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# CHINA INSIDER

ANDREA VERBELLU/GETTY IMAGES

资料

## 'TWO-FACED STRATEGY'

XI'S PLAN FOR CONTROL  
THE GLOBAL NARRATIVE

See Page 2



Politburo Standing Committee member Wang Yang (L), Chinese leader Xi Jinping (C) and Premier Li Keqiang applaud after the result of the vote on changes to Hong Kong's election system was announced during the closing session of the National Peoples Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on March 11, 2021.

## CHINESE REGIME

# Xi Wants Officials to Get 'Two Faced' in Spreading the CCP's Agenda to the World: Experts

EVA FU

As Beijing gears up for a major charm offensive to endear the West, expect no genuine change from the Chinese Communist Party—only “more cunning,” analysts warn.

In late May, Chinese leader Xi Jinping convened a “study session,” telling top communist officials to make it a priority to create a “trustworthy, lovable, and respectable Chinese image.” That, according to Xi, requires them to “widen their circle of friends,” “win over the majority,” and “pay attention to the strategy and art of narrative warfare” so that on key issues they can make themselves heard. They must set the tone right to present themselves as both “open and confident, yet modest and humble,” said Xi.

The communist leader's speech was a call to arms directed at the officialdom, said Sydney-based academic Feng Chongyi.

“He's waging a war of words to control global narratives,” Feng, a China studies professor at the University of Technology, told The Epoch Times.

Xi, he said, was trying to “help his minions work more effectively.”

In the leader's view, the regime hasn't done enough to deceive the world with so-called positive stories coming from China, so “now it needs to double down,” Feng said.

### A 'Self-Rescue Measure'

While the regime's efforts to sway the global narrative are not new, the cur-

**This is a self-rescue measure to improve its global image so that it's not always the villain that everyone mocks.**

Huang Jinqiu, a writer and dissident, based in eastern China's Zhejiang Province

Journalists sit next to the screens showing Chinese Leader Xi Jinping delivering a speech via video on Nov. 4, 2020.

rent international pressure has given it added urgency.

The Chinese regime has suffered a series of setbacks as its diplomats have sparred with countries around the world under an aggressive approach, known as “wolf warrior diplomacy.”

In the European Union, lawmakers have shelved a proposed EU-China trade agreement several years in the making, after Beijing imposed retaliatory sanctions on Parliament members.

Australia, which has borne the brunt of Beijing's anger after last year calling for an independent investigation into the origins of the pandemic, recently teamed up with New Zealand—a country that had been a reluctant critic of China—to express “grave concerns” about Beijing's tightening control of Hong Kong and its treatment of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, which a growing number of countries have recognized as a genocide.

In the Philippines, the Chinese regime's amassing of hundreds of militia-manned boats in disputed reefs lying in Manila's territorial waters triggered rage from the country's officials. Philippine foreign secretary issued an expletive-laden warning on Twitter demanding Chinese fishing vessels to stay off disputed waters. Even President Rodrigo Duterte, who has historically been friendly toward the regime, threatened to send military ships to the South China Sea to “stake a claim” over resources in the

disputed region.

This week, both the Group of Seven (G-7) rich nations and NATO turned their focus to challenges posed by the Chinese regime—a sign of an emerging coordinated effort by democracies to confront Beijing.

With the regime's handling of the pandemic attracting rising scrutiny, negative views of China surging in some countries, and anger mounting toward Beijing's human rights abuses, the West appears to be “cornering” China's communist party, said Huang Jinqiu, a writer and dissident based in eastern China's Zhejiang Province. The challenge is multifaceted, from economically to militarily to ideologically, he added.

From the perspective of the ruling party, there is the danger that “the cold war may turn hot,” and it is eager to get out of the dilemma, Huang said.

“How do you break it through? You begin by winning their hearts,” he said. And this is where propaganda comes into play.

“This is a self-rescue measure to improve its global image so that it's not always the villain that everyone mocks,” he said.

Such propaganda could come in a variety of forms and may not be as visible as people think, said Huang, who pointed to the state-funded Chinese cultural programs, popular Chinese-owned apps, and advertorials by Chinese state-run media placed in Western outlets.

“A lot of Westerners may not want to have anything to do with China, but they may think highly of TikTok and, because of the product, develop a fonder feeling for China,” he said, referring to the Chinese-owned video app that the Trump administration had attempted to ban over data security concerns.

### 'Two-Faced Strategy'

But Hua Po, a Beijing-based political analyst, cautioned that Chinese diplomats are unlikely to abandon their fiery rhetoric any time soon.

While Xi's call for modesty and humility might seemingly contradict their aggressive style, to the regime it is only “a matter of strategy,” said Hua.

“The so-called humility is just a tactic. You want to be a bit more tactful in some areas, such as promoting Chinese culture, so it's easier for people to accept [the propaganda].”

But underlying this strategy, the

goal is still the same: the regime “won't back down from its fight for discourse power” with the West, Hua said, referring to Xi's desire to control public discussion all over the world.

In the meantime, the regime may opt for a softer approach toward certain countries to get them on its side, while holding an aggressive stance toward others, according to Hua. For instance, that would mean being insistent toward America, harsh reprisals toward Australia, befriending Germany and European countries, and a combination of both for Canada.

That Beijing was not going to retreat diplomatically was evident in remarks made by scholar Zhang Weiwei, who was the only academic invited to lecture senior officials at Xi's study session, in an English interview with Chinese Communist Party (CCP) mouthpiece People's Daily on June 1.

### He's waging a war of words to control global narratives.

Feng Chongyi, China studies professor, University of Technology, Sydney

“The Chinese story had not yet been told very well to the outside world, especially in a language in a way that foreigners can understand,” the Fudan University professor said. He blamed it as “mainly a problem on the part of the West.”

Zhang further declared that “there's no way to contain a country like China.” Doing so, he said, would only result in “mutually assured destruction.”

Feng, the Sydney academic, described the new approach as a “two-faced strategy.”

“This is not to reject wolf-warrior diplomacy, but rather to complement it,” he said. “They are refining their deception skills and getting more cunning.”

“You play either the ‘wolf’ or the ‘cat’ depending on the circumstance,” he said.

No matter how cunning the tactics, there are limits to what the regime can do, said Feng.

The CCP “has gone too far,” he said. “Even its friends, the so-called panda-huggers, find it embarrassing to speak on their behalf.”

Luo Ya contributed to this report.

## OPINION

# Wall Street's Cozy China Connections

CHRISTOPHER A. IACOVELLA

If there's one area of bipartisan agreement, it's that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) presents a grave threat to the free world and our way of life. So why is Wall Street still financing Beijing's authoritarian ambitions—with investor money from Main Street America?

Greed. For decades, Beijing has used Wall Street's insatiable appetite for profit to infiltrate our capital markets and fund the build-up of its economic and military power. In exchange, Wall Street receives huge fees and access to the Chinese market. This coercive quid pro quo threatens our economic and national security and harms America's working families, savers, and retirees.

The scale of this cozy relationship—and how it was built—is staggering. CCP-controlled Chinese companies have accessed billions of U.S. investor dollars under false pretenses for years. Between 2009 and 2012, for instance, numerous Chinese companies executed reverse mergers into dormant companies listed on U.S. exchanges, and almost all of them were frauds that left American investors with heavy losses.

Then in 2013, the CCP persuaded high-level American officials to give Chinese companies a “free pass” from Sarbanes-Oxley rules enacted after the Enron and WorldCom frauds. More recently, the CCP pressured Wall Street to include Chinese companies in international and emerging market index funds, which allows them to completely avoid our company-specific disclosure and reporting obligations.

This special treatment creates real risks for investors. Last year, Luckin Coffee—the so-called Starbucks of China—saw its stock drop over 80 percent as investors learned of fabricated sales and shoddy ac-

counting. Two years ago, Kangmei Pharmaceutical, a Chinese company included in multiple index funds, perpetrated a “premeditated and malicious cheating of investors” when over \$4.4 billion in cash suddenly went missing. These are a few examples of the purposeful and deliberate fraud the CCP has perpetrated on the American investing public with Wall Street's help.

And if the risk of fraud weren't bad enough, a number of CCP-controlled companies listed on American exchanges and included in index funds are also on the U.S. government Entity List and OFAC Sanctions List. To get on these lists, a company must be “acting contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States” or “a threat to the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the U.S.”

Despite all of that, Wall Street remains undeterred.

Since modern-day China operates as a “Party-State,” funds that flow to Chinese industry can't be separated from those supporting the CCP. In other words, there's no way to distinguish the funds raised in U.S. capital markets from those used by the CCP to underwrite gross human rights abuses and other activities that shock the conscience.

Wall Street can't say whether the funds it directs to the CCP are used for forced labor, the ongoing internment of Uyghurs in concentration camps, the emission of more greenhouse gases than all developed countries combined, the buildup of the People's Liberation Army, or the support of a cyber-army that relentlessly attacks the United States and other nations of the free world.

Yet, despite it being so outspoken on environmental and social issues here, Wall Street's virtue-signaling seems to end at the water's edge.

It hasn't stopped doing business with or divested its portfolios of any security subject to communist China's repressive regime. So it appears that no matter what the moral cost, Wall Street will work with the CCP.

Until this changes, the CCP will persist in dumping its companies into our markets with Wall Street's help. This means the CCP will continue to use our money to fund unspeakable atrocities, the destruction of the environment, an increasingly belligerent military, and a disinformation campaign that undermines American values.

While the free flow of capital shouldn't be impeded, communist China's threat to humanity, the environment, investors, and our national security trump this maxim.

The Biden administration recognizes this, recently warning that “China's leaders seek unfair advantages, behave aggressively and coercively, and undermine the rules and values at the heart of an open and stable international system.”

To counter the CCP threat, we need a whole-of-government approach that prioritizes the interests of the United States. It starts with a “Buy America” policy that steers American dollars away from communist China and toward American companies, so jobs can be created here.

This also means that to protect America's mom-and-pop investors, the integrity of our markets, and every American, the CCP's access to the U.S. capital markets must end.

Earlier this month, President Joe Biden signed an executive order to start that process. The order bans 59 CCP-controlled companies from our markets, and it warns Wall Street and the CCP that “any conspiracy formed to violate any prohibition in the order is prohibited.”

Only a bipartisan Washington can force Wall Street to stop funding the Chinese Communist Party.

*Christopher A. Iacovella is the CEO of the American Securities Association.*

*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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The Wall Street sign outside the New York Stock Exchange in New York on March 23, 2021.



STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

ANGELA WEISS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

# Chinese Regime Raids Homes, Detains Falun Gong Practitioners Ahead of Centenary

NICOLE HAO

The Chinese regime has been raiding the homes of Falun Gong practitioners and detaining them throughout the country during the month of June, ahead of the ruling party's upcoming 100-year anniversary celebration on July 1.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) will celebrate the centennial of its founding next month. In order to "maintain social stability"—terminology used by the regime to justify its totalitarian rule—the CCP announced a series of strict controls on the Chinese people in June, particularly in Beijing.

Practitioners of Falun Gong—a traditional spiritual practice that teaches the values of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance—have been among those targeted by the regime.

Since June 1, reports have emerged of practitioners' homes being raided by local police. Their private property has been seized, and some police have even detained nonpractitioner family members.

"We condemn all forms of the CCP's persecution [on Falun Gong practitioners]," Zhang Erping, spokesperson for the Falun Dafa Information Center in New York, told The Epoch Times on June 17.

"The CCP's persecution has been ongoing since July 1999. There is no indication thus far of any policy change from the CCP, and we continue to witness the ruthless campaign of persecution against Falun Gong practitioners in China. We continue to call on people of good conscience around the world to speak up against the CCP's violence on Falun Gong."

## Large-Scale Detentions

On June 10, the Mudanjiang Municipal Police Department in northeastern China's Heilongjiang Province ordered police from across the city's six counties and four districts to arrest Falun Gong practitioners from their homes.

The regime said the arrests were part of a campaign it has named "Safety July 1."

In a 36-hour period, police detained 28 Falun Gong practitioners in the city; harassed another six practitioners; and seized cellphones, computers, printers, books, cash, and even bank cards from practitioners' homes, reported Minghui.org, a website dedicated to documenting the persecution in China.

On June 10, at 3 a.m., several policemen broke into Falun Gong practitioner Guo Libin's house in Hailin, a county-level city in Mudanjiang, detained Guo and his wife, and grabbed Guo's son's bank card. They also raided his sister's house, seizing her home entertainment system, cellphones, and books.

At 8 a.m., policemen from Aimin district hired a locksmith and broke into the house of practitioner Chen Yanwei when Chen and her family were at home. They detained Chen and her sister Chen Yanfu.

In some cases, the police even used pepper spray on practitioners as they tried to protect their belongings.

In Dalian city of northeastern China's Liaoning Province, 29 Falun Gong practitioners and at least six of their nonpractitioner family members were arrested from their homes between June 1 and June 3 as part of the regime's "Safety July 1" campaign. Police in eastern China's Shandong Province conducted their own home raids on Falun Gong practitioners as part of the campaign.

Minghui.org also reported on similar arrests happening in the cities of Beijing and Tianjin, as well as in Sichuan, Guangdong, Gansu, Hebei, Yunnan, and about a dozen other provinces.

## Fear of Losing Power

The Chinese regime launched its brutal persecution to eradicate Falun Gong in July 1999, and it's estimated that millions of practitioners have been detained, tortured, and killed over the past 22 years.

Regime officials believe they need to escalate the persecution during the centennial to safeguard their power, according to Tang Jingyuan, U.S.-based China affairs commentator.

"The CCP regime has detained Falun Gong practitioners, petitioners, democracy activists, and even ultra-leftists



Practitioners of the spiritual discipline Falun Gong hold a parade in New York on May 13, 2020, to celebrate World Falun Dafa Day and to protest the ongoing persecution of the group by the Chinese Communist Party in China.

who they don't trust ahead of the centenary," he told The Epoch Times on June 17. "It's because Chinese leader Xi Jinping and the Beijing authorities are scared to lose power."

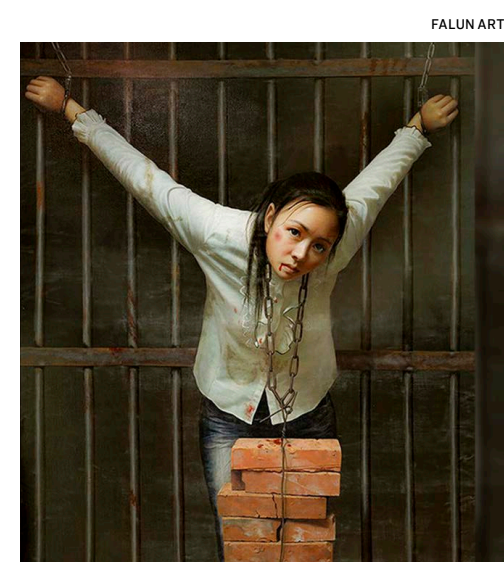
Tang said the regime wants to consolidate its dictatorship, and Xi eagerly wishes to hold onto his totalitarian position.

"In the past decades, Falun Gong practitioners have revealed the persecutions that they suffered in China, and exposed the crimes the CCP committed when faced with calls to end the persecution, inside and outside of China. This scares the CCP," Tang said.

"The CCP wants to silence Falun Gong practitioners by escalating the persecution and detaining as many practitioners as possible. But history has told the CCP that people who have beliefs, such as Falun Gong practitioners, are not afraid of evil. They'll do whatever they believe is good for others and the society."

**The CCP regime has detained Falun Gong practitioners, petitioners, democracy activists, and even ultra-leftists who they don't trust ahead of the centenary.**

Tang Jingyuan, U.S.-based China affairs commentator



A painting depicting the "hanging bricks around the neck" torture method. It's one of the most common torture methods used to break the spirit of determined Falun Gong practitioners and coerce them to renounce their faith.



Police detain a Falun Gong protester in Tiananmen Square as a crowd watches in Beijing on Oct. 1, 2000.

## PROPAGANDA

## Chinese Regime Sets Up Global Campaign to Recruit Influencers to Counter Western Narratives

ALEX WU

The Chinese communist regime's overseas English mouthpiece media CGTN (China Global Television Network) just finished a two-month-long worldwide recruitment campaign of global media talents and social media influencers to produce pro-Beijing propaganda that "counters Western narratives."

The state-backed broadcaster, which offers rich incentives to attract young participants, has been targeting Western university students, generating concern among international media and communities.

CGTN began its "Media Challengers" campaign in April to globally enlist reporters, presenters, DJs, podcasters, and social media influencers who report in English. According to the official website, the campaign "aims to inspire young people from all over the world" and it has a goal of "injecting new power into international communication under the environment of media convergence." Participants are required to upload a 3-minute-video of any genre, whether they are a "foodie, techie, makeup guru, sports fanatic, or something

else entirely."

The media outlet offers up to \$10,000 to winners and free professional training to finalists. It also offers job opportunities to winners, either part-time or full-time, at "CGTN's Beijing headquarters and three regional production centers in Washington, London, and Nairobi."

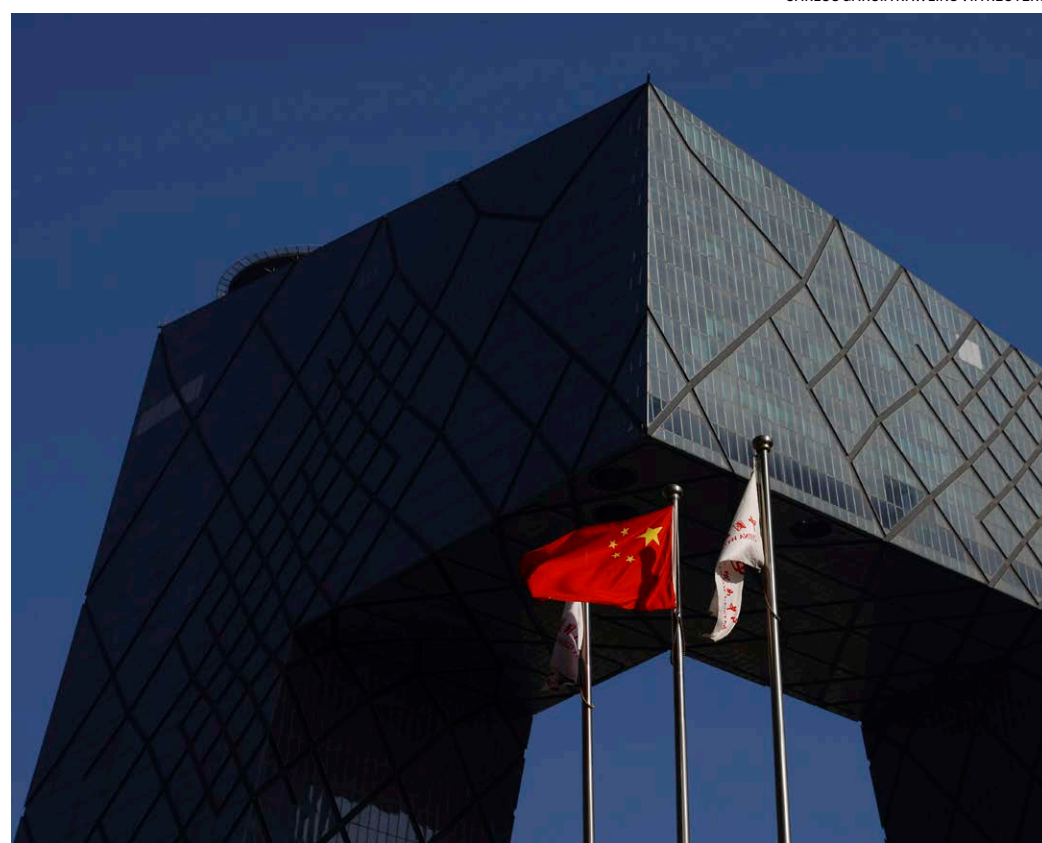
In addition, the winners "will be invited to participate in CGTN's coverage of the ancient Silk Road from 2021 to 2022."

## Targeting Western Youth

YouTube videos about the campaign show young participants from Western and African countries as well as Chinese students studying abroad. In addition, UK media The Times reported that CGTN is targeting British universities because several university students and local media influencers are among the participants.

The report warned that if "Western social media influencers read out China's official line on particular issues, domestic audiences might believe the Chinese Communist Party [CCP] is admired by international audiences."

The China Research Group in the UK



A Chinese flag flutters outside the CCTV headquarters, the home of Chinese state media outlet CCTV and its English-language sister channel CGTN in Beijing on Feb. 5, 2021.

posted a tweet that said the global influencers and vloggers recruited by CGTN "will promote China and counter western narratives that damage its image." The group also noted that the CCP's official overseas mouthpiece is targeting British university students.

"No self-respecting university should allow such a propaganda outfit to recruit on its campus," the Henry Jackson Society, a British diplomatic think tank, commented on Twitter about the CGTN's recruitment campaign.

**The media outlet offers up to \$10,000 to winners and free professional training to finalists. It also offers job opportunities to winners.**

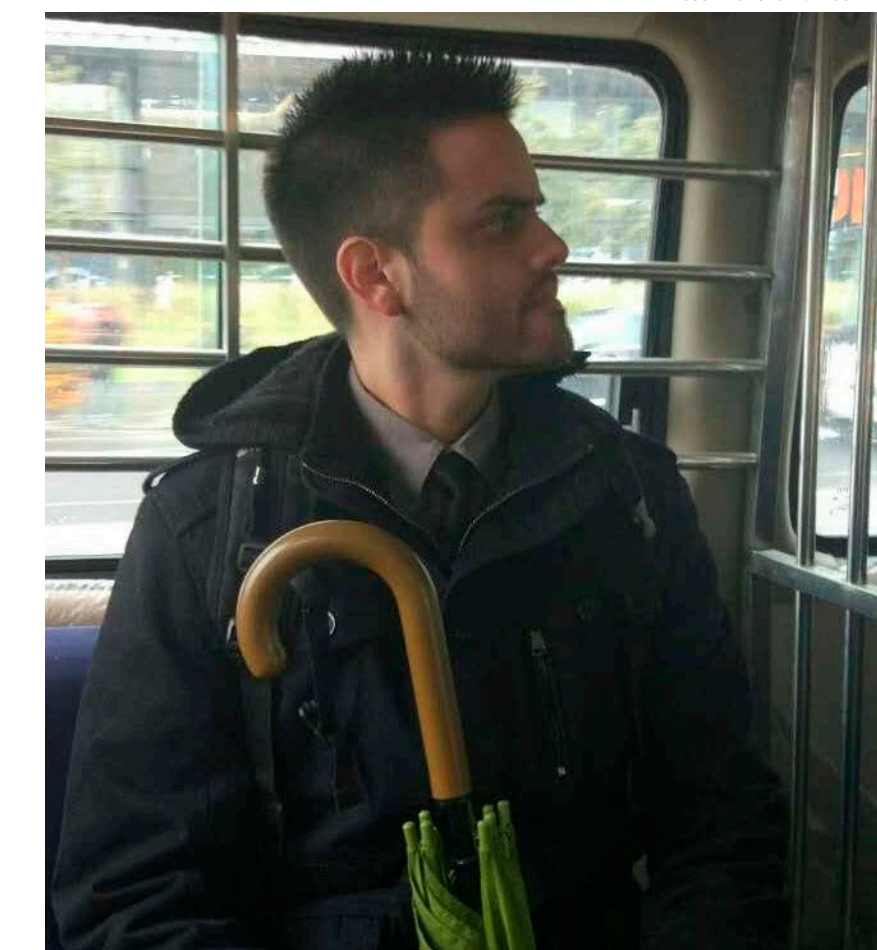
U.S.-based current affairs commentator He Qinglian wrote in an opinion article for The Epoch Times that the CCP's overseas propaganda policy—commonly known as

big foreign propaganda—"involves huge amounts of both manpower and money to spread the CCP's narrative and ideology to foreign countries, thus achieving its goal of telling China's story—the CCP's way." She pointed out that CGTN has used attractive salaries and state-of-the-art facilities to recruit foreigners to work at its media centers in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Africa.

In 2018, in its West London office alone, there were 6,000 local applicants competing for 90 media job vacancies.

CGTN's broadcasting license was revoked by UK media regulator Ofcom in 2020 because its content is directly controlled by the CCP, as well as for airing forced TV confessions of dissidents including British citizen Peter Humphrey. However, France renewed its license, allowing CGTN to continue airing its programs, which resulted in the reporting of disinformation.

In 2021, French media Le Monde exposed CGTN for using a nonexistent French journalist to publish fake news about Uyghurs in China's Xinjiang region, in an attempt to whitewash the genocide against the minority group by the communist regime.



Steven Schaefer on the way to detention in China after being illegally arrested.

## CHINESE REGIME

## American Survives CCP Detention and Torture

ILENE ENG

SANTA CLARA, Calif.—Steven Schaefer, originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, is a survivor with a harrowing story to tell.

After graduating from college, he worked in Beijing for five years and founded an educational consulting firm in his 20s. In October 2016, while still in China, he was wrongly accused of illegal employment and was arrested and thrown into prison, even though he and his employees were all legally employed with visas. He said the Chinese regime often views foreigners as a threat, especially if they are successful.

"Most of Chinese kind of 'security laws,' they're incredibly vague, don't really mean much, you don't know what they are," Schaefer told NTD television.

"And so, when I was in interrogations for hours with Chinese police officers, one of the first questions, one of the questions they routinely ask was, 'Do you know how much money we make?' And they were looking at my tax documents, and they said, 'Do you know how much you make?' kind of implying that was in and of itself illegal. I should not as a foreigner be making more money domestically in China than the police officers."

Schaefer was imprisoned in what he describes to be a full military-style detention center, with 30-foot-high metal walls and armed guards around the perimeter. Prisoners had their blood drawn, were stripped naked and marched through metal detectors, and had all belongings taken away. The cell conditions were something people living overseas cannot fathom.

**The conditions are horrific; they're designed to kill you. There are suicide warning signs plastered on the walls.**

Steven Schaefer

"You are sharing this one single, moldy, disgusting squat toilet among 17 inmates, locked in this 24/7. You are eating out of a communal trough ... they basically pour some kind of yellow sludge into a bucket, through a funnel in the door. Seventeen inmates just try to rush and try to eat this out of a bucket." Schaefer said. "The conditions are horrific; they're designed to kill you. There are suicide warning signs plastered on the walls."

They slept with blood-stained blankets on frozen wooden planks with bright fluorescent lights beaming down the whole time. They stayed up taking turns to keep watch, making sure the inmates didn't kill each other. They were also constantly told they cannot contact anyone in the outside world. He was imprisoned for a little under a month.

When Schaefer was finally deported and safely back in San Francisco, he was malnourished, sleep-deprived, and sick. He had to go through therapy to readjust to living normally again.

Schaefer wrote a book detailing his entire experience, titled "Surviving Chinese Communist Detention." It was released in May this year.

**You are sharing this one single, moldy, disgusting squat toilet among 17 inmates, locked in this 24/7.**

Steven Schaefer

In it, he shares stories about other groups of people who were detained, tortured, and executed for their beliefs: Falun Gong practitioners, Muslims, Uyghurs, Chinese Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, human rights lawyers, and political dissidents.

His experience provided him with a newfound appreciation for the U.S. Constitution and the rights that protect people in the United States.

"That is kind of one of the things that keeps you motivated every day to share your story, to share my story, to share this story, with the rest of the world and to kind of warn people and say, 'Hey look, we don't want encroaching CCP influence here in the West,'" Schaefer said.

"I go through great lengths to describe the difference between the Chinese people and the Chinese Party in my book and to say, 'Hey, this isn't a slight of the Chinese people.' This is not a slight against Chinese Americans who are arguably my strongest supporters and in most instances were like, 'Please keep speaking, please keep talking, please keep sharing your story.'"

He was given a three-year travel ban from re-entry into China. He has no plans of going back anytime soon, as long as the country is still communist.

Schaefer now works in tech and is sharing his story on multiple platforms.

YVES HERMAN/POOL/REUTERS



NATO Heads of the states and governments pose for a photo during the NATO summit at the Alliance's headquarters in Brussels on June 14, 2021.

OPINION

# NATO Got It Wrong: China Is a Bigger Threat Than Russia

ANDERS CORR

NATO finally addressed China in a half-serious way. The U.S.-led alliance system described the country as a "challenge" in a communiqué. But NATO continues to plod along, way behind the curve. While NATO rightly recognizes Russia as an aggressive threat (the country did invade Ukraine in 2014, and is still there), history's most powerful democratic alliance system continues to downplay history's biggest totalitarian threat: China.

NATO isn't filled with dummy intel analysts. Most likely its public communiqué, however, was carefully sanitized by heads of state more concerned with pleasing their billionaire political donors, than writing the truth. And their political donors are making a lot of money in China, so they don't want it to be a threat. The United States and European Union jointly do over \$1 trillion in annual trade with China, plus more than \$300 billion in two-way foreign direct investment.

The NATO communiqué, issued June 14 at the end of a summit that included heads of state from all major NATO countries, cannot therefore be accepted as an unbiased description of the threats facing NATO members. For that, we must go elsewhere. Asked which is the bigger threat, China

or Russia, U.S. Naval War College Professor James Kraska responded that "China is a threat orders of magnitude greater than Russia." Kraska, who also teaches international law at Harvard University, wrote in an email that, "Russia is a one-dimensional power, with a potent armed forces and nuclear weapons. But Russia lacks political and economic power, both of which China has."

Professor Kraska sees the need for NATO to act as a balancer that maintains the international equilibrium. Asia, not Europe, is getting out of balance, and so needs NATO's attention. "Russia's economy and population are both about one-tenth the size of China's," he writes. "While Russia is well balanced by the three or four most powerful European NATO states that independently have an economy and population greater than twice that of Russia (plus a UK and French nuclear deterrent), in East Asia the largest three or four states resisting China are combined outmatched in terms of population, economic heft, and of course military power."

Rick Fisher, a senior fellow at the International Assessment and Strategy Center in the Washington, D.C. area, also argues that China is ultimately the bigger threat, including through its influence in Moscow. "In the very long run China is the greatest challenge to NATO as it is China's goal [to] subordinate Russia to its objectives," he wrote in an email.

**NATO must emit a fiercer image, and a strategic stance of military readiness and forward deployment, before it weakens any further.**

China's military shows off their latest missiles during a parade in Beijing on Oct. 1, 2009.



The NATO communiqué mentions Russia 62 times, terrorism 23 times, and China only 10 times, and with weaker language. While terrorism certainly remains a threat, the United States and its closest allies are currently withdrawing from Afghanistan, a terrorist safe-haven, and reorienting towards China. Terrorism, as bad as it is, does not pose the existential threat to global democracies that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) does. Beijing is no longer content to promote its own national interests. The country is now putting its substantial economic heft, and terrorist tactics, behind promoting authoritarianism over democratic forms of governance on a global level.

Counter-terrorism is a hypocritical Chinese talking point, and a justification it uses for its genocide against the Uyghurs. So it's a safe point for Europeans trying to do more business with China. Russia too, is a safe target. That the United States and Europe focus on Russia and terrorism leaves China free to continue its expansion.

"As an alliance, NATO is at the beginning of its recognition of China [as] a 'challenge,' as it still values 'dialogue' with China and has not set any force level goals to meet what is a rapidly developing China-Russia strategic and military challenge," Fisher wrote.

Compare the magnitude of the China threat against NATO's timid start of the China discussion in its communiqué. "China's growing influence and international policies can present challenges that we need to address together as an alliance. We will engage China with a view to defending the security interests of the Alliance."

How obvious.

"We are increasingly confronted by cyber, hybrid, and other asymmetric threats, including disinformation campaigns, and by the malicious use of ever-more sophisticated emerging and disruptive technologies," NATO notes in the next sentence, without explicitly tying it to China.

To be fair, some individuals with current influence at NATO, namely President Joe Biden and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (who writes at Politico.eu dismiss as pandering to American money), have pushed the alliance to take a stronger stand against China. Former President Donald Trump's threat to leave the organization, likely in part over its failure to address China, may have been consequential in getting the Europeans to include the China language now. They're giving good grandpa cop Biden the credit, for what bad crazy cop Trump achieved.

In June 2020, Stoltenberg rightly focused comments on China, while discussing bullying and the need for closer coordination with Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. But NATO is a product of

consensus, and Germany, France, and Eastern European and Baltic states, which do relatively extensive trade with China, continue to push the focus onto Moscow. Trump, and now Biden with his Putin meeting, are rightly, or should be, trying to pull Russia out of an alliance with China.

Europe's trade-driven willful ignorance of the China threat explains Trump's threat to leave NATO. French President Emmanuel Macron's answer is a more unified European Union defense and foreign policy, which is needed for an independent and therefore stronger defense of Europe against Russia and China. But a more unified Europe should not be an excuse for leaving the United States to face the more dire China threat alone. Europe must fight China equally with the United States, or China's divide-and-conquer strategy will win.

Later in the NATO communiqué, China's challenge is rightly called systemic. "China's stated ambitions and assertive behavior present systemic challenges to the rules-based international order and to areas relevant to Alliance security. We are concerned by those coercive policies which stand in contrast to the fundamental values enshrined in the Washington Treaty."

The Washington Treaty, signed in 1949, established NATO. The values and goals of NATO are set forth in the treaty's preamble, "to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law."

Though the June 14 NATO communiqué does not go far enough, it is at least consistent with these goals and values. It also details China's rising power, noting, "China is rapidly expanding its nuclear arsenal with more warheads and a larger number of sophisticated delivery systems to establish a nuclear triad. It is opaque in implementing its military modernization and its publicly declared military-civil fusion strategy. It is also cooperating militarily with Russia, including through participation in Russian exercises in the Euro-Atlantic area. We remain concerned with China's frequent lack of transparency and use of disinformation. We call on China to uphold its international commitments and to act responsibly in the international system, including in the space, cyber, and maritime domains, in keeping with its role as a major power."

But if the European members of NATO were honest about addressing the China threat, NATO would not beg China to uphold commitments and flatter it with language about acting responsibly "in keeping with its role as a major power."

In reality, China is ruled by a bunch of communist thugs who imposed an empire by force starting in 1931, including from sometimes independent chunks of territory held by Chinese nationalists, Tibetans, Uyghurs, Japanese imperialists, and a smattering of European traders. The CCP, since then, has never stopped expanding.

Xi Jinping and the CCP, which now rule 18 percent of the world's population, including at-risk minority ethnic and religious communities, as their own personal fiefdom, are nowhere to be found in the communiqué. The CCP already proved itself untrustworthy, having reneged on the Hong Kong treaty with Britain, and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The CCP just definitively grabbed the South China Sea in 2009, tearing it from the often impoverished fishers and traders of the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei.

It's long past time to stop begging China to follow its international commitments. Instead, NATO must demonstrate military resolve against the CCP's apparently never-ending military aggression and human rights abuses.

Fisher argues that Europe needs a more robust nuclear deterrent against China, and its ally Russia. "For example, NATO nuclear member Britain and France may require a combined total of 700 to 1000 nuclear warheads in order to deter a combined China-Russia nuclear threat."

Is NATO up to the task, or will it let our nuclear deterrents degrade, and thereby risk nuclear war? Its communiqué flatly states that civilian and military cooperation with Russia is over, but hastens to welcome cooperation with China, fast becoming the bigger and more cunning nuclear threat.

Shouldn't we be taking the opposite approach, attempting to split off China's allies, like Russia, Iran, and North Korea, while leaving China out in the cold and at the point of a bayonet? Otherwise, China holds the power position in the middle between NATO and China's gallery of rogue nations and satrapies. We grant China power when we make it an intermediary to our many relatively weaker global adversaries.

According to the communiqué, "NATO maintains a constructive dialogue with China where possible. Based on our interests, we welcome opportunities to engage with China on areas of relevance to the Alliance and on common challenges such

as climate change."

While global warming is real, against which we desperately need international agreements, NATO is falling over itself by clownishly attempting an agreement with a country that has proven itself unreliable as a counter-party. Experts widely panned half a century of "engagement" with China as a disastrously failed strategy that only empowered the country to now threaten not only the United States, Japan, and Taiwan in Asia, but NATO in Europe. Yet, NATO continues with the engagement charade.

Its communiqué naively urges transparency on China's nuclear capabilities, when we know that the CCP is a habitual liar on issues ranging from its own economy, to the origins of COVID-19. NATO even includes Beijing's own talking points when it promotes yet more unending dialogue.

"Allies urge China to engage meaningfully in dialogue, confidence-building, and transparency measures regarding its nuclear capabilities and doctrine," NATO blandly states. "Reciprocal transparency and understanding would benefit both NATO and China."

**Rather than begging and flattering China, NATO should show much more military resolve.**

Anyone who loves freedom should be now be sickened by NATO continuing to act the chump. A call for dialogue at this late stage of China's aggression is little more than falling for China's take-and-talk strategy. While China has since the 1970s grabbed new territory in the South China Sea through violence, and since the mid-2010s fortified its South China Sea islands with sand dredgers, airstrips, missiles, and docks for aircraft carriers and submarines, NATO is still begging for dialogue, now from a position of increasing weakness. Had NATO taken a robust military stand against China's island-grabbing in the South China Sea fifty or seventy years ago, we would not be facing the much graver threat we now face in a stronger and bolder China. The clock is still ticking, and China is building its navy faster than we are ours. Time, and therefore ever more dialogue, is on China's side.

Rather than begging and flattering China, NATO should show much more military resolve. Beijing respects nothing less. It watches what NATO does, not what it says. The rest of us should, too. And if NATO doesn't get stronger, tougher, and more united in the next 10, 50, or 100 years, Europe could be invaded by not only Russia, but China. The latter already has a military base in northern Africa, has patrolled the Mediterranean, and is nosing its way around the horn of Africa to its western side.

Would a President Trump defend the democracies of Europe from China after Europe refused to defend the democracies of Asia from the same? I'm not sure.

NATO's failure on China implies the need for more citizen involvement. Citizens of NATO countries must more closely investigate why NATO policies are weak and failing when its citizens and values are so gravely threatened.

NATO should strike fear into our adversaries, or at the very least show an aloof distance from genocidal and territorially aggressive communists who lead a country that is one of the world's worst human rights abusers. Leave diplomacy to the diplomats. In times of military crisis in places like Ukraine, the Taiwan Strait, and the South China Sea, NATO should shed its velvet-gloved parochialism, and realize that the world and its worst authoritarian powers are ever-more global, connected, and coordinated.

NATO must emit a fiercer image, and a strategic stance of military readiness and forward deployment, before it weakens any further. Lift yourself up, NATO. Stand taller. Think not about one nation's interests, but of the interests of democracies and freedom-loving people everywhere. Be a champion.

**Rather than being 18 years behind us, 20 years behind us, [China is] only about six or seven years behind us now.**

Brandon Weichert, author

The second Chinese technology that poses a threat to U.S. satellites is lasers, Weichert said.

"China planners have talked about installing a large laser when their [space] station is completed in orbit. Now, they say in peacetime, the laser would be used to clear orbital debris. But, in wartime, that laser could potentially be used to blind sensitive American satellites in orbit," he said.

In 2018, researchers at China's Air Force Engineering University published a paper proposing how a giant laser would be effective to clean space junk and old satellites.

Satellite communication is critical not only for Washington to effectively deploy its forces, but it's also vital for the U.S. economy. Weichert said the United States would see its economy sent back to the "pre-1970s era" without satellites, given that most modern electronic transactions, such as exchange-traded funds (ETFs), rely on them.

More importantly, China is gaining on U.S. leadership in space, according to Weichert.

"They're still behind us. But rather than being 18 years behind us, 20 years behind us, they're only about six or seven years behind us now," he said.

Currently, U.S. policymakers are "too small-minded" with regard to their space policies, Weichert said. They need to "develop systems and doctrines" not just to defend U.S. satellites but also U.S. commercial interests in the future.

SPACE COMPETITION

# China's Advancing Space Program Leaves US Vulnerable in Event of Space War, Expert Warns

FRANK FANG

U.S. policymakers need to come up with a better space strategy, a space and security expert warned after China sent a three-member crew to its unfinished space station.

"To fight and win a space war against the Americans, the first thing that [the Chinese regime] will do is to knock out or blind our satellites in a space Pearl Harbor-type event," Brandon Weichert, author of "Winning Space: How America Remains a Superpower," said in an interview with NTD on June 19.

"We are not yet prepared to defend ourselves, let alone retaliate, in the way that would deter China or Russia from trying this during a geopolitical crisis."

The agency in charge of China's manned space program, the China Manned Space Engineering Office (CMSEO), isn't a civilian agency like NASA. CMSEO is subordinate to China's Central Military Commission (CMC), an agency of the Chinese Communist Party that oversees the Chinese military.

Currently, CMSEO is currently headed by Hao Chun, although the country's manned space program is commanded by Gen. Li Shangfu, who also is a department director at the CMC.

Underscoring how the Chinese manned space program is inseparable from the Chinese military, the three crew members—Nie Haisheng, Liu Boming, and Tang Hongbo—are former air force pilots of the Chinese military.

They will stay in the station's main living module for three months, the longest stay for any Chinese nationals in space since Beijing launched an astronaut into Earth orbit in 2003. The Chinese space station, named Tiangong, will receive additional modules in 2022.

The International Space Station (ISS), launched in 1998, is a partnership between the United States, Canada, Japan, Russia, and member nations of the European Space Agency. China has been barred from taking part in the ISS since 2011, when the United States passed a law banning space cooperation between NASA and Chinese organizations, due to national security concerns.

China's actions also spurred distrust leading to its ban from the ISS. In January 2007, China fired an anti-satellite missile against one of its inactive weather satellites, drawing international concern.

Weichert pointed to two Chinese space technologies that could cripple U.S. satellites. First, he said a giant robotic arm—10 meters in

length, which can lift objects weighing up to 20 tons, according to Chinese state-run media—is attached to the Chinese space station and poses a serious threat.

"So China in peacetime could use that grappling arm to help ships dock. But in wartime, they could use that to pluck our satellites from nearby orbits and push them out of orbit or sabotage them," Weichert said.

In April, Army Gen. James Dickson, commander of the U.S. Space Command, told a Senate hearing that China's robotic arm technology in space "could be used in a future system for grappling other satellites."

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The manned Shenzhou-12 spacecraft from China's Manned Space Agency launches with the Long March-2F rocket, with three Chinese astronauts onboard, at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Gansu Province, China, on June 17, 2021.

KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES



Anders Corr has a bachelor's/master's in political science from Yale University (2001) and a doctorate in government from Harvard University (2008). He is a principal at Corr Analytics Inc., publisher of the Journal of Political Risk, and has conducted extensive research in North America, Europe, and Asia. He authored "The Concentration of Power" (forthcoming in 2021) and "No Trespassing," and edited "Great Powers, Grand Strategies."

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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