announced that environmental and animal samples went through CO- other information that could help with

Epoch Times. A few other internal documents obtained by The Epoch Times show that the regime holds a large amount of in-

fluenza data and issued a secret notice at the end of 2019 to not disclose it to the public, including a document of "Daily Intelligence Meeting Minutes" from China's National Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and monitor reports of influenza issued by regional centers for disease control and health departments.

These documents reveal that in 2019, at least four sentinel hospitals in Wuhan were monitoring the influenza epidemic and collecting biological samples of influenza patients, who share similar symptoms with those suffering from CO-VID-19. The hospitals sent the samples to their collaborating laboratories in Wuhan for testing and preservation.

Long Tengyun contributed to this report.

The documents recorded sharp increases in influenza cases and clustered fever outbreaks of an unidentified pathogen, as well as a large cache of

influenza monitoring data

collected by the regime.

HECTOR RETAMAL /AFP VIA GETTY IMAGE



A girl holds a firecracker in an alleyway in Beijing during the Lantern Festival, which marks the end of celebrations for the Chinese New Year period

CHINESE REGIME

Chinese Regime Promotes Its Own Agenda Under Disguise of Reviving Traditional Culture: Experts

ALEX WU

Major Chinese media outlets reported on Feb. 14 that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) rolled out a new policy to revive traditional Chinese culture by 2025. However, the policy was criticized by media and China commentators who accuse the regime of using traditional culture as a facade for its own political gain, while destroying its essence.

The newly issued policy, called "Major National Policy of the State Council: Comprehensive Rejuvenation of Traditional Culture by 2025," reiterates a policy from a similar document issued in 2017. The new policy requests all levels of the CCP to support traditional culture. It declares that China will "rejuvenate traditional culture in an all-around way by 2025." The CCP is also requiring the implementation of the so-called "Chinese Traditional Festival Revitalization Project" in the policy.

Hu Ping, honorary editor-in-chief of Beijing Spring, a popular Chinabased political magazine, told Radio Free Asia that the CCP was initially established on the basis of opposing traditional culture. The CCP is a political group that is the most hostile toward traditional Chinese culture, Hu said.

He cited the example of the CCP's destruction of temples dedicated to Confucius. Structures dedicated to worshipping Confucius and other sages in Confucianism were built in various regions of China since the fifth century. But they were destroyed during the Cultural Revolution, which was a mass anti-cultural political movement launched by then-Communist Party leader Mao Zedong. The Cultural Revolution lasted for 10 years (1966-1976) with countless artifacts, architecture, and antiques destroyed, and tens of millions of people persecuted to death.

"Therefore, it is a huge irony in itself that the Communist Party now plays a role of inheriting and carrying forward traditional culture," Hu said.

Hu believes that the CCP's new policy is merely a propaganda slogan, using the "symbols" of Chinese traditional culture as its facade while destroying the most precious soul and essence of Chinese traditional culture.

As widely reported, China has recently been aggressively repairing traditional Buddhist and Taoist temples, Hu said. But in actuality, it controls and suppresses traditional religious activities more severely. It does not truly respect religious freedom and what it expresses on the surface completely contradicts what it is actually doing, he added.

China-based independent media commentator Wu Te told The Epoch Times on Feb. 16 that the CCP's purpose is not to revive tra-

ditional culture, but to "promote its own agenda under the guise of reviving traditional culture."

Wu said that communism has gone bankrupt and cannot attract believers. In recent years, China's economic development has stagnated and the CCP is facing a crisis of legitimacy. Therefore, the CCP has turned to using "nationalism and traditional culture" to deceive people.

He pointed out, "If the CCP really cares about the protection of traditional culture, it will not harass Shen Yun performances overseas, nor will it suppress traditional religious beliefs such as Buddhism and Taoism in China."

Shen Yun is a performing arts group that seeks to revive traditional Chinese culture through music and dance. The independent company is based in New York and tours all over the world every year.

China-based independent media commentator Wu Te told The Epoch Times that the CCP's purpose is not to revive traditional culture, but to 'promote its own agenda under the guise of reviving traditional culture.'

tice, involving arbitrary detention, forced labor, brainwashing,

torture, and even death. Beijing often pressures theaters and governments around the world to pull the show, and has occasionally succeeded.

Chinese internet writer Jing Chu told The Epoch Times that this new policy shows that communism is completely bankrupt and that the CCP cannot sustain its grip over people. Therefore, the CCP tries to use different methods to maintain its regime. It wants to find "ideological resources with Chinese characteristics" from traditional

Jing pointed out that commutional Chinese culture. Confucianism teaches "benevolence, justice, the basic ethics of mankind; while the CCP speaks of "fighting against

Luo Ya and Zhang Dun contributed

Chinese Regime Worried That the Northeast Will Erupt in Protest Due to Economic Stagnation: Insider

NICOLE HAO

As people in northeastern China grow increasingly dissatisfied with the central government's neglect of the region's economic development, authorities are worried that mass protests could soon break out, according to an insider.

The insider, who requested anonymity in order to speak freely, formerly worked for a senior official at the Chinese Communist Party's United Front Work Department (UFWD). The agency is in charge of persuading Chinese people domestic and abroad to agree with the Party's policies and maintain the Party's rule.

The Chinese government is worried that northeastern China will follow Tibet and Xinjiang and seek independence.

While the insider caught up with his former superior during Lunar New Year, the latter revealed the central government's chief concerns.

"Both the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) and the United Front Work Department (UFWD) is monitoring the enormous amount of resentment that northeasterners have toward the central

government. They [authorities] are working hard to censor the public opinions" and prevent tensions from escalating, the insider said. The CAC is China's chief internet censorship authority.

Northeastern China is made up of three provinces: Liaoning, Jilin, and Heilongjiang. About 40 years ago, the region contributed about 14 percent to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). But that figure has dropped to five percent in 2020.

Roughly 107.9 million people live in the region, or about 8 percent of the country's total population.

But the population is declining, as the local birth rate has plummeted (0.61 percent in 2019) and hundreds of thousands relocate to other regions for better economic opportunities.

"The Chinese government is worried that northeastern China will follow Tibet and Xinjiang and seek independence," the insider said. "This is one of the biggest concerns that the regime has right now." For centuries, Tibet and Xinjiang were self-governed regions under the Chinese empire. After the Party invaded those areas, the Chinese regime subjected the local population to brutal suppression, which

in turn triggered dissent against its rule. The insider also explained that northeastern China was being ignored due to political infighting within the Party.

Northeastern China is rich in coal, petroleum, iron, and other natural resources. It



A miner sits near the Sunjiawan Coal Mine accident site in Fuxin, northeast China's Liaoning Province on Feb. 18, 2005.

also has fertile soil. During the early 20th century, under warlords and as a puppet state of the Japanese empire, Manchukuo, the region built up heavy industry, advanced telecommunication networks, and over 4,300 miles of railroads.

After the CCP took over China in 1949, the area slowly developed energy, mining, auto and aircraft manufacturing, and agricultural-related businesses.

In the 1980s, when China began economic reforms and foreign imports skyrocketed, domestic sectors lagged behind. Then, in the late 1990s, the Chinese government issued new policies that led to several million workers in northeastern China losing their jobs.

When Hu Jintao was Chinese leader from 2002 to 2012, the region gained more support from the central government and welBut its economy started a steep decline

comed a new period of development.

Biased Policy

China's central government has the power to decide where to devote more resources and investments.

The insider said the senior UFWD official told him that cities can develop quickly if the central government issues favorable policies, and provides land, manpower, and investment to them.

Conversely, those regions not favored by the regime will likely not flourish. The official gave the example of Dalian and Shenyang in northeastern China, which have large populations but have failed to flourish economically.

At present, nine cities are designated as national centers, meaning they receive significant investment from the central government: Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chongqing, Chengdu, Zhengzhou, Wuhan, and Xi'an.

Shenyang and Changchun from northeastern China are among those running to become the tenth national center. Though the region spans over one million

square kilometers, or about seven times the size of New York state, it doesn't yet have a national center. According to data issued by China's Na-

tional Bureau of Statistics, the total amount of fixed assets investment in China increased by 5.1 percent in 2019. But the fixed assets investment figure actually dropped

three percent for the northeastern region. By comparison, central China's figure in-

The insider explained that locals believed Chinese leader Xi Jinping was not willing to develop the northeastern region due to his rivalry with former powerful official Bo Xilai, who moved up the political ladder while serving in the officialdom of Liaon-

After Xi took the reins, Bo fell from grace in a dramatic episode involving his former lieutenant attempting to seek asylum at an American consulate and his wife being suspected of killing a British businessman. Bo was removed from office and expelled from the Party on corruption charges. In

Northeasterners believe that Xi is discriminating against the region due to the region's past affiliation with Bo, the insider explained. "The northeast is a victim of factional struggles."

creased by 9.5 percent.

Infighting

ing Province.

"People in northeastern China have great anger toward Xi Jinping. Their resentment is becoming more and more intensified, acute," the insider quoted the senior UFWD official as saying. "The officials there are dissatisfied with Xi as well."

When Xi came to power in 2012, the Party was dominated by a faction loyal to former Party leader Jiang Zemin. The faction was planning a coup, to have the Jiang loyalist Bo Xilai usurp Xi. The plan did not bear

2013, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Shen Yun has drawn the ire of the Chinese regime over its depiction of scenes exposing the persecution of spiritual group Falun Gong on stage. Since 1999, adherents of Falun Gong have been subject to Beijing's sweeping campaign to eradicate the prac-

Chinese culture, he said.

nism is totally at odds with tradicourtesy, wisdom, and trust," as the heavens, the earth, and others for endless joy" (Mao's famous slogan).

CHINA INSIDER

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