

WEEK 21, 2021

THE EPOCH TIMES

CHINA INSIDER

An aerial view of the P4 laboratory of the Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on May 27, 2020.

NEW EVIDENCE

FUELS VIRUS
LAB LEAK
DEBATE

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OPINION

New Evidence

of Sick Wuhan Lab Researchers: Probe the Lab Now

ANDERS CORR



Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) lab researchers went to the hospital in November 2019 with symptoms consistent with both seasonal flu and COVID-19, according to a U.S. intelligence report newly revealed by the Wall Street Journal on May 23. Three of the researchers were sufficiently sick to seek hospital care, according to the report. The Journal wrote that the report “could add weight to growing calls for a fuller probe of whether the COVID-19 virus may have escaped from the laboratory.” Darn right.

The new evidence also adds weight to a conclusion that WIV’s leading researcher, Dr. Shi Zhengli, was lying or evading when she said that SARS-CoV-2 did not leak from her lab.

The former official who led a Pompeo task force into the virus origins, David Asher, alluded to evidence in the report at the Hudson Institute in March. He said that he doubted that the ordinary flu made three researchers sick. “I’m very doubtful that three people in highly protected circumstances in a level three laboratory working on coronaviruses would all get sick with influenza that put them in the hospital or in severe conditions all in the same week, and it didn’t

have anything to do with the coronavirus,” he told seminar participants. He said he believes that these hospitalizations of lab researchers could be “the first known cluster” of the COVID-19 disease.

According to the Journal, “Many proponents of the lab hypothesis say that a virus that was carried by an infected bat might have been brought to the lab so that researchers could work on potential vaccines—only to escape.” The timing of the WIV researcher hospitalizations matches analyses of SARS-CoV-2’s rate of mutation. The analyses concluded that the virus likely began spreading sometime in November, several weeks before the first known case on Dec. 8.

According to the first of two Pompeo State Department fact sheets that had the benefit of drawing from classified intelligence, the “U.S. government has reason to believe that several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019, before the first identified case of the outbreak, with symptoms consistent with both Covid-19 and seasonal illnesses.” The State Department’s second fact sheet, released on Jan. 15, stated that this “raises questions about the credibility” of Dr. Shi Zhengli. In other words, the State Department likely believed that the good doctor was lying. The fact sheets were additionally critical of Beijing’s “deceit and disinformation.” Crucially, the Biden administration



↑ An aerial view of the P4 laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on April 17, 2020.

Increasingly, scientists are taking the lab-leak hypothesis seriously. To test it, we need a full and immediate probe of the lab.

↓ Chinese virologist Shi Zhengli in the P4 laboratory in Wuhan, capital of China’s Hubei Province, on Feb. 23, 2017.

does not dispute any of the findings in the State Department fact-sheets on the virus’s origins. Even the Chinese authorities have confirmed at least one of former Secretary Pompeo’s claims.

A senior Chinese official in May 2020 confirmed that China’s National Health Commission (NHC) had in early January ordered labs throughout the country to destroy coronavirus samples. Pompeo alleged that the order from Beijing was made on Jan. 3. Liu Dengfeng of the NHC confirmed the story, saying that the samples were ordered destroyed “for pandemic prevention and control, which also played an important role in preventing biosafety risks.” Lending weight to the lab-leak hypothesis, Liu said, “If the laboratory conditions cannot meet the requirements for the safe preservation of samples, the samples should be destroyed on the spot or transferred to a professional institution for safekeeping.” Pompeo alleged that the destruction of the samples was done to cover up the virus’s origins.

The lack of transparency by Beijing is indeed evidence of a cover-up, suggesting that the virus’s origins are more serious for the regime than their story,

plus allegations of deceit, indicate. The earliest months of the outbreak are the most crucial for determining origin. The World Health Organization (WHO) team that visited the WIV revealed that of 76,000 people who were sickened between October and early December 2019, Chinese doctors identified 92 potential COVID-19 cases. But, the regime refused to share raw data on the 76,000. That data is essential for understanding why only 92 were tested for antibodies. Authorities also refused to provide pre-December 2019 samples from a blood bank in Wuhan for antibody testing.

The WHO team concluded, based on sparse evidence that was clearly biased by Chinese government selection effects, that the lab-leak theory was “extremely unlikely.” But they admitted to not having viewed the raw data and original records from the lab, including safety records. They should not have made any conclusions of likelihood without better data.

Even WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus seemed to disagree with the team’s conclusions when he said the team had not adequately examined the data relevant to the lab-leak hypothesis.

He rightly called for a fuller probe to investigate the relevant evidence.

Sadly, Dr. Ted is way ahead of the United States and European Union on the matter. Our western governments have demanded better access to samples and data from early sicknesses, including COVID-19 cases, but they have not explicitly demanded a lab probe.

That must change. Increasingly, scien-

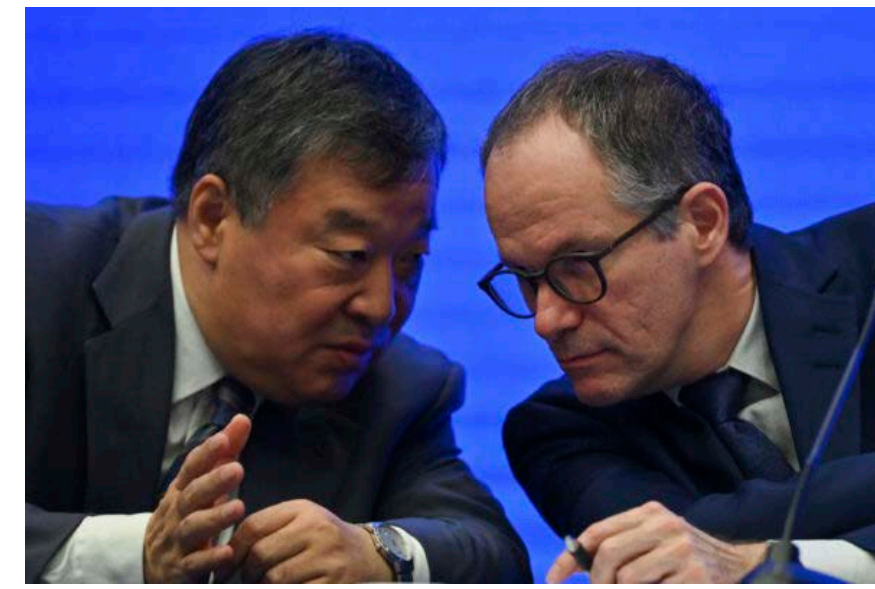
tists are taking the lab-leak hypothesis seriously. To test it, we need a full and immediate probe of the lab.

After approximately 590,000 American deaths and counting, and almost 3.5 million worldwide, President Biden and our allies have a clear and most solemn responsibility to demand a full lab probe of the WIV. Continued lack of a probe should be met with the most severe economic sanctions available to the U.S. government and allies against another nation. The families of 3.5 million lost souls deserve as much.

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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.

Peter Ben Embarek (R) talks with Liang Wannian during a press conference in the city of Wuhan, in China’s Hubei Province, on Feb. 9, 2021.



HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

IDEOLOGICAL CONTROL

Chinese Leader Tightens Grip on Power Through Vast Network of Institutes That Teach ‘Xi Jinping Thought’

NICOLE HAO

Chinese leader Xi Jinping is solidifying his control over Chinese Communist Party (CCP) officials and the wider populace by establishing institutes around the country to propagate his eponymous dogma—known as “Xi Jinping Thought.”

Since becoming the CCP’s paramount leader in 2012, Xi has moved to centralize power and encourage a personality cult echoing back to the Party’s first ruler Mao Zedong, analysts have noted. A key plank of this strategy is the dissemination of Xi’s own political ideology, officially called “Xi Jinping Thought for Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.”

The concept was first outlined in a speech given by Xi during the National Congress of the Communist Party in 2017, during which the doctrine was enshrined in the CCP’s constitution—making Xi the first leader since Mao to have an ideology carrying his name to be adopted into the Party charter while still in office.

Xi Jinping Thought, encapsulated in a collection of writings and “important

speeches” given by the leader, calls for drastically advancing the country’s economic and technological might by 2035. It also envisages a “world-class” military that can match the United States’ armed forces by mid-century.

It became the CCP’s culture that all officials must express their loyalties to Xi and the party in public

Huang Jinqiu (alias), a senior journalist in mainland China

The end goal is to transform China into a “great modern socialist country” by 2049—the 100th anniversary of the CCP coming to power.

Since the birth of Xi’s ideology, research institutes dedicated to its study and promotion have been set up in more than 20

universities across the country. Courses have also become mandatory learning for students at dozens of colleges and universities. The regime has even released a mobile app teaching Xi Jinping Thought, touted to be one of the most popular.

CCP officials have also been ordered to study Xi Jinping Thought. To achieve this, the regime has set up hundreds of Xi Jinping Thought institutes all across the country from large cities to far-flung villages to implant the ideology across the officialdom, according to leaked government documents recently obtained by The Epoch Times. The documents, issued by the provincial government in southwest China’s Guangxi Province, reveal the workings of the institutes and their wide geographical reach, information which has not previously been publicly disclosed by the regime.

“[All officials] must consciously use Xi Jinping Thought for Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era to arm your minds, guide your practice, and progress your tasks,” the Guangxi regional government ordered officials in a leaked docu-

ment issued on July 15, 2018.

Higher-ranking officials have also been assigned to monitor the progress of lower-level officials’ learning of Xin Jinping Thought, the documents showed.

Xi Jinping Thought Institutes

According to an internal document issued by the Guangxi Provincial government issued in November 2019, the regime started rolling out Xi Jinping Thought institutes in July 2018.

The document said that Guangxi, which has a population of about 50 million, had set up 138 Xi Jinping Thought institutes in its cities, districts and government offices. The institutes are officially called “New Era Civilization Practice Centers.”

Meanwhile, 21,294 stations teaching Xi Jinping thought, officially called “New Era Civilization Practice Station,” had been set up across Guangxi’s villages, townships, and neighborhoods.

Another document from July 2018 detailed how the centers should run. It said that centers should treat the teaching of Xi Jinping thought as its “most important



A decorative plate featuring an image of Chinese leader Xi Jinping is seen behind a statue of late communist leader Mao Zedong at a souvenir store next to Tiananmen Square in Beijing on Feb. 27, 2018.

task” and work to spread the thought deeply and clarify its historical significance.

Centers were instructed to set up classrooms big enough to accommodate 100 people, print learning materials and distribute it to all officials, organize tests, and arrange activities at least once a week.

The document not only asked officials to

learn Xi’s thought, but also ordered them to spread the ideology through media and on social media platforms such as through videos and messages.

Xi Jinping Thought Stations that run in smaller communities, meanwhile, were instructed in a May 2018 document to organize learning in formats that people like,

such as seminars, study circles, competitions, and quizzes. They were also encouraged to organize classes in people’s homes, farms, or factories.

Stations were also asked to turn aspects of Xi Jinping Thought into songs that could be sung by locals. Officials were tasked to make sure each resident in the village or neighborhood studied the ideology by tracking their study progress.

Learning Revisionist Party History

In the lead up to the centenary of the CCP’s establishment on July 1, the regime has kickstarted a nationwide campaign to study Party history, as interpreted by Xi.

Two recently published books that mark Xi as its author, “An Abbreviated History of the Chinese Communist Party” and “On the History of the Chinese Communist Party,” whitewashed the atrocities committed during Mao’s rule and glorified the accomplishments and ideologies espoused by Xi.

In an April document, the Guangxi regional government ordered all officials to study this latest version of history by reading these two books as well as several other official Xi books.

It also arranged 15 provincial-level inspection teams to monitor officials who work in different government departments, universities, television stations, newspaper, radio, academies, associations, state-

owned enterprises, and city governments. The teams were tasked to check the officials’ learning progress, as well as test them.

“[The inspection teams] need to tour [the lower-ranking government departments] and guide [the officials], inspect the departments randomly, investigate by talking with different people, and observing the [lower ranking officials’] studying,” the document said.

In March, over 100 officials across different departments in Guangxi’s provincial government shared their key learnings from their classes on Xi Jinping Thought, according to the document. In these sharings, all officials expressed their loyalty to Xi and his administration.

Huang Jinqiu (alias), a senior journalist in mainland China, told the Chinese-language Epoch Times that the officials have no choice but to declare allegiance to the leader.

“It became the CCP’s culture that all officials must express their loyalties to Xi and the party in public,” Jin said.

Jin said Chinese officials try to portray that “they are very leftist, they are very loyal, and they support CCP’s rule to protect themselves from being investigated or sacked.”

“It doesn’t matter how corrupt you are, you will be safe if you are loyal to Xi Jinping,” he added.

Cathy He contributed to this report.



Shoppers and staff in a cosmetic store at a mall in Beijing on April 18, 2021.

INFLATION

China Wrestles With Runaway Commodity Prices

Soaring manufacturers' inflation has not been passed onto consumers yet

FAN YU

China is looking to put a dent in the global commodities boom of 2021.

The price of China's industrial commodities fell last week after Beijing announced new measures to curb runaway material prices that are beginning to fan fears of inflation.

A rebound in the world's biggest economies following the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus outbreak has caused a spike in global demand for materials, causing prices to skyrocket in 2021. The Refinitiv/ CoreCommodity CRB Total Return Index has returned 19.8 percent year-to-date and has returned 55.8 percent from the recent low recorded on May 27, 2020.

China, being the world's second-largest economy and biggest exporter of finished goods, has consumed record amounts of raw materials since the second half of 2020 as global demand for products such as furniture, exercise equipment, and appliances has increased.

The country has had to contend with higher prices of commodities such as oil, iron ore, coal, as well as agricultural products such as corn. The high costs are threatening to inflate prices and choke consumer demand.

Chinese companies such as appliance makers Midea Group Co. and Haier Electronics Group Co. are increasing prices due to higher material, labor, and transportation costs, according to CCTV. Other global companies such as Procter & Gamble—which makes Tide laundry detergent and Pampers diapers—have also announced that they would pass on the higher costs to consumers.

In the recent week, Beijing has issued a few warnings and actions to curb runaway commodity prices, and hope in turn to lower consumer prices.

Beijing will more closely manage the supply and demand of various commodities to rein in "unreasonable" price increases, China's State Council (cabinet) said on May 19.

Premier Li Keqiang, who chaired the

cabinet meeting, said China would focus on its stockpiles of various commodities and more closely regulate its commodities trading markets—on which investors can bet on futures and options of various commodities—according to state-owned media CCTV.

Immediately following Beijing's announcement, the price of key steelmaking raw materials such as iron ores and coking coal, declined by more than 5 percent on May 20. Steel products such as rolled coils and rebars also declined.

China's producers price index (PPI), which measures the price movements of manufacturers and mining companies, has been rising in 2021 after declining for most of last year. The PPI rose 6.8 percent in April year-over-year, the largest monthly jump in more than three years.

In comparison, the consumer price index (CPI), which measures the price movements of consumer goods and services, has not yet caught up. April CPI rose 0.9 percent year-over-year, which is a bit higher than the March pace but nowhere close to the PPI growth.

It remains to be seen to what extent the PPI increases will show up in CPI. There's some correlation, as higher upstream prices in materials and chemicals will eventually be passed down downstream to consumers through higher prices for everyday products. But the correlation is not perfect and there are other factors that influence consumer prices.

And that's what Beijing is banking on. The People's Bank of China (PBoC) is looking to calm the concerns that higher commodity prices will equate to higher consumer prices, stating that imported commodity inflation is "largely controllable." Higher factory prices should stabilize after production capacities recover and the supply of goods increases.

"The increase in international commodity prices is unlikely to cause imported inflation in China so long as there is no excessive domestic demand," the PBoC stated in a policy note on May 18. "We don't think there is basis for long-term inflation."

There are also inflation concerns in the United States, driven by fears of an overheating economy coming out of pandemic lockdowns and too much liquidity as a result of unprecedented fiscal stimulus measures and lax monetary policy. So far, the U.S. Federal Reserve has not announced any overt actions to quell inflationary concerns.

What else can China do to rein in possible inflation?

There are a few levers it can pull. But Beijing's hands are somewhat tied due to ongoing policies on pollution and trade that have contributed to recent supply constraints. While China has just recently worked to increase production, CCP leader Xi Jinping has reduced steel and aluminum production overall as a way to reduce emissions. China has also recently cut planned purchases of coal and copper from Australia due to deteriorating trade issues.

Assuming those are solvable issues, Beijing could begin by reining in China's commodities exchanges. The busiest commodity exchanges in Dalian and Shanghai can raise margin requirements and crack down on speculation.

The CCP can also manage its existing commodity stockpiles. It can cure the metal supply constraint by releasing aluminum and iron stockpiles. In addition, Beijing can manage potential food and animal feed shortages by proactively building up and releasing agriculture stockpiles. China already has huge corn reserves from massive purchases made from the United States and other nations during 2019 and 2020.

Lastly, China can rein in debt sales funding infrastructure and real estate developments to curb demand for industrial goods. But such actions have an unintended consequence of reducing the nation's GDP.

Regardless, it seems high prices are here to stay in the foreseeable future. We expect "most commodity prices to not embark on downward trajectory until after 2021," Morgan Stanley Greater China analysts wrote in a note to clients on May 11.

SHRINKING WORKFORCE

China's Rapidly Shrinking Workforce Will Shake Up Its Status as the 'World's Factory'

GAO ZITAN & LUO YA

China's labor market is undergoing structural changes, with a shrinking labor force and rising labor costs. Young people are reluctant to enter factories, and the international labor market is shifting to Southeast Asia and other places. Some analysts expressed concerns that China's status as the "world's factory" may end within a year.

According to the seventh national census released by Chinese authorities, China's prime workforce population is decreasing. People aged 15 to 59, accounting for 63 percent of the total population, decreased by 7 percentage points from a decade ago. While another 18 percent of the total population, people aged 60 and above, increased by 5 percentage points from a decade ago.

Ren Zeping, chief economist at Soochow Securities, said that the census results indicate China's population is aging at an unprecedented speed and scale, with the country's baby boomers—born between 1962 and 1976—stepping out of the labor market at an accelerated pace. China's economy greatly enjoyed the additional demographic in the past. However, that same age group (60 and above) will retire in the near future.

China had 286 million migrant workers in 2020, 5 million less than the previous year, according to the Report on Monitoring and Investigation of Migrant Workers released by the regime's Bureau of Statistics in 2020. Among them, migrant workers in manufacturing jobs accounted for 27 percent.

Statistical data showed that from 2008 to 2018, the number of migrant workers in China's manufacturing jobs declined at an average annual rate of 2.8 percent.

Ren said in the next five years, China will not only face problems of an aging population, fewer children in each household, and young people not getting married, but will also have negative population growth. This is one of the biggest dangers affecting China's economic and social development.

The sharp decline in the labor force directly challenges China's status as the world's factory.

Rising Cost of Labor

The decrease in the labor force leads directly to a change in market supply and demand. Wage increases for blue-collar employees are also inevitable. In addition, the Chinese Communist Party has been printing more banknotes in recent years, resulting in serious inflation. The cost of living, such as clothing, food, housing,

200
PLUS TO
70

The number of people hired a day last year compared to end of April this year at Guangzhou Renyi Labor Dispatch Co.

In order to recruit skilled workers, employers in Guangzhou were willing to line up on the streets and hold up signs, waiting for workers to pick them.

Workers assemble parts for e-cigarettes on the production line at KangerTech, one of China's leading manufacturers of vaping products in Shenzhen, China, on Sept. 24, 2019.

and transportation has become higher and higher, so labor costs have naturally increased as well.

According to data released by China's Bureau of Statistics on April 30, migrant workers in manufacturing jobs earned an average of \$637 a month in 2020, an increase of \$21.50, or 3.5 percent, over the previous year, making it the fastest-growing sector. In 2006, the average monthly income for migrant workers in manufacturing or doing business in cities was \$150. With the monthly salary roughly quadrupling in 15 years, labor costs of manufacturing enterprises have also increased.

Wang Jinqiu, a Shanghai-based company executive, told The Epoch Times that high labor costs are a big expense for Chinese entrepreneurs. Employers are also required to provide workers with essential insurance and pensions—accounting for about a third of their wages. For example, for a worker who earns \$777 a month, the employer must pay about \$200 for various fees in addition to the worker's own contribution to the social security system, making the cost of employment for business owners very expensive.

Young People Reluctant to Enter Factories

Another reality affecting China's labor market is that young people today are reluctant to work in factories.

Most young people today are the only child in their families. Many are highly educated and have little desire to work as blue-collar workers. Even those in rural areas are not willing to leave their hometown and parents to work in places with long working hours, minimal security, and a poor environment.

Chinese media Caijing also reported that manufacturing is losing its appeal to young people. More young people prefer to work in their hometowns in emerging service industries such as food delivery, taxi driving, express delivery, and live broadcasting, which offer both flexibility and fast income.

In 2020, 170 million migrant workers left their homes, 5 million fewer than the previous year, Caijing said in its report. Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Guangdong, and other big manufacturing provinces, which once had a large influx of foreign workers, are now facing "recruitment difficulty" and "labor shortage."

Dong Sheng is the owner of Guangzhou Renyi Labor Dispatch Co. He told Caijing that in 2006, companies could "find however many they wanted" through his labor

dispatch service, but starting in 2019, finding workers has become harder every year. Last year, more than 200 people were hired a day, but by the end of April this year, that number had dropped to about 70.

In order to recruit skilled workers, employers in Guangzhou were willing to line up on the streets and hold up signs, waiting for workers to pick them. This was considered to be an unusually humble gesture by these business owners, Chinese media reported.

International Labor Market Shifting to Southeast Asia and Other Places

In the past few years, foreign companies have been leaving China in droves and moving factories to Southeast Asian countries. Panasonic, for example, will close its dry battery plant in Shanghai and transfer some of the work to its Central American plants for the North American market. Sony moved its smartphone factory from Beijing to Thailand. Apple is moving eight foundry factories from China to India. Samsung has shut down factories in China that make phones, computers, and televisions and moved them to Vietnam. Earlier, Nike, Adidas, Uniqlo, Muji, and other international brands had moved their factories to Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and other places.

According to Caijing, a chairman of a Zhejiang enterprise went to Uzbekistan in 2019 to investigate the country's investment environment for the manufacturing industry. He found that he can enjoy preferential policies on land, factories, taxes, and other aspects if he invests in Uzbekistan. The monthly salary of each local employee is about \$155, and "they are also very capable and can work overtime every day."

In economics, when a country's surplus labor force disappears causing wages to rise steeply, it is called a "Lewis turning point." Many foreign companies have spotted the "Lewis turning point" in China and are rapidly relocating their manufacturing facilities.

Japan's Daiwa Securities has predicted that China will lose its status as the world's factory by 2022 at the latest.

Zhang Jinglun, a U.S.-based researcher on finance, business, and economics, told The Epoch Times that a worsening economic environment and mass exodus of manufacturing plants will lead to an army of unemployed workers—squeezing labor costs—but a shrinking labor force and an aging society will also weigh on the economy, creating a vicious cycle.



KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES

HUMAN RIGHTS

19-Year-Old Chinese Dissident Held in Dubai Fears Deportation Back to China

EVA FU

A young Chinese dissident on the Chinese Communist Party's wanted list is seeking help after being held incommunicado for a month in the United Arab Emirates, with the prospect of being sent back to China to face torture.

Dubai police arrested Wang Jingyu, a 19-year-old from Chongqing city in southern China's Sichuan Province, during his transfer flight to New York on April 6. Wang, who says he has done nothing wrong, has been in custody with limited contact with the outside world since his arrest.

"This is 100 percent linked to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)," he said in an interview with The Epoch Times on May 20, the first time he has spoken with a media outlet since his detention.

Wang initially got into trouble with the CCP in February, when he disputed the authorities' account of the bloody border clash with India.

The deadly brawl in June 2020 saw Chinese and Indian soldiers attack each other with iron rods and stones. India reported 20 deaths on its side, while China acknowledged four fatalities—but only eight months later—unconfirmed reports put the death toll at as high as 45.

"Why did you announce the death toll so late? What on earth are you hiding?" Wang wrote on Chinese social media Weibo on Feb. 21, two days after Beijing broke its silence on the deaths.

This social media activity, along with two more posts, eventually caught the local police's attention. He became one of seven people that Chinese police charged with defaming "heroes and martyrs," with the police notice of his case circulated on Chinese media. He soon found his passport information, address in China, and other personal details publicized on Weibo.

As Wang was not in China at the time, the Chinese police detained his parents and asked him to make a confession video—a request he refused.

Wang left China for Istanbul in July 2019, shortly after posting a TikTok video in support of Hong Kong protesters. Despite having a local number, he received a flurry of text messages from strangers to intimidate him. People he suspected to be Chinese state agents would call him at his hotel to make personal threats, he said.

"How did they know where I live?" he asked. Fearing for his safety, he booked a flight to New York.

On April 6, after arriving in Dubai, two plainclothes men who identified themselves as officers from Dubai's criminal informational department stopped him during his flight transfer and held him in the immigration bureau near the airport.

They confiscated his passport, phone, and luggage, detaining him there for around 48 hours while giving him only some water. He was later transferred to a larger jail, around which time his friends

Bail document for Wang Jingyu. Some personal details have been redacted.

'This is an evil party, it will eventually fall,' said the detained activist, referring to the CCP. 'Through what happened to me, I want to tell the whole world to unite and bring [it] down.'

Wang Jingyu, Chinese dissident on the Chinese Communist Party's wanted list



Wang Jingyu. PROVIDED TO THE EPOCH TIMES



secured a lawyer for him.

Until that point, Wang was clueless about the reason for his arrest.

At the immigration bureau, all he was told was "wait, wait, wait," he said. They told his lawyer that he had insulted their religion and culture. Later, they told him he endangered national security, a wording that echoes the charge that the Chinese regime often slaps on dissidents.

On April 19, the court granted him bail, but Dubai police refused to release him, citing a request from immigration authorities to deport him.

Beijing has likely put pressure on Dubai authorities through diplomatic relations, he said.

Employees from the Chinese embassy in Dubai met with him at least three times, trying to get him to sign a document consenting to go back to China.

"They said that nothing would happen to me if I go back to China, and that I'm better off going back because I can't go anywhere here," he said. "I didn't sign."

Roughly two weeks ago, the court withdrew his case for lacking evidence, but the discussions about possible deportation continued.

Earlier on May 20, Dubai police also asked him to sign a document in Arabic on two occasions, but he also refused, saying he couldn't understand what it

said, he told The Epoch Times.

"I didn't do anything that violated the law in this country," he said.

In prison, Wang was provided only one meal each day due to the observance of Ramadan that ended on May 12. His cellmates often got into fights. He observed an absence of basic measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, including mask-wearing.

Chinese police raided his parents' home in February and briefly detained both in a bid to force his return to China and make a public confession in a video. They have been fired from their state-run company jobs.

He hasn't been able to contact his parents for months.

"I have no regrets for everything I have done before, because I think what I did was right," he said.

"This is an evil party, it will eventually fall," he said, referring to the CCP. "Through what happened to me, I want to tell the whole world to unite and bring [it] down."

He didn't get to finish the sentence before the phone was cut off.

The Dubai police didn't immediately respond to an inquiry regarding Wang's case.

Gu Xiaohua contributed to this report.

OPINION

Why Did I Renounce My Chinese Communist Party Membership?

WANG YOUQUN



I was once a member of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), serving as one of the speechwriters for Wei Jianxing, a former member of the Politburo Standing Committee and the secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection until November 2002.

In November 2004, The Epoch Times published an editorial series "Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party" that covered the CCP from theory to practice—from history to reality—stripping out all of its guises and exposing its evil nature to the world. Since then, there has been a wave of withdrawals from the CCP and its affiliated organizations, such as the Communist Youth League of China and the Young Pioneers of China, around the globe.

At that time, I used a pseudonym to post my statement of resignation from the Party on the Epoch Times website. Why did I quit the CCP? I'll briefly talk about my views.

Let me start with my initial motivation to join the CCP. I joined in early 1994, back when I was a doctoral candidate in the Department of International Politics at Renmin University of China.

Some graduates were assigned to work in the CCP's central organizations after getting their doctorates. Ni Liya was assigned to work in the Policy Research Office of the CCP's Central Committee and once served as the director of the Cultural Bureau of the Central Policy Research Office. Yu Hongjun was assigned to work in the International Department of the Central Committee and once served as the deputy minister. Xue Gang was assigned to the headquarters of the General Staff of the Central Military Commission and once served as a military attaché abroad.

I too wanted to work in a central agency after completing my doctorate. Nevertheless, the CCP has an unwritten rule that whoever works in the central agency must be a Party member. I joined the CCP primarily because it was a job requirement.

So, why did I quit the CCP? It's a long story. I'll try to focus on my understanding of the CCP. The CCP didn't naturally grow on Chinese soil. It was built in 1921 under the control of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, with one of its main missions being to defend the Soviet Union.

The CCP and the Chinese nation don't share a common ancestor. Communism didn't originate from the 5,000-year-traditional Chinese culture, but from the "Communist Manifesto" by Karl Marx in 1848, with the core ideology of "deceit, malice, and struggle." There's even a well-known saying among CCP cadres that when they die, they'll meet Marx in "his place"—hell.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CCP. In its first 28 years, the CCP mainly did one thing: unscrupulously subvert China's legitimate government, the Republic of China. In the following 72 years, it has done one major thing: unscrupulously retain its totalitarian rule of mainland China.

The CCP Cares Not at All About China On Dec. 9, 1999, in Beijing, CCP leader Jiang Zemin and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a narrative protocol on the boundary between China and Russia, which recognized the string of unequal treaties signed between the corrupt late Qing government and the Tsarist government. The Protocol unconditionally gave Russia the territory of more than 1 million square kilometers of northeast China occupied by Russia.

To Jiang's traitorous behavior, no one—none of the members of the Party hierarchy leaderships from local authorities to central authorities—raised objections.

The CCP Cares Not at All About the Chinese

The CCP has been in power for 72 years and launched dozens of bloody and brutal political campaigns during that time. For example, in 1958, Mao Zedong launched the Great Leap Forward. This ultra-left policy caused a great famine on a scale previously unseen in Chinese history—or even in the history of mankind.

In 1996, Chen Yizi, a member of the think tank of former General Secretary Zhao Ziyang, estimated that the number of excess deaths ranged from 43 million to 46 million, based on confidential documents kept within the Party.

According to a veteran cadre's interview, the second national census led by Yang Shangkun in 1964—with Shangkun then serving as director of the General Office of the Central Committee—concluded that the actual number of peasants who starved to death in the three-year famine was 96 million. This information was held in a confidential file by the Ministry of Public Security.

When Jiang Zemin was in power, he launched a frenzied persecution of Falun

Gong, amid which the most heinous atrocity has been the large-scale harvesting of organs from Falun Gong practitioners. On June 22, 2016, Canadian human rights lawyers David Matas and David Kilgour, as well as American journalist Ethan Gutmann, jointly prepared the report "Bloody Harvest/The Slaughter, an Update," in which they estimated that the number of organ transplants carried out in China was somewhere between 60,000 to 100,000 annually. The total number of transplants may have been as high as 1.5 million for the period between 2000 to 2016. And the main source of these organs would have been Falun Gong practitioners.

The CCP and the Chinese nation don't share a common ancestor. Communism didn't originate from the 5,000-year-traditional Chinese culture, but the Communist Manifesto by Marx in 1848, with the core ideology of 'deceit, malice, and struggle.'

The CCP Cares Not at All for Chinese Culture

Traditional Chinese culture is regarded as a divinely inspired culture. The atheistic CCP prohibits the Chinese from holding any beliefs beyond those of the Party. It defies itself and preaches the Party's supremacy. Under the CCP's rule, the army, businesses, the media, academia, and even religions should only follow the CCP's evil.

The CCP has distorted all the existing religions inside China today. Shi Yinsun, vice chairman of the Buddhist Association of China said, "The CCP is a living Buddha and Bodhisattva, and the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China is the contemporary Buddhist scriptures of China." His statement was imbued with the communist faith and publicly blasphemed against Buddhas and Dharma.

Those who are aware of my situation may ask: You were expelled from the CCP. That being the case, why did you publicly declare your withdrawal from the Party afterward?

I was indeed expelled from the Party. On July 20, 1999, the day that CCP dictator Jiang launched the persecution of

Falun Gong, I was quarantined for investigation. Six days later, I was expelled from the Party.

The CCP expelled me from the party not because I made a mistake at work, not because I made a financial mistake, not because I made a mistake in my personal relationships, but simply because I wrote Jiang a letter on May 7, 1999. In the letter, I said that "Falun Dafa benefits the country and the people, and harms no one." I was telling the truth about Falun Gong.

The CCP expelled a member from the Party when the member spoke the truth to the Party's general secretary. I would like to ask: Is this Party righteous or evil?

I started practicing Falun Gong on May 3, 1995. As of July 20, 1999, I had been practicing Falun Gong for more than four years. Falun Gong is a Buddhist practice rooted in ancient Chinese traditions. Its core philosophy is "truthfulness, compassion, tolerance," and it requires a cultivator to be a good person in strict accordance with "truthfulness, compassion, tolerance" wherever they are. At home, one should be a good father, husband, and son. In society, one should be a good citizen, and in the workplace, a good employee.

By that time, my practice had brought out the best in me in all aspects of my life. It was then that the CCP treated me as a "bad person," kicking me out of the Party. I would like to ask: Is this Party righteous or evil?

Why Did I Publicly Denounce the Party?

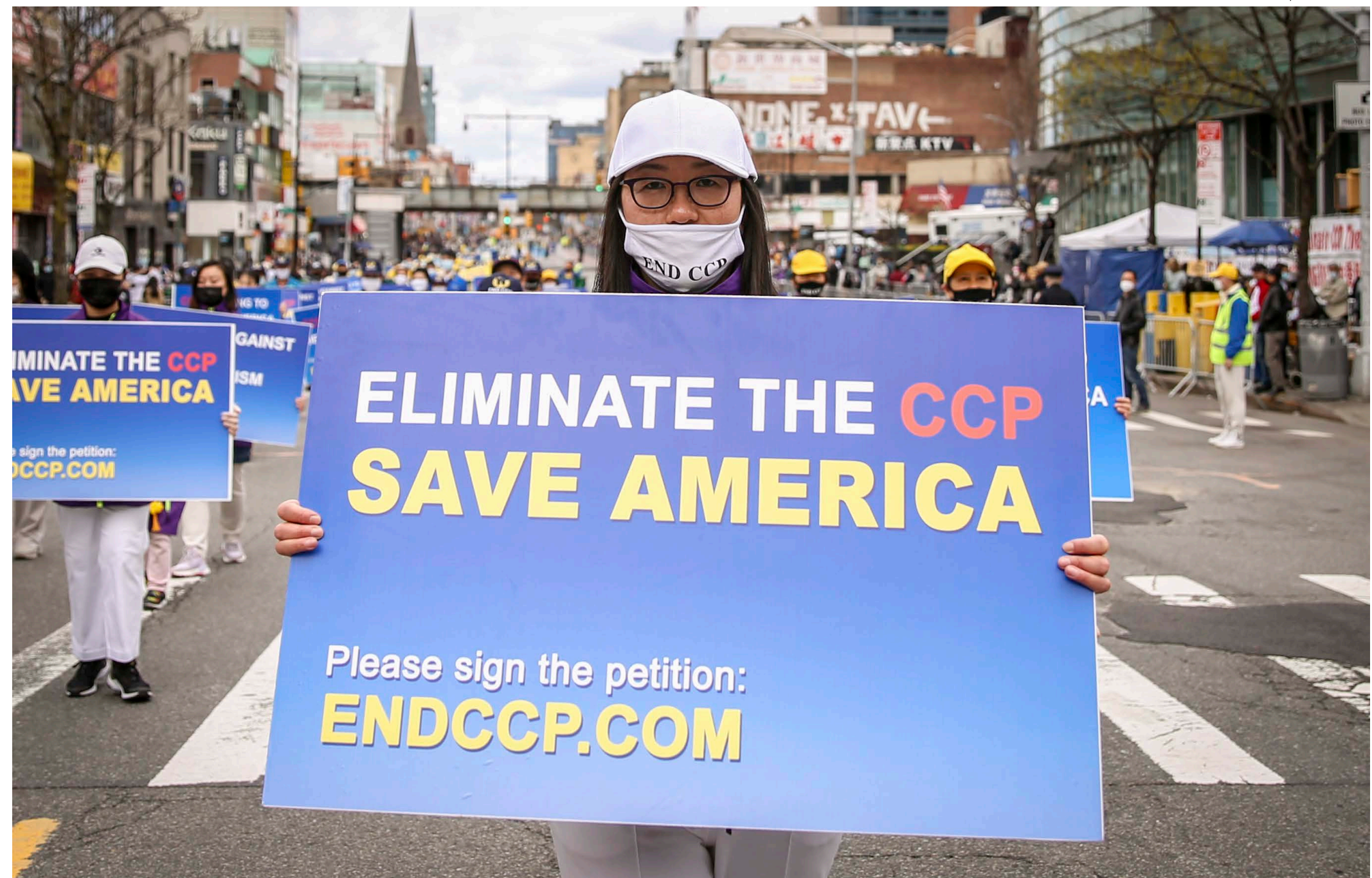
Expelling me from the Party is a punishment by the CCP, but not a break from it. When I joined the CCP, I vowed with my life to fight for the communism advocated by Marx. As the Chinese saying goes, "God is always watching what you are doing." God must have seen when I made that vow.

I publicly declared that I renounced Party membership to show God that I had severed my ties with the atheistic CCP and returned to my belief in God.

Only those who truly believe in God can be blessed and protected by God.

Wang Youqun graduated with a Juris Doctor from the Renmin University of China. He once worked as a copywriter for Wei Jianxing (1931–2015), a member of the CCP's Politburo Standing Committee from 1997 to 2002.

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



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

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