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A TRAP:

WERE THE US-CHINA
TALKS A TRAP SET
BY THE CCP?

See Page 2

FREDRICK J. BROWN/POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Yang Jiechi (R), the director of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission Office of the Chinese Communist Party, and Wang Yi (L), China's foreign minister, arrive for a meeting with U.S. counterparts at the opening session of the U.S.–China talks at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage, Alaska, on March 18, 2021.

OPINION

US Falls Into 4 Traps Set by the CCP in US–China Talks

WANG HE

Anchorage, the largest city in Alaska, recorded a temperature as low as zero degrees Fahrenheit in the early morning on March 20. A two-day high-level talk between the United States and China has just ended in this frigid place. The high pitch of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) "wolf warriors" howl and the weak U.S. response, in contrast, are really worrying.

In short, the U.S. side fell into four traps set ingeniously by the CCP during the talks.

First, the holding of high-level talks between the United States and China is itself a CCP trap.

After President Joe Biden's inauguration on Jan. 20, U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken spoke with Yang Jiechi, a member of the CCP's Politburo, and Biden spoke with CCP leader Xi Jinping. Judging from their public statements, each side took a different tone. In fact, as far as the current state of U.S.–China relations is concerned, it's the CCP that has begged the United States to stop the decoupling and sanction. Without substantial proposals (or concessions) from the communist regime, there would be no need for the United States to hold the meeting at all. Before the U.S. administration had any clear policy toward the CCP, it actually "invited" the CCP to come to the talks, falling into the "dialogue trap" set up by the CCP.

In a press conference afterward, Yang said the U.S.–China talks were candid, constructive, and beneficial. "But, of course, there are still differences between the two sides."

"We came to the meeting with the hope that the two sides could enhance communication and dialogue on different fronts. The two sides should follow the policy of 'no conflict' to guide our path toward a healthy and stable trajectory moving forward," he said.

Secondly, Yang broke diplomatic protocol by speaking for 16 minutes, which was eight times longer than usual, and his speech was obviously scripted. In particular, Yang said in his speech, "I don't think the overwhelming majority of countries in the world would recognize the universal values advocated by the United States or that the viewpoint of the United States could represent international public opinion." This is a clear indication that in the future

The fourth trap lies in the U.S. side's intention to seek cooperation with the CCP, even when facing such fierce confrontation.

the CCP will no longer abide by the rules set by the United States.

This is a very serious provocation. U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) told The Epoch Times in an email, "Just as the Chinese delegation refused to comply with the agreed-upon rules of the meeting, Beijing refuses to comply with the rules-based international order."

The U.S. side, however, sat there obediently and listened to the end. American conservative commentator Jack Posobiec wrote on Twitter: "The obvious move would be for Blinken and Sullivan to stand up for the U.S. and kick out the CCP delegation after being disrespected. But they aren't. They're going back tomorrow to lose even more face. Hard to say how they could be any worse at this."

Thirdly, Yang drew a "red line" for the U.S. side, not the other way around.

According to a report from Nikkei Asia, Yang said, first of all, that "the United States does not have the qualification to say that it wants to speak to China from a position of strength."

Yang added that the CCP's "leadership and China's political system are supported wholeheartedly by the Chinese people, and any attempt to change China's social system will be futile," according to a March 19 press release on the website of the Chinese Embassy in the United States.

Another point Yang made in his long speech was a series of security and human rights issues the United States had raised with the Chinese side, including the CCP's persecution of Uyghurs, its suppression in Hong Kong, its economic coercion of allies, its cyberattacks on the United States, and its acts of aggression against Taiwan. Yang declared these are all China's internal affairs and that the communist regime "firmly opposes U.S. interference."

According to Yang, "What the United States should do is to ... mind its own business ... rather than making irresponsible remarks about China's human rights and democracy."

To sum up Yang's meaning in a sentence, it's what he said in his opening remarks that "there is no way to strangle China." This implies that the CCP isn't afraid to confront the United States and uses the confrontation as a means to deter the U.S. side from retreating without a fight.

The fourth trap lies in the U.S. side's intention to seek cooperation with the CCP, even when facing such fierce

confrontation. After the talks, Blinken spoke at a press conference about very specific areas where the United States and China could cooperate.

"We were also able to have a very candid conversation over these many hours on an expansive agenda. On Iran, on North Korea, on Afghanistan, on climate, our interests intersect," he said.

In addition, Biden administration officials said they were open to easing some of the visa restrictions imposed on Chinese citizens under the Trump administration. By doing so, the U.S. side swapped its offensive position with the CCP and willingly gave up its advantage.

In short, the Chinese Communist Party is more cunning and evil than most people can imagine. This round of talks was the CCP's way of testing the waters, and now it has a clear picture of the United States' intentions. It's expected to execute tougher and stronger tactics, step by step, targeting Taiwan after it has finished with Hong Kong.

Of course, there are also discerning people in the United States, such as former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. He was seemingly the first to review the meeting between the United States and China in Alaska, writing on Twitter, "Strength deters bad guys, weakness only invites war."

The U.S. side has a good hand, but it can't play it effectively. What is the problem? The U.S. policymakers must first recognize the evil nature of the Chinese communist regime and know themselves and their opponents in order to win.

Author and China expert Gordon Chang wrote on Twitter: "Yang Jiechi, in his opening remarks in Alaska, said, 'there is no way to strangle China.' Well, actually there is, and Beijing, with its increasingly dangerous conduct, will leave the world no choice but to do so."

Hopefully, Chang's voice will be heard at the U.S. policy-making level.

Wang He has master's degrees in law and history and has studied the international communist movement. He was a university lecturer and an executive of a large private firm in China. Wang now lives in North America and has published commentaries on China's current affairs and politics since 2017.

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

PROPAGANDA

Chinese Media Spin US–China Spat in Alaska as Diplomatic Win for Beijing

EVA FU

China's state-controlled media are on the offensive after top Biden administration officials and their Chinese counterparts clashed during their first in-person talks in Alaska.

The two-day meeting, covering an array of issues that have strained relations between the two countries, got off to a rocky start on March 18, with Chinese officials reacting angrily to criticisms of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP's) human rights abuses and economic coercion.

Lashing out over what they described as "unwarranted criticisms," the Chinese diplomats aired bitter denunciations that veered off the usual diplomatic proceedings, extending the allotted two-minute opening remark for each speaker to a diatribe of roughly 20 minutes. With the translation, what was initially intended to be an eight-minute photo op went on for more than an hour.

Wang Yi, China's foreign minister and state councilor, particularly took issue with the United States' sanctioning of 24 Chinese officials over Beijing's clampdown on freedom in Hong Kong on the eve of the talks, saying "this is not the way one should welcome his guests."

"The United States does not have the qualification to say that it wants to speak to China from a position of strength," senior Chinese foreign policy official Yang Jiechi said after U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, apparently taken aback, followed up with a brief speech reiterating the U.S. position.

While President Joe Biden on March 19 expressed pride in his team for how they handled the matter, mainland-controlled media have uniformly cheered on their officials' confrontational approach, while snickering at the United States.

Zhao Lijian, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, insisted at a March 19 press conference that the U.S. side "failed to keep to the set time limit and provoked disagreements first," thus bringing a strong "smell of gunpowder and drama" to the meeting—a narrative that other Chinese media soon amplified.

Guancha, a pro-Beijing site, said that the U.S. side engaged in "double standards" by making follow-up remarks but not allowing the Chinese side the opportunity to do the same, without providing the context.

Volumes of Chinese reports compiled social media comments that spoke negatively of the U.S. delegation, such as saying that their "closed off" gestures contrasted with the "confident body language" of the Chinese side.

State-run People's Daily promoted red posters featuring aggressive Chinese remarks from the meeting in both English and Chinese. Reference News, a news site under the state newspaper Xinhua, said the United

Some critics, however, believe that the heated comments should wake Americans up to the fundamental differences between the two political powers.

States "made an empty show" and "exposed its lack of confidence" by visiting other allies prior to the meeting to "create pressure."

Posturing in Battle

U.S. State Department deputy spokesperson Jalina Porter told reporters on March 19 that the Biden administration is aware that Beijing's "exaggerated diplomatic presentations in front of the media are aimed at a domestic audience." She said the department will continue to "lay out our common interests and principles from the United States."

Some critics, however, believe that the heated comments should wake Americans up to the fundamental differences between the two political powers.

The public blowup in Alaska is a "serious provocation," signaling that "in the future, the CCP will no longer abide by the rules set by the United States," said Wang He, a Chinese political affairs commentator.

The fact that the Biden administration remains eager to seek cooperation with the Chinese regime on areas such as climate change in the face of the fiery exchange plays right into the regime's hands and would make the U.S. side lose its advantage, he wrote in a commentary for The Epoch Times.

"[The] CCP is more cunning and evil than most people can imagine. This round of talks was the CCP's way of testing the waters, and now, it has a clear picture of the United States' intentions," Wang said.

Following the meeting, Chinese media have trumpeted a growing sense of assertiveness, with Sina, a Chinese news portal, declaring that "the days when China was a silent lamb are gone forever."

"The United States had plotted a 'Hongmen Banquet'"—referring to a historical event where a Chinese warlord invited his rival to a feast with the purpose of killing him—but instead "messed up and led to its own 'Waterloo,'" the article stated.

"This first-round battle made a good play and is the prelude to a new stage of China-U.S. relationship," it said.

Hu Xijin, chief editor of the nationalist state-run tabloid Global Times, said the fallout should teach the United States and its allies to be more respectful toward the regime.

"The Chinese delegation has shown the few U.S. allies how China is dealing with the U.S. China has publicly refuted the U.S., and for those U.S. lackeys who try to bite China, please behave," he wrote in an op-ed.

The regime, following the conclusion of the meeting, has continued to assert that its affairs in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and Tibet are "untouchable red lines" and that the United States should not interfere.

Gordon Chang, a U.S.-based China expert and the author of "The Coming Collapse of China," challenged the approach of U.S. lawmakers who have so far remained supportive of maintaining good relations with Beijing.

"Policymakers say China is too big to shun. No. China is too belligerent, too dangerous, too evil to deal with. Didn't we just see that in Alaska?" Chang wrote on Twitter on March 21.

"There is, after the Alaska Meeting, no longer any point talking to China's regime. Beijing told us in no uncertain terms that we must accept its barbarism, aggression, and criminality. What more do we need to hear?"

FREDRICK J. BROWN/POOL VIA REUTERS



The Chinese delegation led by Yang Jiechi (2nd L), the director of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission Office of the Chinese Communist Party and China's state councilor and foreign minister, Wang Yi (2nd R) depart the ballroom at the conclusion of talks between the United States and China in Anchorage, Alaska, on March 19, 2021.

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ANALYSIS

Beijing Delicately Navigating Another Housing Bubble

Authorities warn of divorce loopholes, spillover from loose US monetary policy

FAN YU

Real estate is one market that proved to be resilient during 2020 as the CCP virus pandemic ravaged the world.

The Chinese real estate market has been especially buoyed by high prices and booming sales. The official National Bureau of Statistics data showed that property sales exceeded \$2.6 trillion last year after a brief pause initially because of the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus pandemic.

This trend has been encouraged by years of loose monetary policy out of CCP headquarters pre-pandemic. While the regime in Beijing has been more conservative than the United States in its stimulus programs during the pandemic, the Chinese economy has nominally been healthier rebounding from the crisis.

The resulting price surges have increasingly raised the specter of a massive housing bubble, especially among Tier 1 cities such as Shanghai, Beijing, and Guangzhou.

To be clear, the overheating market has mostly been an issue among Tier 1 or Tier 2 cities, and in locations near high-quality schools and good transportation options. Elsewhere in China, in lower-tier cities, rural areas, and certain cities in the Northeast, there are swaths of homes and apartments sitting empty.

The housing bubble also has given rise to a surge in debt, both from consumers as well as property developers. Overall Chinese debt at the end of 2020 reached 350 percent of the country's GDP.

In many ways, the Chinese housing market is a creation of the CCP. The Party needed a way for its citizens to gain wealth—aside from the domestic stock market, which has its own issues—and the property market has been a critical source of provincial and local revenues arising from taxes and fees.

But Beijing has been careful to manage the bubble. It can't afford to burst the bubble as the wealth destruction, both from a housing and a stock market perspective, would undermine the stability of its rule. So it needs to slowly inflate the market in a controlled manner, by loosening and tightening liquidity going into the real estate market as needed.

Currently, China is in one of those real estate "tightening" phases.

China regulates real estate sales more closely than the United States. There are laws governing every facet of home buying—how many homes a family can purchase, where they can

The resulting price surges have increasingly raised the specter of a massive housing bubble, especially among Tier 1 cities such as Shanghai, Beijing, and Guangzhou.

purchase, and how the purchases must be funded.

In December, regulators at the Central Economic Work Conference, which sets the agenda for China's economic development path, introduced caps for loans related to housing, mortgage, and real estate development at domestic banks.

In China's biggest real estate submarkets, authorities are clamping down on liquidity illegally flowing into real estate. The recent curbs remind one of a particular quote from Chinese leader Xi Jinping from 2017, that homes "are for living in, not for speculation."

Financial institutions in the southern city of Shenzhen were told by regulators to investigate "the flow of business loan funds into property," according to a March 16 Yicai Global report. Authorities were concerned that some individuals falsified business loan applications to funnel proceeds into real estate.

Similar mandates were issued by local regulators in Beijing, Guangzhou, and Shanghai to crack down on consumer and business loan proceeds going into real estate improperly. Interest rates on consumer and business loans were cut during the pandemic to assist small businesses reeling from demand shocks as a result of widespread lockdown.

China also fears that loose monetary policy in the United States and other nations could amplify its domestic housing bubble. Former

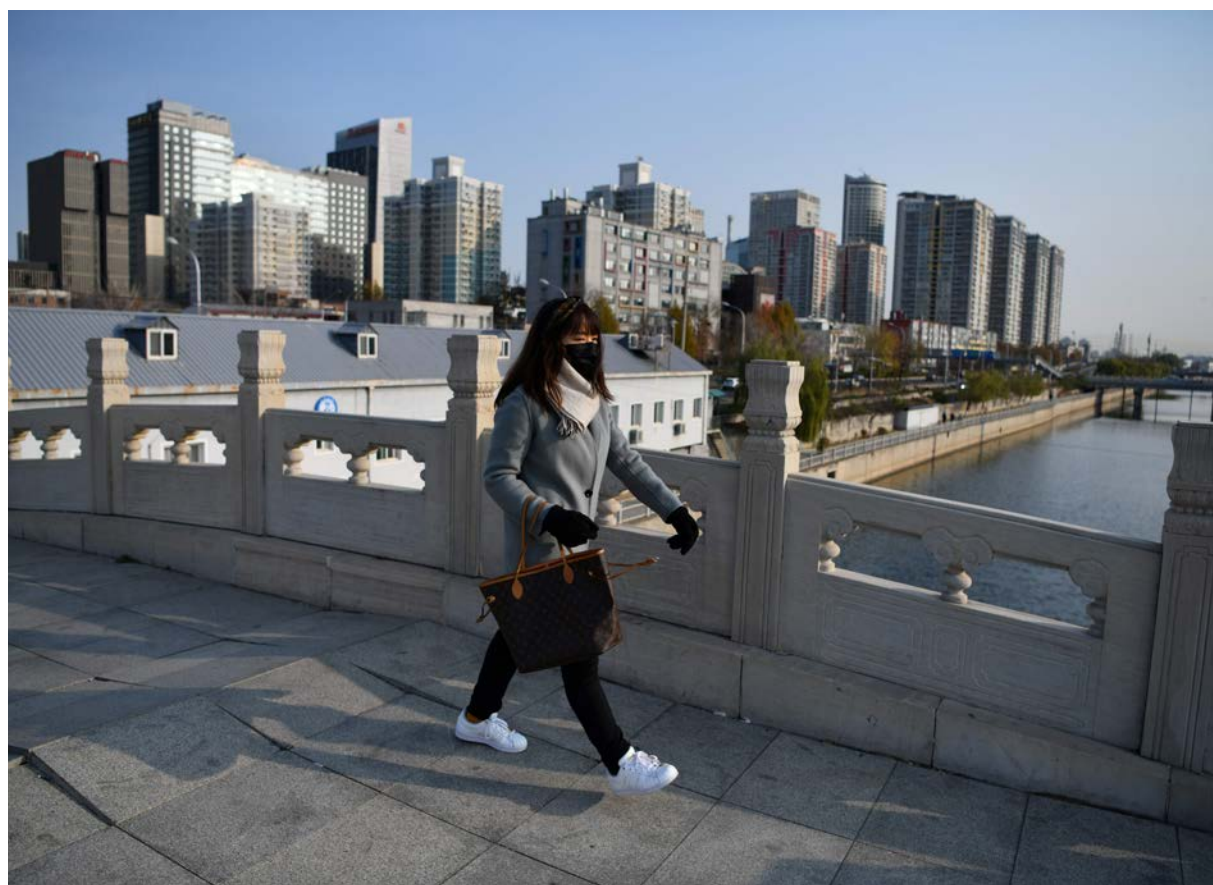
Chinese finance minister Lou Jiwei warned that the rapid expansion of the Federal Reserve's balance sheet could have negative spillover effects on China's macroeconomy, according to a policy report published by the Journal Public Finance Research earlier this month.

The premise is that as the United States and other foreign markets become unattractive due to high inflation or currency devaluation, investors may direct their funds to China and potentially pouring into its domestic real estate market.

In a regulatory action focused on personal events, authorities in certain cities (including Shanghai) are restricting home purchases from individuals who have recently divorced.

That's due to local laws in Shanghai and Beijing, where each family is only permitted to purchase two properties maximum, a restriction imposed in recent years to control housing prices in these cities. Local media report that such restrictions caused many couples to temporarily file for divorce so they can purchase two homes each as individuals, with the intention to remarry later and effectively "grandfather" their housing purchases. Authorities are investigating closing that loophole.

"We're all very optimistic that property prices in this area will continue to grow ... a divorce is the most efficient way to get to our (investment) goal," a man named Wu Xin said in a report on the Sixth Tone website.



A woman crosses a bridge near apartment and office complexes in Beijing on Dec. 1, 2020

GREG BAKER/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (bottom L) reads his work report, proposing "in-depth planning to promote 'Science and Technology Innovation 2030'" during the opening session of the rubber-stamp legislature in Beijing on March 5, 2021.

IP THEFT

CCP's New 5-Year Plan Creates More Aggressive 'Thousand Talents Plan': Chinese Expert

JENNIFER ZENG & JENNIFER BATEMAN

Making a greater effort to attract top experts from around the world was listed as a priority in China's 14th Five-Year Plan, which was just passed in the regime's recent Two Sessions meeting in Beijing on March 11.

When talking to Radio Free Asia, American-based Chinese economist Cheng Xiaonong said the new Five-Year Plan is an extension of China's previous Thousand Talents Plan. The essence is the same; both plans intend to steal foreign intellectual property and advanced technology by poaching experts from overseas.

Only the new Five-Year Plan is more aggressive.

"Previously, the so-called 'poaching' was mainly done through spies in the field of technology. Later on, the U.S. government imposed tougher control on [spying], they thought about poaching experts, together with the technology. If you succeed in poaching experts, you naturally get the technology too," said Cheng, who is also an Epoch Times contributor.

He said the goal of the new Five-Year Plan is still in key areas related to military expansion.

It lists the following key areas: quantum information, photonics and micro nanoelectronics, internet communications, artificial intelligence, biomedicine, modern energy systems, integrated circuits, life and health, brain science, bio-breeding, aerospace technology, deep sea, deep earth, polar exploration, and so on.

According to the plan, more investment will be poured into basic research, and experts will be heavily rewarded.

The so-called Thousand Talents Plan is the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) program to identify and recruit high-level overseas experts; it's been in place since December 2008.

Apart from the national level Thousand Talents Plan, the CCP also has other plans, such as the Hundred Talents Program of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Changjiang Scholars Program of the Chinese Ministry of Education, as well as a

Between 2008 and 2016, local governments of China recruited about 53,900 talents from overseas, while over 7,000 experts were recruited through the 'Thousand Talents Plan' and the 'Hundred Talents Program.'

number of local government recruitment programs.

Between 2008 and 2016, local governments of China recruited about 53,900 talents from overseas, while more than 7,000 experts were recruited through the Thousand Talents Plan and the Hundred Talents Program.

More Aggressive Policies to Attract Foreign Experts

To "create and train a high-level talent troop" and "to provide an internationally competitive and attractive environment for overseas scientists to work in China," the plan requires the implementation of a more open talent policy: constructing a scientific research and innovation highland to attract and gather outstanding experts from home and abroad.

Policies that can enable high-end foreign experts and professionals to stay and work in China, as well as a permanent residence system for foreigners, should be perfected, the plan says.

In the meantime, the establishment of a skilled migration system should be explored.

Systems should be established to ensure that foreign experts and professionals can have better salaries and benefits, social security, tax incentives, as well as good education for their children, and so forth.

The plan says that in order to "actively promote open cooperation in science and technology," a more open and inclusive, mutually beneficial, and shared international science and technology cooperation strategy should be implemented.

China should also take the lead in "designing and initiating international scientific programs and projects," allow the science funds to play a unique role, increase the opening of national science and technology programs to the outside world, launch a number of major scientific and technological cooperation projects, study the establishment of global scientific research funds, and implement scientist exchange programs.

China should also support the establishment of international scien-

tific and technological organizations in China and allow foreign scientists to hold posts in China's scientific and technological academic organizations.

Multiple 'Thousand Talent Plan' Scholars Indicted

According to a 109-page report released in November 2019 by the U.S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, the FBI "has been slow to respond to threats posed by Chinese talent recruitment plans."

The report states, "Despite the Chinese government's public announcements in 2008 of its intent to recruit overseas researchers with access to cutting-edge research and absorb, assimilate, and re-innovate technologies, the FBI did not identify Chinese talent recruitment plans as a 'threat vector' until 2015."

China is the most aggressive among countries that "seek to exploit America's openness to advance their own national interests," the report states. "Federal agencies are not prepared to prevent China from transferring taxpayer-funded research and stealing intellectual property."

Since 2018, the FBI has increased the number of arrests and prosecutions of Thousand Talents scholars.

In April 2019, former GE engineer Xiaoqing Zheng was charged by the FBI with economic espionage and theft of GE's trade secrets. Meanwhile, the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas removed three of five scientists who had ties to the Thousand Talents Plan and were identified by U.S. federal authorities as being involved in Chinese efforts to steal American research.

Before the U.S. government ordered the CCP to close its Houston consulate in July 2020, the FBI in Houston had been investigating Chinese nationals' efforts to funnel advanced research from Houston's University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center back to China.

Keiping Xie, a former professor in gastroenterology research at the MD Anderson Cancer Center, and a

member of Thousand Talents Plan, was part of the FBI's focus.

In September 2019, Thousand Talents Plan scholar Yiheng Zhang, a former professor at Virginia Tech, was found guilty of conspiracy to defraud, including charges that he used \$1.1 million in research funding he applied for in the United States for research projects in China.

In May 2020, Xiao-Jiang Li, a former Emory University professor and Thousand Talents Plan participant, was convicted and sentenced for filing a false tax return. He was accused of replicating his U.S. research for the Chinese Academy of Sciences and earning at least \$500,000.

In June 2020, Charles Lieber, former chair of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Harvard University, was indicted on charges of making false statements to federal authorities regarding his participation in China's Thousand Talents Plan.

He was accused of receiving \$50,000 per month in salary, \$158,000 per year in living expenses, and more than \$1.5 million in research funding from Wuhan University of Technology in China.

In September 2020, Turab Lookman, a former employee of Los Alamos National Laboratory, was sentenced to five years of probation and fined \$75,000 for lying about his participation in the Thousand Talents Plan.

Emily Weinstein, a research analyst at the Center for Security and Emerging Technology at Georgetown University, is in charge of the Thousand Talents Program Tracker, "a catalogue of Chinese Party-State-sponsored initiatives aimed at cultivating China's domestic talent pool in support of China's strategic civilian and military goals," according to its website.

She said in December 2020: "At this point, it would be really hard to find people putting [their participation in] Thousand Talents on a resume in the U.S. That doesn't mean that all talent programs are gone."

"Thousand Talents was merged into a different talent program with a new name—it is now the High-End Foreign Expert Recruitment Program."

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OPINION

CCP Seeks to Redefine ‘Human Rights’ in Attack on America



A reenactment of one of the torture methods employed by the CCP officials to coerce Falun Gong practitioners to renounce their faith.

ALEX NEWMAN



Under the guise of highlighting alleged “human rights” abuses in the United States, a new report set to be released soon by the Chinese Communist Party aims to completely redefine the very concept of rights.

This is extremely dangerous.

Of course, the irony of having the most murderous dictatorship in all of human history accuse the freest nation in human history of being a serial human rights abuser is off the charts. Literally, no government in world history has slaughtered as many people as the CCP over its decades in power. And no government in human history has protected key freedoms of as many people as the American experiment.

Naturally, the upcoming CCP report, expected to be released shortly after the U.S. government releases its own human rights report on China, has been almost universally ridiculed or ignored in the West. But it is no laughing matter. Ignore the hypocrisy for now, if you must. But there is a very real threat to genuine human rights buried in the report that goes far beyond semantics.

The real problem is global. Unfortunately, the CCP-backed campaign to replace in people’s minds real rights with government-granted privileges has allies in high places around the world—and even in America, at some of the nation’s most prestigious “educational” institutions and in the halls of government. At the forefront are the CCP’s allies around the world and its operatives in the United Nations.

The CCP attack on America, titled “The Report on Human Rights Violations in the United States in 2020,” is the latest version of an annual screed by the regime’s State Council Information Office. It was launched as a response to U.S. criticism of the CCP’s record. Each year, the CCP gets more and more unshingled in its criticism of the United States.

Phony Concerns

At the top of the CCP’s list of supposed “human rights” concerns about the United States last year was the government’s alleged failure to sufficiently protect people from the CCP virus unleashed on the world by the CCP itself. Yes, seriously.

Citing the high death toll from the pandemic and America’s advanced medical technology, the regime argued that this proved the U.S. government was “incompetent” and was failing in its duty to protect the alleged “human right” to “health.”

“In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc around the world, posing a major threat to human security,” says a preview of the 15,000-Chinese-character

report offered by CCP propaganda organs. “It went out of control in the United States following the government’s reckless response.”

Of course, the CCP is very familiar with the U.S. Constitution, whereby people and states retain most powers for themselves while granting a few limited authorities to their agent known as the federal government. And under that Constitution, as the CCP knows very well, the federal government doesn’t have totalitarian CCP-style powers to fight the virus with tyranny.

Instead, the Constitution protects God-given rights from infringement by the federal government by limiting federal power.

Ironically, though, even the states that used the most vicious and draconian policies to “fight” the CCP virus—think California and New York, among others—had similar or worse outcomes than states such as Florida and South Dakota that didn’t weaponize the virus against individual freedoms.

In other words, protecting real rights is perfectly compatible—and almost always associated with—better health and economic outcomes.

In its upcoming report, pre-release previews show that the CCP also faulted the Trump administration for “bullying international organizations” and “promoting isolation and unilateralism” in the face of the pandemic. That’s a reference to President Donald Trump’s decision to stop funding and supporting the CCP-backed leader of the disgraced World Health Organization (WHO), which helped Beijing peddle its lies about the CCP virus.

How ending funding for a CCP mouthpiece in a United Nations bureaucracy was a violation of human rights isn’t immediately clear.

Another alleged human rights abuse in the United States: People of African heritage were more likely to be killed by police than those of European heritage. The report ignored the obvious explanations well known to researchers—black Americans are far more likely to be involved in the criminal justice system, in part due to the larger number of fatherless homes—and presented the data point without context as proof of widespread racism among U.S. law enforcement.

This is a basic logical fallacy that a well-educated elementary student should be able to detect. In reality, studies and surveys show that America is among the least racist societies on the planet. Studies also show that American police officers are actually less likely to shoot black suspects than white suspects.

Real Violations by CCP

Meanwhile, the irony of having the CCP suggest that American government of-

ficials are “racist” in their alleged violations of human rights defies belief. Just this month, the Montreal-based Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights and the D.C.-based Newlines Institute for Strategy and Policy concluded that the CCP is currently engaged in a genocide against the minority Uyghur ethnic group in Western China.

“China, as a state, is committing acts of genocide against the Uyghurs with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the group as such, as exemplified by state-orchestrated mass internment, forced birth prevention and campaigns of eradication,” explained principal report author Yonah Diamond, who serves as legal counsel for the Raoul Wallenberg Centre.

The Dutch Parliament also passed a motion last month finding that the treatment of the Uyghur minority in China constitutes a “genocide.”

The CCP-backed campaign to replace in people’s minds real rights with government-granted privileges has allies in high places around the world—and even in America, at some of the nation’s most prestigious ‘educational’ institutions and in the halls of government.

Now that is real racism and a real human-rights violation!

In discussing the report, “research fellow” Lu Xiang at the CCP’s Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, widely cited in CCP media, even compared Western concerns about the ongoing Uyghur genocide in western China to lies by National Socialist (Nazi) Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels.

With no apparent sense of irony, the upcoming CCP report goes on to cite “money in politics” as a supposed human rights violation.

Of course, in free countries, citizens are allowed to participate in the political process by supporting candidates or issues of their choice, whether that be with their money, their time, their media outlets, or their speech.

The real violation of real rights, obviously, is that the CCP regime does not allow its victims to participate in politics or govern themselves by choosing their own leaders.

Now that is a real human rights violation. At a media briefing on the subject, a spokesman for the CCP’s foreign ministry blasted America’s record.

“We hope the U.S. will abandon double standards, and face up to serious human rights issues such as racism and violent law

enforcement, and take concrete measures to protect human rights,” the spokesman said.

Like any successful propaganda effort, the CCP attack on America’s “human rights” situation does contain some elements of truth.

In fact, during the pandemic, governors, and mayors—especially Democrats in blue states—ruthlessly trampled on the constitutionally guaranteed human rights of citizens. But that isn’t what the CCP report means.

In previous years, the CCP also made its agenda clear in its “reports” on alleged “human rights” violations in the United States.

For example, a similar report released in 2012 pointed to “violations such as the view that the U.S. government exercises lax firearm possession control, causing rampant gun ownership.”

Despite numerous polls showing overwhelming public support for the constitutionally guaranteed right to keep and bear arms, the CCP report even argued that U.S. authorities were ignoring the “complaints of the U.S. people” and “multiple protests” supposedly demanding that “the government strictly control the private possession of arms.”

This year, the CCP report is again expected to demonize the Second Amendment for supposedly producing “gun violence.”

The argument, though, is absurd—especially as the United States has a lower murder rate than most of the world, and gun-rights have always been regarded in America as the ultimate protection for all other rights, including those that the CCP refuses to acknowledge even exist.

Switzerland, with some of the highest gun-ownership rates on Earth, also has among the lowest murder rates. Meanwhile, nations such as Venezuela and Mexico, where private gun ownership has long been virtually illegal, have among the highest murder and crime rates on the planet.

The real violation of human rights is the CCP’s total denial of its victims’ right to keep and bear arms. But then again, dictatorships and tyrants never trust their victims with weapons.

The Threat: Real Rights Versus Fake Rights

The real danger of the CCP report isn’t that Americans will suddenly read the document and revolt against their supposedly oppressive government. Nor is there a serious risk that the CCP’s hypocrisy would be taken seriously, though the regime’s talking points and the “woke” mob’s ramblings are increasingly difficult to differentiate.

Rather, the danger is that the CCP screed is just the tip of the iceberg in a global campaign to completely redefine the very concept of rights—not as God-given, but as

government-granted.

Indeed, the regime in communist China and its totalitarian allies around the world use “human rights” as a pretext to control the lives and restrict the liberties of their victims.

For instance, under the guise of a “human right” to a government-controlled education, tyrants indoctrinate children with lies and prohibit alternatives.

Under the guise of a “human right” to government-provided “health care,” tyrants hijack control of medical systems and restrict individual freedom, making their victims completely dependent on their abusers.

Under the guise of a “human right” to a “decent standard of living,” tyrants seize control of whole economies—and the people who make up the economy.

These are all known as “positive rights,” and they all purport to require that the government do something to you or for you at the expense of others that you couldn’t ethically do on your own.

As an example, you could never go rob your neighbor and claim you needed his money for your college or your health care. But if you have a “positive right” to college or health care, government can be authorized to go take your neighbor’s wealth to spend on you.

Importantly, because they depend on government, all of these “positive rights” can also be revoked by government on a whim, using flimsy pretexts.

Obviously, this is an extremely dangerous view of “human rights.”

By contrast, the traditional American and Christian concept of rights rooted in the Bible and Western traditions couldn’t be more different.

Perhaps the most significant difference is that these genuine human rights are unalienable. Think freedom of speech, freedom to own property, the right to worship God according to the dictates of one’s conscience, the right to protect one’s family and property, and so on.

These are all “negative” rights, in that they entail freedom from abuses, coercion, and more. Just like you can protect your property from a robber, you can delegate authority to a sheriff to help you protect your property.

As America’s Founding Fathers declared in the Declaration of Independence, individuals are “endowed by their Creator”

with these “unalienable rights.” That means these rights exist independent of government.

Because government didn’t and doesn’t grant these rights, it has no legitimate authority to revoke or restrict them.

Instead, the government’s role is limited to the protection of these God-given rights from infringement. The Declaration of Independence even argues that this is the very reason governments are instituted.

The timeless words and principles in that document echoed statements made years earlier on the subject by Sam Adams, widely known as the “Father of the American Revolution.” In the first letter circulated by his Committees of Correspondence in 1772, Adams laid out his case.

Right now, millions of children are being conditioned to demand their supposed ‘right’ to tax-funded college, health care, abortion, and transgender surgeries, while at the same time demanding censorship and draconian curbs on religious liberty in the name of ‘human rights.’

“Among the natural rights of the Colonists are these: First, a right to life; Secondly, to liberty; Thirdly, to property; together with the right to support and defend them in the best manner they can,” he wrote.

He also argued that the “Rights of the Colonists as Christians” could be “best understood by reading and carefully studying the institutes of the great Law Giver and Head of the Christian Church, which are to be found clearly written and promulgated in the New Testament.”

Unfortunately, the U.N. and many of its member governments (and even a growing segment of influential voices in America) come down firmly on the side of the CCP’s perverse view of rights, rather than the American and Christian view.

The U.N. view is extremely dangerous, and the global body frequently echoes CCP-style talking points about free speech or gun rights in America supposedly being

a “violation” of human rights.

But this isn’t new. In Article 29 of the U.N.’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the global body even claims that “these rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.”

That would be the equivalent of having a First Amendment that prohibited using one’s free speech or freedom of assembly or right to petition in order to criticize Congress. It is self-evidently absurd.

As if to highlight the absurdity of its own position, on Feb. 22, the U.N. “Human Rights Council” gave a platform to CCP State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, marking the first time that a CCP leader addressed the increasingly discredited U.N. body. Incredibly, the regime was elected to serve another term on the disgraced U.N. body last year.

“Increasing people’s sense of gains, happiness and security is the fundamental pursuit of human rights as well as the ultimate goal of national governance,” Wang declared at the 46th session of the U.N. body, claiming to support “peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom.”

Wang, who claimed the CCP operates “the most representative democracy,” also suggested that a slight increase in the Chinese people’s standard of living in recent years is evidence of the regime’s devotion to human rights.

Most incredibly, perhaps, Wang described Beijing’s murderous scheming in Xinjiang and Tibet as “shining examples of China’s human rights progress.” Yes, seriously. Apparently, genocide is a “shining example” of “human rights,” at least in the CCP’s understanding of the term.

“The Chinese government attaches high importance to the promotion and protection of human rights,” Wang told the regime’s propaganda megaphone Xinhua “news” agency, which according to whistleblowers doubles as an intelligence-gathering front.

Other brutal dictatorships on the U.N. Human Rights Council echo those preposterous claims on a regular basis.

What Next?

If the effort to redefine rights is successful—and it’s already making great progress—true human rights could be lost forever, written out of the history books.

Such a development would leave the people of the world at the mercy of oftentimes brutal governments subscribing to the CCP-backed grotesque perversion of rights that literally flips the concept on its head.

Instead of having a duty to protect the God-given, unalienable rights of the individual, tyrants everywhere would be empowered to oppress and abuse their victims in the name of “human rights.”

Increasingly, like the CCP, governments and international outfits are already peddling the notion that gun rights and self-defense aren’t rights, but violations of rights. Similarly, even free speech is now being painted as a violation of people’s supposed “human right” not to be offended.

With help from corrupted education systems and dictator-dominated international organizations, a major transformation is already happening around the world and even in America—especially in the minds of younger generations.

Millions of children now are being conditioned to demand their supposed “right” to tax-funded college, health care, abortion, and transgender surgeries, while, at the same time, demanding censorship and draconian curbs on religious liberty in the name of “human rights.”

This is a recipe for catastrophe. If it continues, the next generation of Americans may look at the CCP’s silly reports and actually take them seriously.

It’s time to fight back on the battlefield that matters: the essence and definition of human rights. The genocidal CCP must not be allowed to win.

The surest way to do that is by Americans returning to a true understanding of rights—God-given and unalienable—as enumerated in the nation’s founding documents.

Alex Newman is an award-winning international journalist, educator, author, and consultant who co-wrote the book “Crimes of the Educators: How Utopians Are Using Government Schools to Destroy America’s Children.” He also serves as the CEO of Liberty Sentinel Media and writes for diverse publications in the United States and abroad.

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