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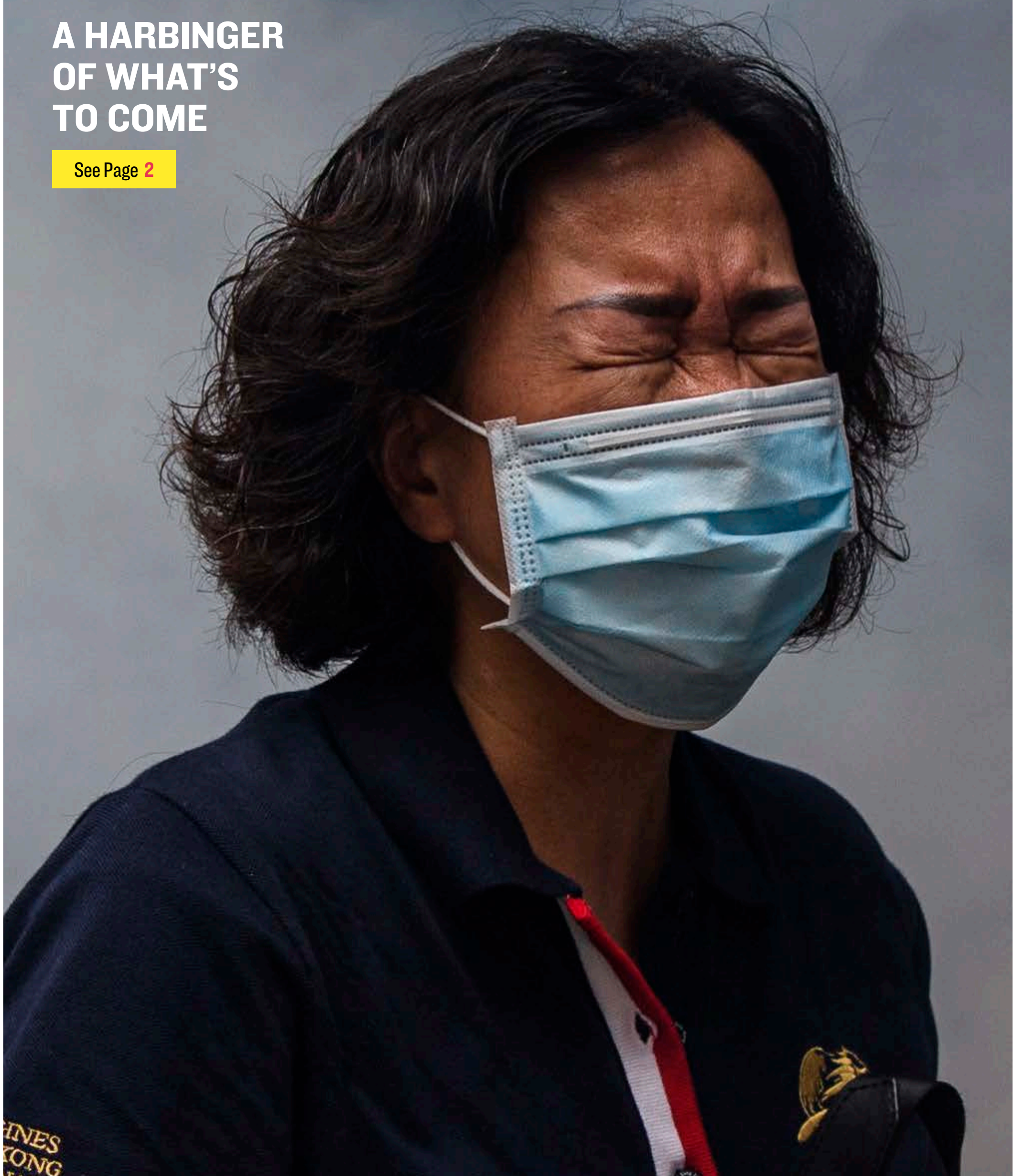
THE EPOCH TIMES

CHINA INSIDER

HONG KONG'S FALL

A HARBINGER
OF WHAT'S
TO COME

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PRESS FREEDOM

Hong Kong's Fall a Harbinger of Communist China's Takeover of Free World: Epoch Times HK Director

EVA FU & JAN JEKIELK

The suppressive climate in Hong Kong cultivated by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)—under which attackers can rampage the printing press of one of the city's independent newspapers with impunity—is what Beijing hopes to foist onto the West, according to Guo Jun, director of the Hong Kong edition of The Epoch Times.

Once hailed for its democratic freedoms, Hong Kong has seen a steady rollback of its autonomy since the former British colony reverted to Chinese rule in 1997. Over the past year, Beijing imposed sweeping laws to criminalize vaguely defined acts of secession, subversion, and foreign collusion, while instituting electoral reforms declaring that only “patriots” could rule the territory.

Since then, authorities have prosecuted dozens under the new security law or other charges, including most recently media mogul Jimmy Lai, publisher of local outlet Apple Daily and a fierce critic of the Chinese regime.

“Hong Kong is the perfect example of how the CCP turned a free society into one where people fear speaking freely,” Guo said in a recent interview for The Epoch Times’ “American Thought Leaders” program.

“Today, even the Oscars can’t be aired in Hong Kong because movies have to be reviewed by the Chinese regime before they can be played in Hong Kong theaters. The Chinese regime, step by step, turned Hong Kong into this,” she said, adding that she has observed the same phenomenon happening in the West.

“Hollywood, some big tech companies, Wall Street, they need to do business with China, so they toe the Chinese Communist Party line when it comes to topics that the Chinese Communist Party does not like,” she said.

“Imperceptibly, things change around you and you realize the world is different,” she said. “People don’t dare to say what they really feel because they fear being attacked or discriminated against.”

Guo noted that some may find it hard to conceive that this could be happening in a free society.

“But who’s behind all of this, controlling all of this? Who’s using financial incentives and China’s market as bargaining chips to change the entire world?” she said.

“We know it’s the Chinese Communist Party, and it’s honed its skills in Hong Kong.”

Bringing the Truth

On April 12, four men barged into The Epoch Times’ printing plant in Hong Kong. Wielding sledgehammers, two of them smashed critical printing equipment, bringing the outlet’s newspaper distribution to a halt. The edition resumed publication on April 16, in time to cover the sentencing of Lai and other prominent pro-democracy activists.

Guo, citing a series of similar sabotage attempts since the facility began operations in 2006, said the CCP was highly likely behind the violent attack.

“The Epoch Times doesn’t have any



After an attack on the printing facility on April 12, newspapers of the Hong Kong edition of The Epoch Times roll off the printing press in Hong Kong, on April 17, 2021.

hostile enemies because we don’t owe any debts and we never had any financial conflicts with groups or individuals,” she said.

Guo, who was among the founding members of The Epoch Times in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2000, said the scarcity of independent information from inside China was what motivated the group to establish the newspaper.

Hong Kong is the perfect example of how the CCP turned a free society into one where people fear speaking freely.

Guo Jun, director, Hong Kong edition of The Epoch Times

They wanted to “bring the truth of China to the entire world and also convey international voices to the Chinese people,” Guo said.

At the time, the Chinese regime staged a self-immolation incident to use as propaganda to justify its persecution of Falun Gong adherents, which had been initiated a little more than a year earlier. Guo found that Chinese and English-language outlets weren’t reporting the evidence that emerged about how the CCP had staged the event.

But “our newspaper at that time was able to report the truth about this event to the world,” she said.

A year later, when SARS broke out in

southern China in late 2002, the CCP, as they did during the current pandemic, covered up the outbreak.

“It was the Hong Kong Epoch Times that first broke the story,” Guo said.

Sabotage

But the outlet’s unfiltered reporting of the Chinese regime has come at a cost. Not long after the organization’s founding, its first cohort of reporters in China were all arrested.

“A lot of them are graduates from Tsinghua [University] and other prestigious universities in China,” Guo said. “They were tortured for a long time in prisons in China.”

Even today, reporters with the outlet are targeted by the regime.

“We also have a lot of reporters globally whose family members continue to be harassed and threatened in China,” she said.

In March, a host of the Hong Kong Epoch Times’ online current affairs programs received a message, delivered by a relative, from mainland Chinese police: Stop broadcasting or face arrest under the new national security law.

Guo herself has been the target of intimidation by the CCP. When she moved to Hong Kong to work at the edition, she received a letter demanding that she immediately leave the city. The writer also said they would surveil her every move and follow her wherever she goes.

The regime had also attempted to sabotage the Hong Kong edition by putting pressure on retailers and advertisers. Guo recalled one instance in which a small advertising client in Hong Kong received threatening letters in four different languages.

“Some of these clients [in Hong Kong] are Koreans or from other countries, so the Chinese regime uses different languages to threaten and harass them,” she said.

In May 2019, the Hong Kong Epoch Times started selling newspapers in about 500 7-Eleven stores in the city.

“People were very happy that it was now very convenient to purchase The Epoch Times,” Guo said.

But that arrangement didn’t last long. “Unfortunately, the Chinese regime very quickly put pressure on the 7-Elevens, so 7-Eleven unilaterally backed out of the contract and took The Epoch Times off its shelves,” she said.

Not Backing Down

What the regime seeks to achieve is “not just about filtering out one or two news items,” but to export its entire system through a combination of threats and

economic coercion, Guo says.

Because Hong Kong was free from Western sanctions until recently, the Chinese regime has taken advantage of Hong Kong’s status as an international financial center to attract foreign investment and engage in forced technology transfer, she said.

“Its tactics are to lie and to use financial incentives to get major financial groups to partner with it, and these big financial groups and companies control the media and important institutions,” she said. “Financial incentives make people lose their conscience, to self-censor, and to even restrict other people’s free speech.”

“You can be very financially free and relatively prosperous, but fundamentally you have to operate within the rules of the Chinese regime,” Guo said. “Your freedoms are restricted, you have to give up freedom of speech, and you have to attack the other group of people so that they can’t speak up.”

Asked whether she was afraid, Guo vowed to never back down.

“For us, humans must have basic dignity, basic freedoms of expression,” she said. “There’s no turning back for us because this is so essential. If we give up even this, then we won’t have basic dignity.”

Guo added that she’s received a lot of advice about moving operations elsewhere due to the escalating political pressure. She urged the free world to stand together in protecting Hong Kong’s basic rights and supporting the paper’s persistence in the city, calling it a “shared responsibility.”

There’s no turning back for us because this is so essential. If we give up even this, then we won’t have basic dignity.

Guo Jun, director, Hong Kong edition of The Epoch Times

“A popular nickname for Hong Kong is ‘base to counter the CCP,’” she said. “The Chinese regime also sees this. Its strategy this time around is to take Hong Kong but not its people ... through intimidation and threat.”

“If it really comes to that point one day, I feel it would be a tragedy, not just for Hong Kong people and Chinese people, but very unfortunate for the world,” Guo said. “So we hope to stop this downward trend while we still can.”

Cathy He contributed to this report.

CHINESE MILITARY

‘Very Dangerous Time’: Beijing Advancing Timeline to Seize Territory in Asian Region, Former Navy Intelligence Officer Says

RYAN BAO

With the United States still reeling from the pandemic and having undergone a recent change in administration, the Chinese Communist Party now sees a “window of opportunity” to accelerate its plans to expand its territory in the Asian region, according to a former senior intelligence officer for the U.S. Navy.

“It’s a very dangerous time for the region, as Beijing is seeking to advance their strategy and their timeline,” James Fanell, who previously served as the director of intelligence for the U.S. Pacific Fleet, told Epoch Times affiliate NTD in an April 9 interview.

In recent weeks, the Chinese regime has amassed more than 240 militia vessels on the disputed Whitsun Reef in the South China Sea, an area inside the Philippines’ 200-mile exclusive economic zone. The Philippines filed a diplomatic protest to Beijing and sent a naval task force to patrol the area. In the past week, the United States has concentrated its warships in the region, including a carrier strike group and an amphibious group. As of April 13, only a handful of Chinese vessels remain in the reef, according to the Philippines.

Fanell, now a government fellow with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, said Beijing’s actions are serving as a test for the Biden administration. If the regime doesn’t see “stiff resistance from the Biden administration,” he said, it may accelerate its

All indicators suggest that they’re getting very very close to making a maneuver [against Taiwan].

James Fanell, former director of intelligence, U.S. Pacific Fleet

plans to take military action against Taiwan, and in the South China Sea and the East China Sea.

For the past year, Beijing has ratcheted up its military aggression toward Taiwan, sending military aircraft near the self-ruled island on a near-daily basis. On April 12, the regime sent a record 25 aircraft, including fighter jets and nuclear-capable bombers, into the island’s so-called air defense identification zone.

Citing the Chinese regime’s military advancements and its growing assertiveness in the region, U.S. Adm. Philip Davidson, head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, told the Senate in March that Beijing could invade Taiwan in the next six years. Adm. John Aquilino, the nominee to replace Davidson as head of the command, at his confirmation hearing later that month declined to set a time frame, but said the threat of a Chinese invasion is “much closer to us than most think.”

“When they say that, that should cause people to really wake up and pay attention,” Fanell said, of the two admirals’ warnings.

While analysts have predicted that the regime won’t act until after the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics in February, Fanell’s approach towards Beijing is to “expect the unexpected.”

“All indicators suggest that they’re getting very very close to making a maneuver” against Taiwan, he said.

Fanell believes that Chinese military officials and other hardliners inside the Chinese Communist Par-

ty (CCP) are “arguing vociferously” that now is the best time to take over Taiwan. If the CCP waits until after 2022, they’ll risk the Republican Party taking back control of the House of Representatives, and later the White House, thereby risking the United States taking a “much more demonstrable hardline” against the regime, he said.

These CCP officials are arguing that “we can’t afford to wait too much longer while that U.S. rearms itself and retools itself” to be able to defeat the CCP’s strategy to invade Taiwan, he said. “Those arguments are going on right now [within the CCP].”

“I’m very concerned that China could decide to do something very soon,” he said.

To deter the CCP, the United States needs to be more assertive diplomatically in calling out the regime’s predations, and enhance its efforts to counter Chinese propaganda, according to Fanell. On the military front, the United States should deploy forces to “get in the way of what China is doing” in areas like the South China Sea.

“The goal is to tell the People’s Republic of China and Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party that you cannot just bully people because you’re a big nation. That’s not the way the world works, and we’re not going to stand for it,” he said.

“Beijing needs to understand that if they really try to do what they think they can do, then they will pay dearly for it.”



The People’s Liberation Army storms ashore from landing crafts in an exercise on the mainland coast close to Taiwan, on Sept. 10, 1999.

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A CCTV screenshot showing intruders dressed in black, one wielding a sledgehammer, damaging printing press equipment at the print shop of the Hong Kong edition of The Epoch Times on April 12, 2021.

ANALYSIS

Huarong Turmoil Tests Limits of Beijing's Support

FAN YU

Financial turmoil at a Chinese state-owned financial firm could make foreign investors reevaluate their risk tolerance for Chinese corporate bonds.

One of China's four massive asset management companies created around the turn of the century, China Huarong Asset Management Co., has been speculated to be on the verge of insolvency.

As one of China's critical "bad banks" set up to buy toxic loans from the balance sheets of the country's commercial banks, how Huarong's ongoing issues are resolved—or not—by the regime in Beijing will have key implications for Chinese financial markets.

Huarong, which owes more than \$42 billion in bonds outstanding, spooked investors after it didn't release its 2020 earnings and financial statements on time. The company also temporarily suspended trading of its shares on April 1.

The asset management giant was already buckling under negative headlines. Its former chairman, Lai Xiaomin, was executed earlier this year after he was ruled guilty of bribery in what became China's largest financial malfeasance case in decades.

Under Lai's management, Huarong pivoted away from its original mandate of managing toxic loans and expanded into other financial services, such as securities trading and trust services.

Risk Reset?

The company's difficulties have cast a dark cloud over China's financial markets this month. And the CCP's action—or inaction—could reset how global investors perceive risk in Chinese bond investments going forward.

Huarong isn't a bank, so in theory, its collapse would be less catastrophic than that of a major bank. And its investors are Chinese and foreign institutions, not individual retail investors. The company's foreign investors include U.S. investment bank Goldman Sachs, foreign private investment funds, and sovereign wealth funds. Huarong's Hong Kong-listed stock had dropped 67 percent since its 2015 IPO through the end of March, before trading was halted.

Ordinarily, a private company such as Huarong would follow the "market-oriented" approach that Beijing has laid out: demanding capital from existing investors, raising new capital from strategic investors, and if none of this is feasible, then restructure or declare bankruptcy.

But Huarong isn't a regular private company. It's controlled and managed by the



The China Huarong Tower in Hong Kong on Sept. 21, 2019.

central government, under the Ministry of Finance, and its mission is to acquire, manage, and wind down toxic assets from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

In short, Huarong serves a critical function, both practical and symbolic.

Beijing's recent tolerance for debt defaults is another variable in this equation. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) recently signaled that local government financing vehicles should restructure if they can't repay their debts. But Huarong's status as a state-controlled banking entity may warrant more support, which gives investors some indication of whom Beijing may or may not support.

Government Support

The timing of Huarong's difficulties is also less than ideal.

China is seen by mainstream foreign

investors as a beacon of economic revival post-CCP virus pandemic. A ton of foreign cash has flowed into the Chinese debt markets in recent months. The loss of confidence from a sudden collapse of a state-controlled financial giant would shake that confidence to the core.

But there are signs that Beijing may yet step in this time.

On April 16, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission said that Huarong has ample liquidity, and is working with its auditor to complete its annual report as soon as possible. The statement of support helped to lift the price on Huarong's dollar-denominated bonds.

Also on April 16, Bloomberg reported that Huarong had wired funds to repay a yuan-denominated bond maturity on April 18. This has eased immediate concerns somewhat, although the firm has other bonds

If Huarong becomes insolvent, the loss of confidence in the Chinese corporate bond market would hurt portfolios around the world.

BROOKGARDNER/SHUTTERSTOCK



(Above and above right) A local Chinese-language Epoch Times newspaper vending box outside the post office on Wheeler Ave. in Arcadia, Calif., in this file photo.



CCP

Woman Monitoring Epoch Times Newspaper Box in LA Said She Was Tasked by Chinese Consulate, Witness Says

RITA LI

A young woman was collecting data at a local Chinese-language Epoch Times newspaper vending box in Los Angeles County, California, on April 12, claiming that it was being done at the direction of the "Chinese consulate," a witness reported.

The witness, surnamed Xue, immigrated to the United States over 30 years ago and lives in Arcadia, a Los Angeles city with a large Chinese immigrant population. She has been reading the paper for 10 years.

Xue went to buy a copy of the Chinese-language Epoch Times in the newspaper box outside a post office on Wheeler Street in the morning of April 12.

In a phone call on the same day, she told The Epoch Times that after parking her car, she soon noticed a young "university-student-like" lady who was standing by the vending box and looking around.

"It's a young ethnic Chinese lady with a book and pen in her hand, seemingly taking notes," she said.

Xue approached and asked what she was doing.

The girl froze for a moment and then blurted out: "I'm recording," Xue recalled.

While being asked about the content of her notebook, the girl did not answer her question directly but said: "The Chinese consulate asked me to make a record." "[The girl] was not defensive," said Xue, but then she seemed to become alert and asked Xue's identity. While communicating in English, Xue found the girl spoke with a mainland accent.

Xue said the experience left her with not a good feeling because the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was openly collecting data and information about

overseas Chinese communities.

Overseas Chinese student bodies have engaged in Beijing's influence efforts worldwide, most of which operate under the guidance of Chinese embassies and consulates, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute reported in 2020.

You can disagree, but you can't destroy. Everyone has the right to choose what to read.

Xue, witness

Many Chinese Students and Scholars Associations also openly admit in their charters that they are directed, supported, or financed by local Chinese consulates.

When asked by The Epoch Times whether Xue saw what was written in the book, she said she saw only street numbers in the address format. "There were many of them," Xue said.

The Chinese-language edition of The Epoch Times was founded in 2000. It is known for being free of Beijing's censorship and infiltration and offering copies at no cost on major thoroughfares overseas in the past decades. However, due to paper theft and abuse, vending boxes were introduced in recent years, charging 50 cents per copy.

Systematic Operation

The recent attack on the printing press of the Hong Kong edition, which is believed to be orchestrated by the CCP, raised Xue's concerns over the possibility of a systematic operation against The Epoch

Times in the United States. "So I wanted to tell you about it [the suspicious note-taking]."

She added, "You can disagree, but you can't destroy. Everyone has the right to choose what to read."

In the early hours of April 12 in Hong Kong, four vandals barged into the printing plant of the Hong Kong edition of The Epoch Times, where they damaged computers and printing equipment with sledgehammers and construction debris, such as concrete, stone, and powder.

The Hong Kong edition was forced to temporarily halt operations, and said it hoped to return to full operation on Friday. The State Department, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and several U.S. lawmakers denounced the assault.

The Hong Kong edition of The Epoch Times condemned the CCP in a statement, for creating "white terror" in Hong Kong.

In August 2019, several boxes were found to have been sabotaged in Queens, New York, with the coin slots jammed, preventing people from paying for and retrieving newspapers. One box was set on fire on August 19, 2019.

In September 2020, dozens of newspaper boxes were repeatedly spray-painted, knocked over, or lost papers.

Outside the post office on Monday, Xue tried to warn the girl about spying for the CCP in the United States. "It's a shame to help the Chinese Communist Party," Xue said, which agitated the woman.

The woman shouted, "I don't need to know this," before fleeing the scene, according to Xue.

"She got so loud then," Xue said, adding that the woman drew the attention of many people at the post office.

Linda Jiang contributed to this report.

EXCLUSIVE

'Military-Civil Fusion' Information Secretly Removed by the Chinese Regime, Leaked Documents Shows

DOROTHY LI

News Analysis

A series of internal documents responding to a municipal internet censorship authority reveals that information related to the Chinese Military-Civil Fusion (MCF) strategy was removed from a local bureau's official websites in June 2018, only months after a trade war had broken out with the United States.

The Epoch Times recently obtained documents from a trusted source issued by various departments in Anshan City of northern Liaoning province reveals the requirement to remove information about MCF on departments' websites and from official accounts on social media platforms.

However, the MCF strategy is a national-level strategy that the head of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has emphasized.

In March 2018, CCP leader Xi Jinping chaired the third meeting of the Central Commission for the Development of Military-Civil Fusion. In it, he emphasized further reducing the barriers between the commercial economy and the defense industrial base.



A worker monitors the Sunway TaihuLight supercomputer at the National Supercomputer Center in Wuxi in eastern China's Jiangsu Province on Aug. 29, 2020.

Three months later, MCF was required to be removed from official sites by the municipal Party's internet regulation and control agency, the Anshan City Cyberspace Administration.

Although it is unknown what the censorship authority asked for specifically, the replies from local bureaus offer some clues.

The Anshan government stated that 30 pieces of information related to MCF were removed from its official website.

The Anshan City Weather Bureau said the department's "official website, the Weibo account, and the official account on Wechat" were thoroughly checked.

The Anshan City Archives Bureau promised not to "post any information related to MCF."

When the Trump administration announced the trade war in late March 2018, the China political commentator Li Linyi suggested that the regime was rattled.

The CCP was afraid that information related to MCF strategy on media platforms could become a clue that could trigger U.S. sanctions, Li added.

Phytium, an MCF Strategy Example
Phytium, a company on the U.S. Commerce Department's new economic

blacklist, exemplifies how a commercial entity in the civil sector legally transferred technology for military use.

On April 8, 2021, Tianjin Phytium Information Technology with six other Chinese companies were placed on the U.S. Entity List by the Biden administration for their involvement in "building supercomputers used by China's military actors," and/or "weapons of mass destruction programs."

On its website, Phytium claimed to focus on developing China-designed microprocessors. It used American electronic design automation tools to design its chips that were manufactured in Taiwan's companies, Alchip Technologies, and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.

Phytium's chip was used by three institutions on the U.S. blacklist—China Aerodynamics Research and Development Center, a military university NUDT, and Tianjin national supercomputer lab—to develop an exascale supercomputer, which could enable hypersonic missiles, the Washington Post reported on Apr. 9.

The hypersonic missile could travel miles within a second and reach an airbase in the Pacific in minutes, the report

explained.

Moreover, according to the business registration records, the three main stakeholders of the commercial company Phytium are controlled by the regime.

The joint venture company is owned by an affiliate of the state-owned China Electronic Corp., a financial investment company backed by the Tianjin municipal government, and Tianjin Institute of Advance Technology, a public institution controlled by the state.

"[Phytium's] executives wear civilian clothes, but they are mostly former military officers from the National University of Defense Technology (NUDT)," Eric Lee, a research associate at the Project 2049 Institute, a Northern Virginia think tank focused on strategic Indo-Pacific issues told the Washington Post.

NUDT is under the direct leadership of the Central Military Commission, which was added to the Entity List in 2015. On its website, the military research institution said it plays a vital role in developing the Tianhe series supercomputer systems.

The prototype of China's new supercomputer Tianhe-3 is powered by many-core processors with Phytium's 2000 series chips, and Matrix 2000 series chips designed by the NUDT.

China political commentator Li Linyi pointed out that the CCP's aim of having the civil sector participate in defense is entirely different from that of democratic countries.

Li warned that the communist regime's use of the Military-Civil Fusion strategy enabled the CCP to steal innovation and technology for its military from the United States.

The Anshan City Archives Bureau promised not to 'post any information related to MCF.'

Modernization With Military-Civil Fusion

The Military-Civil Fusion strategy is said to have the People's Liberation Army (PLA) modernize by adopting technological innovations, such as quantum computing, big data, semiconductors, 5G, and Artificial Intelligence.

The apparatus encourages not only the conversion of technology into defense applications but also commercial enterpris-

es' participation in the defense industries.

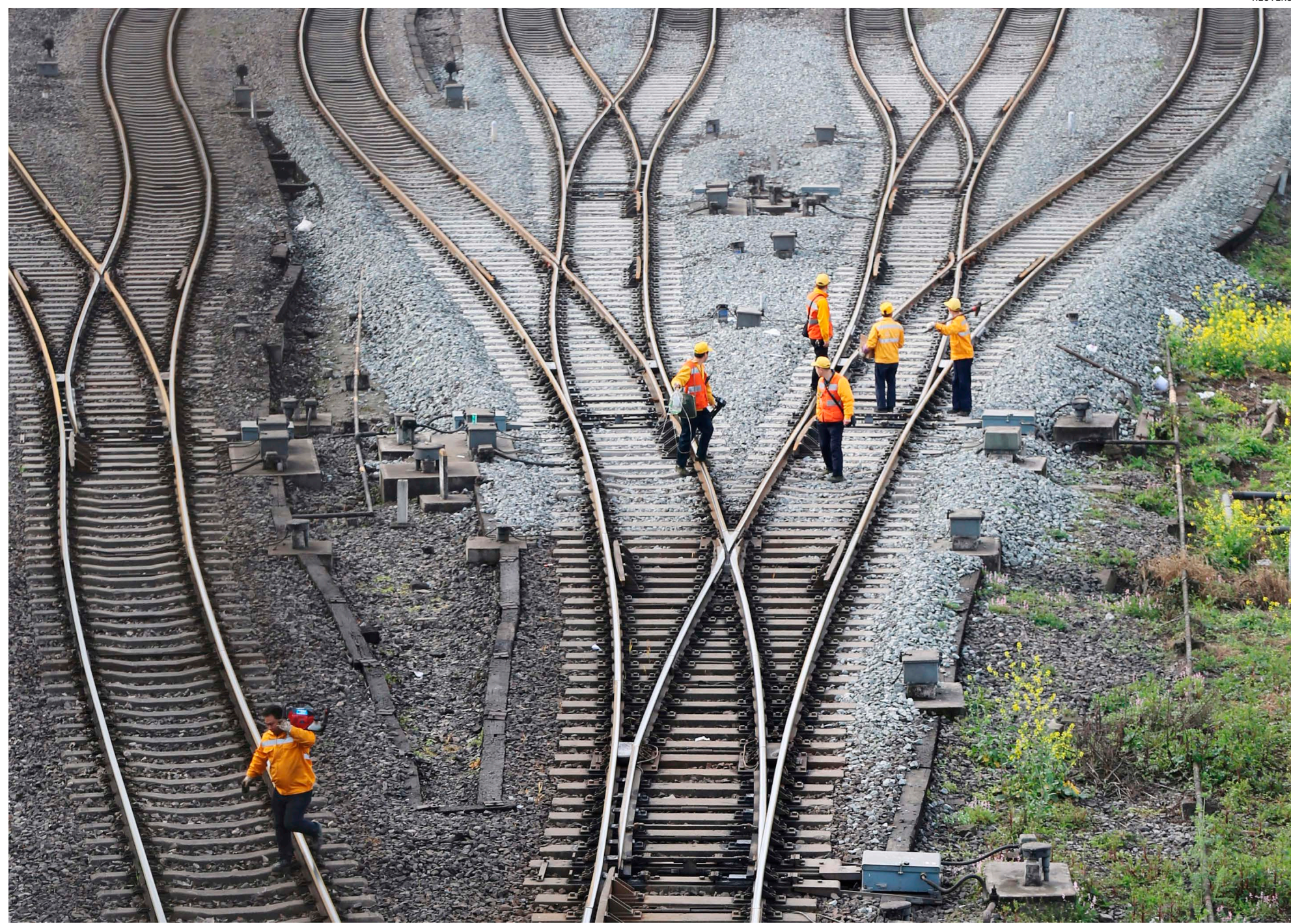
The CCP's leader Xi Jinping has ordered China's academic, corporate, and research institutions to take the initiative in discovering, cultivating, and applying cutting-edge technologies that can help build up China's military and national defense capabilities.

MCF has become a critical component in the regimes' initiatives, such as the 14th five-year plan announced in 2020, the Next Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan issued in 2017, the Made in China 2025 initiative published in 2015, and the Promotion of a National Integrated Circuit Industry Development Guidelines released in 2014.

In the 2017 AI development initiative, the communist regime employed commercial and military organizations to achieve breakthroughs in AI by 2025 and become the world leader by 2030.

"[The CCP] believes that artificial intelligence (A.I.) will drive the next revolution in military affairs, and that the first country to apply A.I. to next generation warfare will achieve military dominance," the U.S. Department of State pointed out.

Long Tengyun contributed to this report.



Workers inspect railway tracks, which serve as a part of the Belt and Road Initiative freight rail route linking Chongqing to Duisburg, Germany, at the Dazhou Railway Station in Sichuan Province, China, on March 14, 2019.

OPINION

How to Resolve Threat of the CCP's One Belt One Road Initiative

FRANK XIE

More than seven years have gone by since China started its One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI). In 2013 Chinese leader Xi Jinping first introduced this transnational economic belt initiative, then known as the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

The BRI starts in mainland China, moves along the Silk Road, via Central Asia, to Russia and Europe. On the surface, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is developing new economic cooperation with countries and regions by strengthening infrastructure along the route. The real driving force is CCP's desire to digest its industrial overcapacity and labor in China, and drive the development of the western region to ensure the energy supply for the mainland. There are also geopolitical and security reasons for the CCP's One Belt area.

initially injected \$40 billion for infrastructure, development, and industrial cooperation. In 2017, when the CCP added to the fund again, it was not in U.S. dollars, but 100 billion yuan (\$15.3 billion). While promoting the BRI, the CCP also promoted the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). In October 2014, 21 countries including China, India, and Singapore formally signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing the AIIB in Beijing. In March 2015, the UK became the first Western country to express its intention to join as a founding member of the AIIB. Subsequently, France, Italy, and Germany also expressed their intention to join. The United States and Japan have refused to join the BRI.

With the unfolding of the BRI, the CCP and Pakistan first carried out a series of large-scale projects, very much the hub and flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is 1,850 miles long and has an investment of \$46 billion. During Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan, China and Pakistan signed cooperation agreements and memorandums on 51 projects. The CCP has also invested \$50 billion to build five reservoirs and hydropower stations in the Indus River Basin in Pakistan. This hydropower is claimed to contribute two-thirds of Pakistan's electricity. China and Pakistan have also actively promoted the construction of the Gwadar-Xinjiang highway corridor, giving the CCP direct access to the Indian Ocean. Later, in January 2018, the Central Bank of Pakistan announced that bilateral trade between China and Pakistan could be settled in RMB, abandoning USD settlement, and opening up the use of RMB to replace USD in financing projects, which also greatly reduced the CCP's foreign exchange pressure.

In order to increase its influence in the energy sector in Eastern Europe, the CCP has taken the lead in the construction of infrastructure such as ports, roads, railways, and power stations in southeast Europe, and also lends to relevant projects through Chinese banks. China takes the port of Piraeus in Greece as the Balkan Silk Road center and undertakes the combined transportation of goods by sea and land along the route of the BRI. China also intends to invest heavily in energy projects in Eastern European countries such as the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, and Romania.

Facing Europe, the CCP launched the trans-Eurasia express to strengthen business and trade ties with European countries. The train travels through 28 Chinese cities including Xi'an, Chongqing, Zhengzhou, and Chengdu to 29 cities in 11 European countries including Milan, Moscow, Minsk, and Hamburg. The CCP emphasizes that the express train can save three-fourths over the time at sea and the cost is about one-fifth of that of aviation. However, it de-

liberately conceals the apparent cost saving of sea transportation and the efficiency of air transportation.

The CCP originally wanted to break through the EU countries in various ways, but Germany, France, Spain, and the UK demonstrated a very high degree of unity to sign the Belt and Road cooperation memorandum together rather than in a bilateral form by individual state. The greater EU's defense against the CCP's ambitions was shown as early as 2019.

The CCP's ambition and its barbaric and domineering mentality were fully demonstrated as the BRI reached the Indian Ocean countries.

The CCP's ambition and its barbaric and domineering mentality were fully demonstrated as the BRI reached the Indian Ocean countries. The CCP led the plan to build a seaport in Hambantota, Sri Lanka. The first phase of the port project started in November 2010. The construction cost was \$361 million. The Export-Import Bank of China invested 85 percent of the cost and the port was on lease for 99 years. But later, due to the Sri Lankan government's inability to repay its debts, Sri Lanka officially handed over Hambantota Port to China under this 99-year lease.

The BRI met resistance from its counter states in Southeast Asia. Prior to the BRI, the CCP tried to strengthen economic and trade ties in the region through the RCEP deal (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement). After the implementation of the BRI, the CCP sought to build a Trans-Asian Railway to connect China and Southeast Asian countries. However, the doubts and dissatisfaction of Southeast Asian countries toward the CCP are reflected in projects such as the China-Thailand Railway, the Letpadaung Copper Mine in Burma, and the Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka. Leaders of these countries have doubts about the CCP, leading to the continuous overturning and renegotiating of contracts.

The BRI mission has extended from the expansion of the Chinese foreign trade market, exporting excess capacity, exporting the CCP's infrastructure model, exporting unemployment, and obtaining stable energy supplies, to gradually occupying strategic locations, building geopolitical alliances, uniting Europe against the United States, exporting the communist ideology, and finally promoting communist autocratic rule to the world. It is a comprehensive project with multiple goals in politics, economy, and military. The BRI has signed contracts with 46 countries in Africa, involved 38 countries in Asia, 27 countries in Europe, 12 countries in Oceania, and 19 countries in Central and South America.

The CCP intends to build a new international trade and economic system with its world factory. According to a research report issued by Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense, the BRI is clearly aimed at U.S. influence in the Pacific and will also strategically marginalize Taiwan. Indian officials have stated that because the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will pass through Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, the plan will affect India's interests and territorial claims in Kashmir. India boycotted the BRI forum on May 14, 2017. India also warned other countries of the "unsustainable debt burden" of participating in this plan. A 2018 report from the Center for Global Development indicated that of the 68 countries participating in the BRI, 23 were already heavily in debt, and other eight are at high risk of debt.

What is the correct way to tackle the CCP's BRI? Are the international community's counteractions effective? India has proposed the so-called "Monsoon Project" and "Spice Route Project"; U.S. President Joe Biden suggested a "democratic version of the One Belt One Road" which was ridiculed by Chinese netizens; the UK and the United States will create a global plan aimed at countering the BRI; and the United States and Japan also plan to formulate alternative plans in the Indo-Pacific to counterbalance the BRI.

The U.S.-Japan plan to set a framework for collaboration on 5G wireless, hydrogen power, and smart cities is a move to counteract the BRI. By formulating a clear framework for these enterprises, the two countries hope to win the trust of countries in the region and gain an advantage in the competition with the CCP for influence in the Indo-Pacific region. The United States and Japan hope that this high-quality infrastructure guide, coupled with procurement standards and maintenance rules, can minimize the risk of technology leakage and defeat the CCP. Australia also hopes to join and establish cooperation projects among Australia, Japan, and the United States to promote the stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region.

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Specifically, the U.S.-Japan countermeasures are only directed at the technical level of 5G and the construction of new energy sources, but this is not enough to stop the CCP's Huawei from conquering this field. The United States and Japan have the ability and technology to use satellite technologies such as the Starlink project to directly occupy the new 5G and even 6G standards and facilities, leaving the CCP far behind. India's "Monsoon Project" and "Spice Route Project" lack sufficient teeth and strength, and can at best slow the CCP's impact in Pakistan, but cannot pose a real threat to the CCP. India needs to join the Indo-Pacific alliance advocated by the United States more actively, launch a full-scale offensive on the CCP, give up its dependence on Russian weapons, fully integrate into the West, and become the market and promoter of the new international trading system. The British plan takes national security into consideration and is commendable. In addition to continuing to pressure the CCP on Xinjiang and Hong Kong, the Western countries should also actively promote Taiwan's status and power, and make it a free China, the nemesis of the autocratic CCP.

The United States and its allies also need to pursue the CCP in greater depth on the pandemic and the origin of the virus, and even push for compensation to bankrupt the CCP regime. The bankruptcy of the CCP will prevent it from using investment and capital as bait to attract countries, which will carry a heavy burden by joining the BRI. It requires the United States to continue its policy of cutting off the CCP's economic corruption during the Trump era, continuing tough measures to defeat the CCP in all fields such as tariffs, trade, technology, and human rights.

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liberately conceals the apparent cost saving of sea transportation and the efficiency of air transportation.

The CCP originally wanted to break through the EU countries in various ways, but Germany, France, Spain, and the UK demonstrated a very high degree of unity to sign the Belt and Road cooperation memorandum together rather than in a bilateral form by individual state. The greater EU's defense against the CCP's ambitions was shown as early as 2019.

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The CCP's ambition and its barbaric and domineering mentality were fully demonstrated as the BRI reached the Indian Ocean countries. The CCP led the plan to build a seaport in Hambantota, Sri Lanka. The first phase of the port project started in November 2010. The construction cost was \$361 million. The Export-Import Bank of China invested 85 percent of the cost and the port was on lease for 99 years. But later, due to the Sri Lankan government's inability to repay its debts, Sri Lanka officially handed over Hambantota Port to China under this 99-year lease.

The BRI met resistance from its counter states in Southeast Asia. Prior to the BRI, the CCP tried to strengthen economic and trade ties in the region through the RCEP deal (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement). After the implementation of the BRI, the CCP sought to build a Trans-Asian Railway to connect China and Southeast Asian countries. However, the doubts and dissatisfaction of Southeast Asian countries toward the CCP are reflected in projects such as the China-Thailand Railway, the Letpadaung Copper Mine in Burma, and the Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka. Leaders of these countries have doubts about the CCP, leading to the continuous overturning and renegotiating of contracts.

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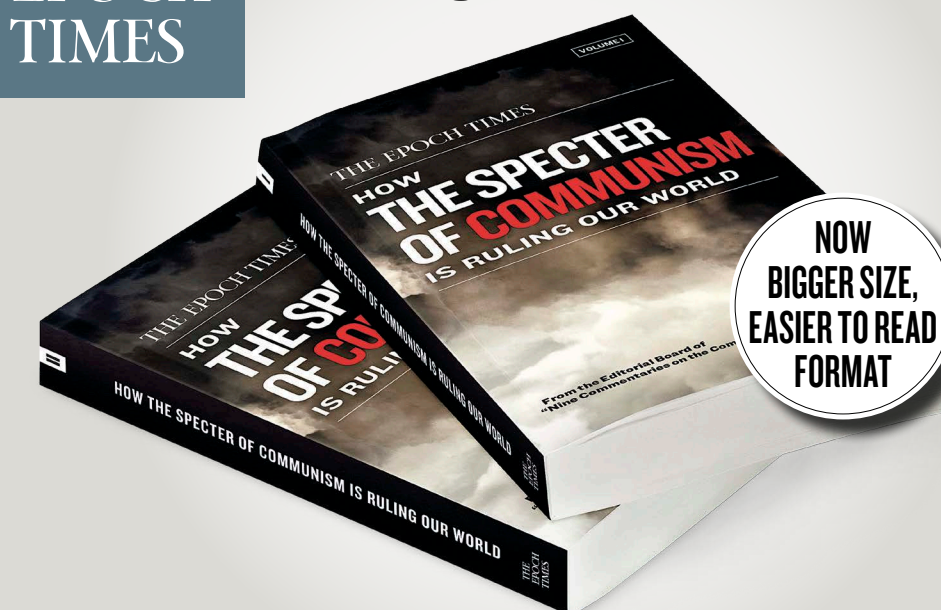
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