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SHOJIN/PHOTO



Falun Gong practitioners peacefully appeal outside Zhongnanhai, the central headquarters for the Chinese Communist Party, in Beijing on April 25, 1999.

A PEACEFUL APPEAL THAT MADE HISTORY

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Falun Gong practitioner Zhang Yijie in New York on April 18, 2021.



Falun Gong practitioner Shi Caidong in New York on April 18, 2021.



Falun Gong practitioner Luan Shuang in New York on April 19, 2021.



Falun Gong practitioners gather around Zhongnanhai to silently, peacefully appeal for fair treatment on April 25, 1999.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Standing Up to Communist China: A Peaceful Appeal That Made History

EVA FU

NEW YORK—Beijing's days were always a bit dusty and gray in Zhang Yijie's memory. That day was no different. A division-head at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, she had just gotten back home from a month-long business trip in Germany. It was afternoon and there was no time to lose. As she put down her luggage, rather than grabbing lunch, she went straight for her phone. She was eager to touch base with her group of friends with whom she studied Falun Gong teachings and practiced meditative exercises daily.

But there was no one to be found. Then, an urgent phone call rang from her director Shi Guangsheng to her husband, who also worked at the ministry. He sprinted to another room, shutting the door behind him.

All of this made Zhang feel uneasy. Standing on tiptoe outside the door, she heard that a group of Falun Gong practitioners had gone to Zhongnanhai, the compound of the top Chinese Communist Party (CCP) leadership.

Go to the demonstration and tell all foreign trade ministry staff attending the event to leave immediately, the director told her husband.

The day, April 25, 1999, would eventually see around 10,000 adherents from all over the country congregate mostly along the red walls enclosing the government complex on Fuyou Street to appeal for their right to freely practice Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa.

First introduced to the public in 1992, the spiritual practice spread by word of mouth across the country, with between 70 million and 100 million people practicing by 1999. Adherents could be seen doing the practice's slow meditative exercises every morning in parks across China. Yet the practitioners had begun to feel more and more pressure from authorities in recent years, with the practice's books banned from distribution, state-owned programs spewing propaganda vilifying the discipline, and the public security bureau ordering a thorough investigation into the practice.

The Chinese regime would later portray the April 25 event as a provocative protest in order to justify an all-out persecution campaign targeting Falun Gong, which would be launched in July the same year—and which continues to this day.

But Zhang, who soon jumped on her bike and rushed toward Zhongnanhai, saw nothing threatening about the adherents' demeanor that day. With pride, she and many others who were there

The belief in the truth, when it's elevated from an emotional to a rational level, transcends any suffering.

Zhang Yijie, Falun Gong adherent

recall the long, straight rows of practitioners lined up neatly along the street. Many were reading books or sitting on the ground to meditate. Some, holding plastic bags, made rounds to collect trash from the demonstrators.

One simply feels different when among such a peaceful crowd, Zhang said. "When have you seen a petition like this?" Zhang, now in the United States, said in an interview with *The Epoch Times*. "The pedestrian paths and the main road were all clear. There was no shouting at all, not a single scrap of paper on the ground."

Shi Caidong, who was working on a master's degree at the state-run Chinese Academy of Sciences at the time, was one of three delegates who met with Premier Zhu Rongji that morning to explain their requests.

Zhu reaffirmed his support for their freedom of belief and arranged for four officials to meet with them, including his vice secretary in chief and the state petitioning bureau director. The three delegates delivered three major requests: to release the dozens of practitioners from the nearby city of Tianjin who had been beaten and detained two days prior, to allow the publication of Falun Gong books, and to restore an environment in which they could exercise in public without fear.

The officials accepted a few copies of the practice's main book of teachings, "Zhuang Falun," and promised to relay the situation to the top leadership of the CCP.

The masses gradually dispersed in the evening when word got out that the Tianjin practitioners had been set free.

"If the 'besieging' was real, would Zhu Rongji appear so composed when he came out?" Shi said, rebutting the state media's characterization of the event. Tensions grew in the afternoon when riot police appeared, carrying rifles, but none of the demonstrators stirred, according to Kong Weijing, another delegate.

Zhang stayed until dark and left quietly after most of the petitioners withdrew.

Some practitioners with insider knowledge later told her that the regime had originally prepared to use violence on the demonstrators that evening. She credited the crowd's extraordinary tranquility for circumventing a possible repeat of the Tiananmen Square massacre—the regime's bloody suppression of student protesters, which had taken place just down the road a decade earlier. "They couldn't find any excuse for a clampdown," Zhang said.

Sticking to What's Right
The second day after the appeal, official



orders were sent to companies nationwide alerting ordinary citizens about what had taken place.

It was the first time that Luan Shuang, a human resources director in a transportation firm in the city of Shenzhen, had heard about Falun Gong.

Years earlier, Luan, then still in college, learned in shock about how the Chinese regime gunned down unarmed youths in Tiananmen Square. With the brutal killing still fresh in her memory, she was struck by the bravery of the Falun Gong practitioners in coming forward.

As with other political movements, Luan, like everyone else, had to submit written promises to their superiors distancing themselves from the incident and declaring it wrong to stage a protest or parade in Beijing. "No one would go at all," she said.

"I wouldn't have gone even if they gave me a bonus for it—wouldn't that be putting an end to your own career?" she recalled thinking at the time.

Determined to find out why people would take such a risk, she asked for a Falun Gong book from a coworker who happened to be a practitioner. After reading it once, she made up her mind to practice.

She described the values emphasized in the book as a beam of light into her "muddled" life.

"I know now that I can use the standard of 'truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance' to evaluate everything," she said, referring to the core tenets of the practice. "So as long as something is right, I will stick to it to the end."

Retaliation

Despite the officials' conciliatory stance on April 25, the regime had deemed the practice's popularity a threat and began a statewide campaign just three months later, aiming to wipe it out. In the years since, several million practitioners have suffered detention for persisting in their faith, according to estimates from the Falun Dafa Information Center, and unknown numbers of adherents have been killed using various forms of torture.

After meeting with the premier during the appeal, Shi was targeted by the Party committee at his workplace, which began monitoring his activities. Law enforcement officers combed through files about his past that very night, although they didn't find any issues.

Zhang, the foreign trade official, paid a dearer cost. Over seven years, she experienced seven arrests and spent 28 months in a labor camp, where she was beaten, starved, force-fed, and deprived of sleep—the longest stretch being 42 days nonstop. When the grueling session was over, her hair had turned white and her teeth had become loose. "The fact that I survived was proof of Falun Dafa's wonder," she said.

This was in sharp contrast to her pre-persecution life, when she held a lucrative government post and had a perfect family, with a daughter and a son both about to go to college.

"Many people could work their whole life without reaching where I was," she said. "At that time, if I had agreed to stop practicing, I wouldn't have lost anything."

Luan, who was still new to the practice,

Roughly 10,000 Falun Gong practitioners peacefully appeal outside Zhongnanhai, the central headquarters for the Chinese Communist Party, in Beijing on April 25, 1999.

So as long as something is right, I will stick to it to the end.

Luan Shuang, Falun Gong practitioner

similarly faced a wrenching choice. As a 34-year-old, she was living the white-collar success story, enjoying a life that many her age wouldn't dream of. She had recently moved into a 4,300 square foot seaside mansion, ready to enjoy the fruits of her hard work.

She could practice secretly inside her house without letting anyone know. Or she could speak her mind and risk it all. Luan chose the latter.

In 2001, the human resources director went to Tiananmen Square to protest the persecution—the very place that two years earlier she said she "wouldn't have gone even if they gave [her] a bonus" to protest.

Luan was thrown into various detention centers and endured three months of torment. She slept on blankets that she suspected were never washed as they emitted a strong odor. While she was not beaten, she worked long hours with no break making Christmas lights that her fingers couldn't straighten after the shift ended.

She managed to come out mostly intact, but others were not so fortunate. A detainee had told her that another Falun Gong practitioner, a foreign language teacher from the same city as Luan, was driven to insanity there.

The Party also expelled her from its membership, cutting off the economic and political privileges associated with the affiliation. Her company organized a "denunciation meeting" to announce the expulsion. During the meeting, Luan was made to endure an endless stream of criticism about her faith from company higher-ups.

Luan maintained a bright smile as her superiors announced the decision in front of dozens of her colleagues.

"This evil Party can't tolerate good people. Even if you don't expel me, I would have to get out of it anyway," she remembered telling herself at the time.

While Luan's company didn't fire her outright, she was only assigned the lowest of jobs. She eventually submitted her resignation.

No Regrets

Recounting their journeys long after resettling in the United States, the adherents exuded an air of serenity incongruent with their past suffering.

They had made the right choices, they said.

"The belief in the truth, when it's elevated from an emotional to a rational level, transcends any suffering," said Zhang, who made her escape through Thailand in 2006.

Zhang saw her life as a "legendary" one. "Whatever ordeals and circumstances, I have seen them all and been through them all," she said.

On April 18, they gathered with about 1,000 other practitioners in New York for a parade and rally to commemorate the historic demonstration of peaceful resistance and to "say no" to the CCP's continued repression of their faith, they said. "If everyone was like those at the April 25 appeal, Chinese society would be better off," Luan said, smiling as she was 20 years ago. "Because of April 25... I finally became one of those good people who stand for justice, which I had aspired to be since I was young."

70-100
MILLION
PEOPLE

were practicing
Falun Gong in China by

1999

according to official
estimates.

OPINION

Time to Outlaw ‘Transplant Tourism’

WESLEY J. SMITH



The black market in human organs for transplantation is one of the worst ongoing human rights abuses in the world today. But here's the problem: Many decry organ trafficking, but few do anything about it.

Until now. The Canadian Senate committee just passed S-204, a bill that would make traveling overseas to purchase organs for transplantation a felony. Specifically, the bill would punish for a crime everyone who:

- “obtains an organ to be transplanted into their body or into the body of another person, knowing that the person from whom it was removed ... did not give informed consent;
- “facilitates the removal of an organ from the body of another person” without consent; and/or,
- “obtains or participates in or facilitates the obtaining of an organ from the body of another person ... knowing that it was obtained for consideration,” that is, buying organs.

What a refreshing change from the status quo. Despite years of ongoing advocacy by opponents, “transplant tourists” have had little to fear from participating in the black market. Not so, the destitute living in the developing world. In dreadfully poor places such as Turkey, Peru, Bangladesh, and other poor nations around the world, desperate people are persuaded by fast-talking organ brokers and their own dire circumstances to sell a kidney to buyers hoping to avoid waiting lists for ethically legitimate surgeries.

Sometimes these blood contracts have lethal consequences—as reported by Bloomberg's Michael Smith in 2011: “Luis Picado's mother remembers the day her son thought he had won the lottery. ... An American man had promised to give Picado, a 23-year-old high school dropout who worked as a construction laborer, a job and an apartment in New York if he'd donate one of his kidneys. ... Three weeks later, in May 2009, Picado came out of surgery at Managua's Military Hospital, bleeding internally from the artery doctors had severed to remove his

kidney, according to medical records. ... Picado bled to death as doctors tried to save him.”

Organ traffickers operate all over the world. In 2011, the government of Bangladesh busted a kidney-trafficking gang, as described by The Herald Sun, in an especially impoverished village; there were 200 victims—people who sold a kidney for as little as \$1,900.

In fact, organ tourism became such an acute problem that Pakistan outlawed all organ buying and live-organ donations (other than to close family members). For the same reason, the Philippines legally prohibited noncitizens from undergoing kidney transplant surgeries in the country.

That's bad, but nothing compares to the carnage in the People's Republic of China, where prisoners of conscience are killed and harvested for the black organ market. Human rights campaigner David Matas and former Canadian Member of Parliament David Kilgour have spent years pursuing stories of organ butchery in China against Falun Gong and other prisoners of conscience.

The duo issued in 2006, and updated in 2016, a detailed and chilling report alleging that Falun Gong practitioners were systematically imprisoned, tissue-typed, and murdered for their organs.

From Ethan Gutmann's “Bloody Harvest—the Slaughter”: “Falun Gong prisoners, who later got out of China, testified that they were systematically blood-tested and organ-examined while in forced-labor camps across the country. This could not have been for their health since they were regularly tortured, but it is necessary for organ transplants and for building a bank of live ‘donors.’ In a few cases, family members of Falun Gong practitioners were able to see mutilated corpses of their loved ones between death and cremation. Organs had been removed.”

China has repeatedly denied the charges while at the same time promised reforms. But the beat goes on. A 2017 article published in BMC Medical Ethics stated: “The unethical practice of organ procurement from executed prisoners in China has lasted for decades. Moreover, this practice is associated with large-scale abuse and severe human rights violations.”

This is shocking and intolerable. How to stop it? Governments around the world need to follow Canada's lead.

That may finally be happening.

The Texas Senate just passed a resolution calling on the United States to pass a law “prohibiting collaboration between U.S. medical and pharmaceutical companies and any Chinese counterparts linked with forced organ harvesting.”

More concrete proposals have been made as well. These include:

- National legislation to prohibit citizens from receiving illegal organs in any country, as Canada appears on the verge of doing;
- Prohibiting reimbursement of transplants performed anywhere around the globe involving illegal practices; and
- Denial of entry visas to individuals who have engaged in illegal organ procurement in any country, in any capacity.

Part of the problem is that too many of us are indifferent to the suffering of destitute people half a world away. Some of us even celebrate the exploitation. Take the 2009 book “Larry's Kidney,” written by Daniel Asa Rose, recounting the author's buying a kidney in China for his cousin Larry. After a series of mishaps and complications, Larry got his new organic blood filter. Oh, joy for Larry! But it's surely anything but joyful for the organ's original owner.

But laws can only do so much. In the end, it is up to each of us to oppose such bloody exploitation. For example, if we learn that an ill friend or loved one is considering entering the organ black market, promise to support and love them in their distress, but let them know they will be shunned if they take unethical shortcuts.

More importantly, if we face such a health crisis ourselves, we should strive to find the courage and integrity to wait our turn for an ethically donated organ. After all, some things are worse than dying. Committing the profound human rights crime of transplant tourism is one of them.

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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.

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OPINION

Biden Walks the Walk on Climate Change While China Talks the Talk

ANDREW DAVIES



President Joe Biden organized his two-day virtual climate summit to start on the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Paris Agreement and end on Earth Day, so as to reassert U.S. leadership in the fight to halt so-called climate change.

However, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told Fox News, “The decision for the United States to reenter the Paris Climate accord and then the announcement that the president made today [to reduce U.S. CO2 emissions by 50 percent by 2050] is an enormous gift to the Chinese Communist Party and a real threat to the United States of America.”

According to Statista, China has far more capacity from installed coal power plants than other nations, at 1,041.9 gigawatts, followed by the United States at 233.6, India, 229.2, and Russia with 44.8.

In 2020, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists USA, China was producing 28 percent of CO2 emissions, the United States 15 percent, while the UK and other European nations, apart from Germany, each produced around 1 percent. By law, Germany is committed to shutting down all its nuclear power stations by 2022; it currently accounts for 2 percent of global CO2 emissions.

China has 1,058 coal plants, yet its Paris pledge was to only start reducing its emissions beginning in 2030. In the meantime, it aims to add to its number of coal-fired plants substantially, with new plants already under construction capable of producing 97.8 gigawatts, and others yielding a further 151.8 gigawatts at the planning stage, totaling almost 250 gigawatts.

Then add to that the numerous coal plants that China is helping to construct elsewhere in the world, plus any more it manages to build domestically in addition to those already planned, by the time its pledge is due to start.

Just those known new builds are more



A Chinese farmer works his field next to a state-owned, coal-fired power plant in Huainan, Anhui Province, China, on June 15, 2017.

than the United States' entire current coal power capacity, which is around 234 gigawatts and dropping fast; the EU's capacity in 2020 was 143 gigawatts and is set to fall to 60 gigawatts by 2030.

Strangely, those who passionately believe that the kind of air they breathe out every day and plants breathe in is now the biggest danger facing the world don't seem to have a problem with CO2 levels rising exponentially in China.

China has 1,058 coal plants, yet its Paris pledge was to only start reducing its emissions beginning in 2030

As things stand, the sacrifices that the populations of the countries that have signed the Paris Agreement will have to make, from a net emissions perspective, will be meaningless—other than to take the hit and attempt to offset China's phenomenal and dirty growth until its 2030 promise.

Rather than accept this gloomy predic-

tion, the huge climate-change lobby believes it's possible to change China sooner. One of those adherents is British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Having legally committed the UK to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, he hopes his example will influence other nations to follow suit. He's also including climate change reduction in trade deals.

Seeing America now reverse its skeptical climate policy under President Donald Trump seems to validate that view. Even before Biden's inauguration, Johnson said, “I think now with President Biden in the White House in Washington, we have the real prospect of American global leadership in tackling climate change.”

While Johnson leads the Conservative Party, he has more in common with America's Democrats, which explains the speed with which he rushed to congratulate Biden for winning the election before key states had finished counting, and despite mounting legal challenges.

His former finance minister, Sajid Javid was more blunt and dismissed Trump's election result legal challenges: “The behavior of the U.S. president is frankly adolescent.”

Yet the change in America's climate policy only came about because of a con-

troversial election result—certainly not because of Johnson's bargaining. Indeed, his attempts at climate hardballing seem to have blocked the all-important, post-Brexit U.S.-UK trade deal with the otherwise anglophile Trump administration.

And he has stuck to the same formula in his negotiations with the new Biden administration. He told reporters, “Those measures can not only reduce your CO2 emissions and enable us to get to net-zero by 2050, but they're also capable of really moving the economy forward. So we look forward to talking about that issue with the White House.”

Yet the signals from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue are still not looking hopeful for an imminent bilateral trade deal, this time due to Northern Ireland. Soon after the U.S. election was called, a reporter asked the president-elect if he would be willing to say a few words to the BBC, which he did: “The BBC? I'm Irish.”

Biden's latent snub of the UK's national broadcaster led Nigel Farage to ruefully comment, “The Conservatives had four years to do a trade deal with the USA and pro-UK President, and they failed. There is no chance now.”

Nevertheless, buoyed on by the outcome of the U.S. election, China is now the next big hope for the global climate change lobby. But it doesn't do elections, or get too worried about trade battles, and for all the encouraging speeches its delegation gave at the Biden climate change summit, these are still only words.

Just how virtual was it?

Andrew Davies is a UK-based video producer and writer. His award-winning video on underage sex abuse helped Barnardos children's charity change UK law, while his documentary “Batons, Bows and Bruises: A History of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra,” ran for six years on the Sky Arts Channel.

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ORGAN HARVESTING

US Should Confront Communist China on Forced Organ Harvesting Crimes: Religious Freedom Official

EVA FU

The Chinese regime's forced organ harvesting from political and religious prisoners “should be brought up any time the United States and communist China are at the negotiating table,” according to Gary Bauer, who sits on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). “I think a lot of the world was in denial about it for a long, long time. But the evidence is becoming overwhelming that that is something that communist Chinese are engaged in,” the commissioner said in an April 21 interview with The Epoch Times.

The independent panel in the annual report released on the same day called out China as one of the world's “egregious violators” of religious freedom. Allegations of the regime's state-sanctioned organ harvesting have emerged since 2006, with researchers and investigators noting China's short waiting times and the seemingly on-demand organ supply. A people's tribunal in 2019 after a year-long investigation concluded that the practice has taken place “on a significant scale,” and that practitioners of Falun Gong were “probably the principal source.”

“There is no evidence of the practice having been stopped,” the tribunal said in its 160-page final judgment issued last March.

In early March, a bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers introduced to the House and the Senate



Falun Gong practitioners take part in a parade in Flushing, New York, on April 18, 2021, to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the April 25th peaceful appeal of 10,000 Falun Gong practitioners in Beijing.

the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act to confront the issue. Nury Turkel, another USCIRF commissioner, warned during a virtual press conference on Wednesday that the forcible practice has likely extended to Uyghur Muslims detained in concentration camps.

“They are even marketing Uyghur organs in the Muslim majority countries,” Turkel said, noting reports of wait times as short as 48 hours.

“The very idea that in 2021, a powerful nation like communist China would be harvesting organs from prisoners or religious minorities who are being persecuted, it's almost unbelievable,” said Bauer.

Falun Gong, a Chinese spiritual discipline that became im-

mensely popular in the country in the 1990s, was subjected to brutal suppression beginning in 1999. Over the past 22 years, adherents have faced continued arrest, harassment, slave labor, and psychiatric drugs, among other torment methods crafted to make them renounce their faith. Experts observed that the same persecution methods have since become the blueprint for the Chinese regime to repress other religious groups, notably the Uyghur Muslim population in the Xinjiang region.

“The Chinese Communist Party is deeply threatened anytime any of its citizens are devoted to a philosophy or a faith that is more important to them than the Communist Party of China,” Bauer said.

“I wish 20 years ago the United States would have listened more to the Falun Gong because they were warning the world all the way back in the 1990s and early 2000s, that communist China was a very repressive regime and would not liberalize as long as they were under communism.”

‘Enemy of Religious Freedom’

The Chinese regime's treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang has gained attention worldwide. Legislators in the United States and elsewhere are calling for the Olympics to be moved out of Beijing so as not to give the regime a platform to whitewash its image.

While endorsing such sentiment, USCIRF's Vice Chair Tony Perkins noted that communist China's human rights repression is far wider, with the Christian community under worsening persecution in recent years. Perkins and Chair Gayle Manchin both became targets of Chinese sanctions for being vocal about Xinjiang.

Given “what they're doing to their own people” in China and abroad, “it's hard to trust the Chinese government,” Perkins told The Epoch Times on Wednesday. From the commission's perspective, “we see them as a hostile body as not an ally or a colleague, but the enemy of religious freedom,” he added.

In 2020, at least 42 elderly Falun Gong practitioners died due to the persecution, the oldest among them 92, according to Minghui.org, a U.S.-based clearinghouse that collects first-hand evidence on the persecution.

Bauer said such reports were “extremely disturbing.”

“This is unacceptable. Civilized nations do not engage in this kind of horrendous activity,” he said.

“The communist Chinese government feels like it could do anything that it wants to, to torment or injure

or hurt those people that they are living over,” he added. “That is outrageous, and it must stop.”

“The big choice for the world in the 21st century,” he said, will be one between freedom and human dignity represented by the United States and other Western countries, versus the “oppressive model of communist China that routinely persecute the Falun Gong, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, and so many other groups.”

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Gary Bauer, commissioner, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

April 25 marks the 22nd anniversary of a peaceful Falun Gong appeal, which saw 10,000 adherents gathered at the communist leadership headquarters in Zhongnanhai to ask for their rights of belief. Remarkably on the occasion, Bauer expressed hope that international human rights groups could take the opportunity to speak out on the group's behalf and help end the ongoing abuses.

“Falun Gong and any other group and communist China should have the right to peacefully assemble and to follow the dictates of their heart,” he said.

“My hope is that still in my lifetime, I will see the day when all the people living under the Communist Party in China will be free, and have all the basic liberties and rights that we all too often take for granted here in the United States.”

Sherry Dong contributed to this report.



2,000 people march in a parade in Flushing, New York, on April 25, 2015, calling for an end to the persecution of Falun Gong in China.

OPINION

The 5 Things the Chinese Regime Fears Most

ALEXANDER LIAO

On April 16, the Hong Kong court officially sentenced key pro-democracy activists who were convicted last month. Most of their sentences are around a year to 18 months in prison. The “crime” for which the people were found guilty was illegal assembly without permission for a large-scale protest in August 2019 that was attended by hundreds of thousands of Hongkongers.

The crime appears to have no connection with the Hong Kong National Security Law, but many have linked the trial and conviction of the Hong Kong court with the National Security Law imposed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

As fear is the motivation for much of the CCP’s domestic and foreign aggression, the Chinese regime’s recent behavior in Hong Kong reveals some of its major fears.

Economic Decoupling

On the world stage, the legitimacy of the communist regime in the past three decades has mainly centered on its economic growth and economic potential of its large population. It uses this as bait to manipulate foreign governments and corporations that want a slice of the Chinese market.

The three major driving forces of economic growth are investment, consumption, and exports. China’s mainland’s domestic consumption contributes the least to its own GDP, accounting for only a little more than 40 percent of GDP—far less than the usual 70 percent for most other countries. Foreign trade through exports are massive levers for China’s GDP.

The day that everyone understands that the CCP does not represent the Chinese people will be the day its end has come. The CCP is not China.

The CCP system is an administrative-authoritarian system. The regime controls society in many ways, but in the past two decades, this control has been reflected through China’s economic operations. The more money the authorities have, the stronger their control over society.

The economic development of mainland China relies on the East Asian model, which is export-oriented. The East Asian model relies on consumption in foreign markets to promote economic growth. This is precisely why former U.S.



Chinese leader Xi Jinping (center) and lawmakers stand for the anthem during the closing session of the rubber-stamp legislature’s conference at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on March 11, 2021.

President Donald Trump’s launch of a U.S.-China trade war was terrifying for the CCP.

This is not simply due to the possibility of restraining the American market’s dependence on Chinese products—this action has forced officials in China to reconsider the continuation of the East Asian model in the mainland, which in turn poses a challenge to the structure of the country’s economic growth model.

In light of Trump’s trade war and the pandemic’s effect on the world economy, the CCP has had to take precautions for its future economic development. This is the biggest reason why the CCP has begun to promote self-reliance and internal circulation of Chinese capital. Once the economy contracts, the CCP’s government revenue will be under pressure, and its administrative stability maintenance budget will be affected. Without enough money for propaganda and enough incentive to le-

gitimize their authoritarian leadership of China, the regime will be on shaky ground.

Disruption to Technological Exchange With the West

This fear is primarily related to the economy, because the China’s export-oriented economy has reached its limit, you can only export so many goods. With the development of the world economy at a threshold, the export of simple and cheap goods cannot increase at the pace it has in the past few decades. Therefore, China needs to upgrade the quality of its products to continue increasing its market share. This will require China to seriously upgrade its technology and design innovation.

Technological advancement is also an important factor in the CCP’s control over society and maintenance of its military. China is infamous for its draconian use of artificial intelligence (AI) to monitor and track its citizens.

If scientific and technological exchanges with the West are interrupted, it will severely impact the CCP, especially with regard to its losing the ability to steal intellectual property from foreign countries.

A large number of overseas students from mainland China study and engage in scientific and technological research in European and American universities. In 2020, there were over 370,000 Chinese students studying in the United States. For the CCP, this is an invaluable channel and method of “exchange” with American science and technology. Now, the United States has not only cut off various high-level academic exchanges but is also considering how to reduce the number of Chinese science and engineering students.

Although China has many outstanding scientific and technological professionals, the current culture inhibits true creativity and innovation, because innovation and creation are inherently incompatible with autocratic and totalitarian systems. If it is impossible to continue to “exchange” science and technology with foreign countries, then the progress of science and technology under the rule of the CCP will be greatly affected.

On the world stage, the legitimacy of the communist regime in the past three decades has mainly centered on its economic growth and economic potential of its large population.

begun to emphasize China’s historical wars against Japan, boldly claiming that the CCP led China’s victories over Japan. It is widespread knowledge that it was the Chinese Nationalists who led the war against Japan at the time. To obscure this fact, the CCP changed the historically recorded length of China’s war against Japan from 8 years to 14 years to include the Pacification of Manchukuo, an insurgency against Japan from Manchuria, which was jointly led by the Soviet Communist Party and the CCP in the mid-1930s.

The fervor for mainland Chinese nationalism continuously promoted by the CCP has continued unabated. The Chinese people have begun to view the CCP from the perspective of nationalism and Chinese identity rather than communist ideology.

In 2016, Xi Jinping boldly claimed in a public speech that they “will never allow any person, any group, any political party, at any time, in any way, to split from China any part of its territory.”

This tough statement is a perfect example of fuel for the rising tide of aggressive nationalism in mainland China.

As a result, in the face of Hong Kong, Taiwan, Tibet, and Xinjiang affairs, the CCP cannot compromise or show any weakness via concessions. Through its evolution, the CCP has involuntarily taken on the cause of ultra-Chinese nationalism in order to justify its rule, devoid of any of its original communist ideals.

Religious Freedom

In the past decade or so, the CCP has stepped up its suppression of all religions and spiritual beliefs, with a very clear goal: to eliminate any ideological authority other than the CCP. To remain in power, it places controls on what Chinese people can see, do, and believe.

The CCP has demolished churches, arrested underground church leaders, and forced Catholic leaders to follow CCP directives that violate Christian principles.

In Tibet, the CCP’s main strategy for destroying the Tibetan independence movement was to target Tibetan Buddhism. Police stations were set up inside Tibetan monasteries. Tibetan lamas were forced to study atheism, materialism, and “Xi Jinping thought.” Those who dissented were arrested and imprisoned without trial.

In Xinjiang, more than one million Uyghurs and other Islamic minorities were arrested and placed in concentration camps for collective brainwashing. The key focus here is still religious ideology. A large number of Muslim imams have been arrested, and various religious books have been destroyed. Any online speech about faith and religion is treated as “religious extremism” and censored.

The core of the suppression of both Xinjiang and Tibet is religion. In Xinjiang, communist authorities tried to eliminate all religious cultures. These efforts included forcing its adherents to drink alcohol, eat pork, marry Muslim women to Han Chinese men, and carry out forced abortions and sterilizations, all of which violate the basic teachings of Islam. But in the eyes of the CCP, these traditional Muslim practices are manifestations of religious extremism.

For practitioners of the Falun Gong spiritual discipline, a special extrajudicial body, much like Nazi Germany’s Gestapo, was created called the 610 Office. For the past two decades, Falun Gong practitioners have been arbitrarily arrested and subjected to all manner

of physical and mental torture. Those who give in are forced to renounce their faith and declare loyalty to only the CCP and the doctrine of atheism. Those who resist face continued torture and even their organs being harvested and sold on the illicit transplant market to locals and foreigners desperate for an organ replacement.

Religion and personal belief often hold moral authority beyond national and political ideology, posing a serious threat to any totalitarian regime.

Detaching the CCP Label From the Chinese Identity

What the CCP fears most is the truth that the CCP is not China, and the CCP does not represent the Chinese people.

On Sept. 4, 2020, Xi Jinping delivered a speech to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the victory of China’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. The opening of the speech proudly introduced the five “no promises” of the Chinese regime. According to state-run media Xinhua, they are as follows:

1. “The Chinese people will never allow any individual or any force to distort the history of the [CCP] or smear the Party’s nature and mission.
2. The Chinese people will never allow any individual or any force to distort and alter the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, or deny and vilify the great achievements the Chinese people have made in building socialism.
3. The Chinese people will never allow any individual or any force to separate the [CCP] from the Chinese people or counterpose the Party to the Chinese people.
4. The Chinese people will never allow any individual or any force to impose their will on China through bullying, change China’s direction of progress, or obstruct the Chinese people’s efforts to create a better life.
5. The Chinese people will never allow any individual or any force to jeopardize their peaceful life and right to development, obstruct their exchanges and cooperation with other peoples, or undermine the noble cause of peace and development for humanity.”

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The fifth promise highlights the unwillingness of the CCP to decouple from international economies.

Political parties are not equal to the government, and the government is not absolutely representative of the people of any country.

The CCP is not equal to China, and the communist regime is not equal to the Chinese people.

In The Epoch Times editorial series, “Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party,” the CCP’s behavior is described as being like that of a possessing spirit.

The non-separation of the Party and the country, the Party and the people, and the Party and the government are the prerequisites and foundations for the CCP to exist in China.

Internally, the Party and its members are very clear. Civil servants must be Party members, and promotions must be given only to Party members. Many jobs are given priority to CCP members. The Chinese are very clear that members of the CCP are the elite.

The day that everyone understands that the CCP does not represent the Chinese people will be the day its end has come. The CCP is not China, and the CCP does not represent the Chinese people.

This understanding was first put forward in official terms by former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a speech. The CCP has since had a deep hatred of Pompeo. His statement struck the CCP’s Achilles heel and has the power to completely delegitimize the Chinese communist regime.

Alexander Liao is a columnist and journalist in research on international affairs in the United States, China, and Southeast Asia. He has published a large number of reports, commentaries, and video programs in newspapers and Chinese financial magazines in the United States and Hong Kong.

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



GREG BAKER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The pillar of a demolished Catholic church in Puyang, in China’s central Henan Province, on Aug. 13, 2018. The church was demolished to make way for a commercial development.



CHINATOPIK VIA AP

People line up to buy face masks at a drug store in Nanjing in eastern China’s Jiangsu Province, on Jan. 29, 2020.



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