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THE EPOCH TIMES

# CHINA INSIDER

NOEL CELIS/AP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## OLYMPIC VENUES 'RIGHT ALONGSIDE PRISON CAMPS'

NEW MAP SPOTLIGHTS TORTURE,  
DETENTION OCCURRING JUST MILES  
AWAY FROM BEIJING GAMES

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# Olympic Venues ‘Right Alongside Prison Camps’: Torture, Detention Occurring Just Miles Away From Beijing Games

EVA FU

**N**EW YORK—The opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games contained all the pageantry that one might expect from an authoritarian regime eager to burnish its global image: Hundreds of children holding dove-shaped props formed the shape of a heart while they danced in a star-lit stadium as green and white fireworks spelled out the word “spring” overhead, a reference to the Lunar New Year celebration.

“One world, one family,” so read the slogan displayed to spectators in the partially filled “Bird’s Nest” National Stadium on Jan. 4, echoing a call for unity that the Chinese regime has often repeated on the world stage over the past few years.

With this glitzy show, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is trying to divert the world’s attention from much grimmer realities, including the detention, torture, and death taking place mere miles away from Olympic venues, according to activists.

One detainee was so emaciated that she was taken home on a stretcher and slapped with a 2 1/2-year sentence days later. Another detainee spent his entire 30s in prison, only to receive another long sentence years later. A third one lost her husband to persecution and is now behind the bars herself. All three became regime targets merely for persisting in practicing their faith.

Their stories and others were featured in an interactive map released on Feb. 4, the same day that Beijing became the world’s first city to host both the Summer and Winter Games. The map, developed by the Falun Dafa Information Center, spotlighted more than a dozen “persecution hotspots” in and around Beijing, where adherents of the persecuted faith group Falun Gong are languishing for not surrendering their beliefs.

It’s the first comprehensive map of its kind to allow “a glimpse inside the places the Chinese Communist Party does not want you to see,” according to the New York-based human rights group.

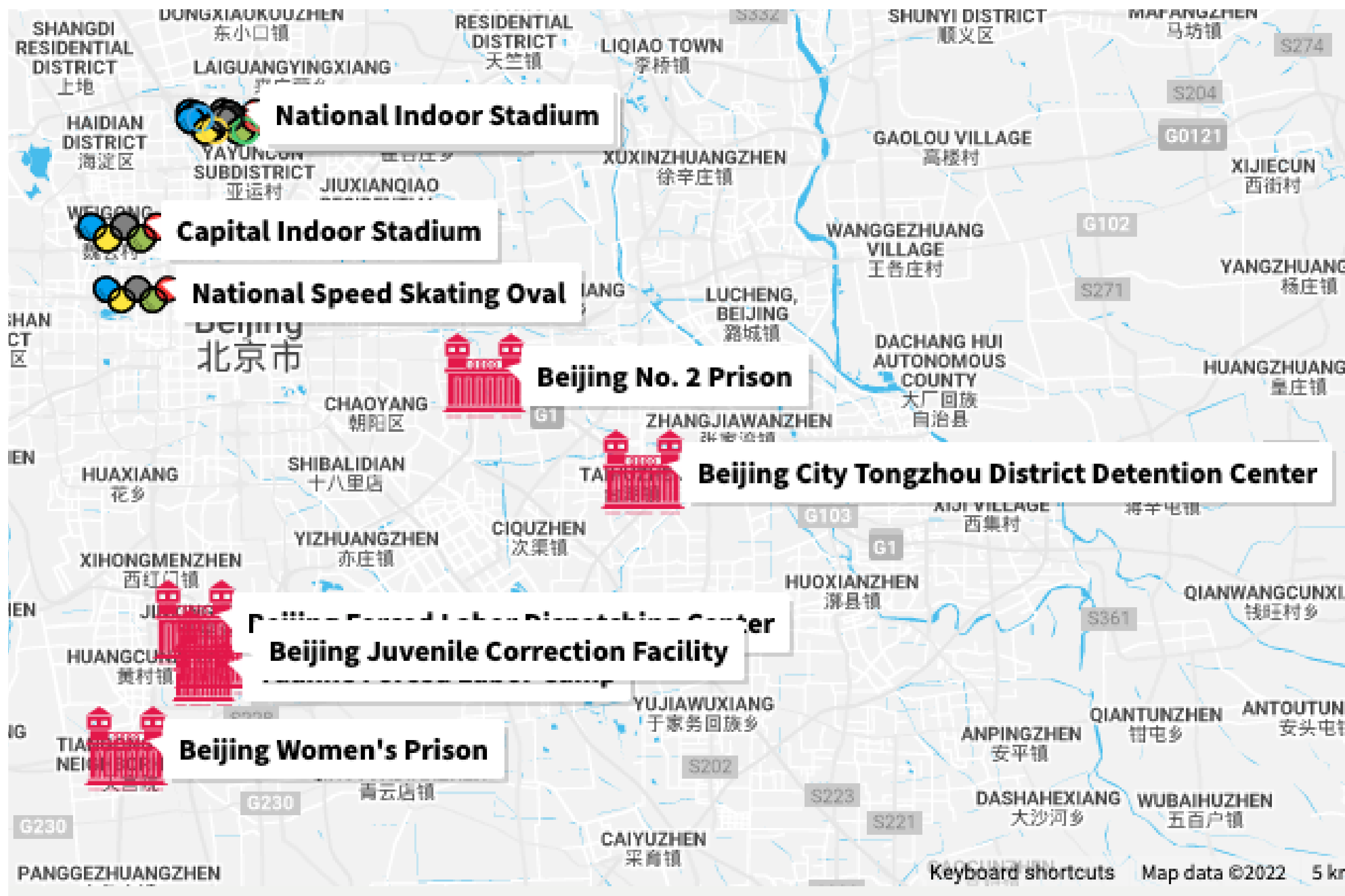
The “proximity of Olympic glory to terrible human suffering highlights the tragic and often deceptive rule of the Chinese Communist Party,” said Erping Zhang, spokesperson for the Falun Dafa Information Center.

“There is no other regime on earth that has the audacity, and international clout, to host the Games while simultaneously detaining such large numbers of prisoners of conscience in settings ripe with abuse and torture,” he said in a statement.

## Olympic Venues Alongside Prison Camps

Adherents of Falun Gong have been subjected to more than two decades of persecution under the communist regime, which deemed the group a threat after the practice exploded in popularity during the 1990s. An estimated 70 million to 100 million people were practicing Falun Gong by the end of that decade, according to estimates at the time.

A half-dozen torture facilities that hold Falun Gong detainees are roughly 10 to 20



A screenshot of the interactive map by Falun Dafa Information Center showcases known detention facilities near Beijing Olympic venues.

miles away from Beijing’s major Olympic venues, from the National Stadium to the National Speed Skating Oval, where the speed skating competition commenced on Feb. 5.

“You could literally watch the speed skating Olympic event, walk out the door from the oval, and walk 14 miles due east and you are at a prison camp where people are being incarcerated—at least one case for nine years—for their faith in Falun Gong,” Levi Browde, executive director of Falun Dafa Information Center, told The Epoch Times.

It took a month for researchers to verify the details and complete the map. Many of the facilities have both a public and private name and even two addresses to avoid outside scrutiny. Some of them, serving concurrently as labor camps, have adopted a secondary name as a cover for their slave labor business, according to the researchers.

Despite his years of research into the

persecution campaign, seeing the facilities visually was still striking, according to Browde.

“That’s sort of like going to see Yankee Stadium and walking down to somewhere in Central Park, where there’s a prison camp,” he said.

## Long Years Behind the Bars

The detainee that Browde cited was 52-year-old Shi Shaoping, who holds a master’s degree from the photochemical institute at the country’s lead national scientific institution, the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

While Shi was arrested at his home in November 2019, his family didn’t hear any news about his whereabouts until April 2021. That’s when police notified them of Shi’s nine-year sentence at the Beijing No. 2 Prison, a facility for death-row inmates and those serving life sentences.

Shi had already served a 10-year prison sentence because of his faith prior to this arrest. At Qianjin Prison, which is also on the interactive map, Shi was made to sit motionless on a small stool for up to 20 hours daily over a period of a few years, according to Minghui.org, a U.S.-based clearinghouse for the persecution of Falun Gong in China. On the coldest winter days, guards would leave the window open, causing Shi’s body to shiver. He was once barred from using the restroom for an entire month.

Sixteen miles away from the same skating venue is the Beijing Women’s Prison, where artist Xu Na was held until last month.

Months before the Beijing Summer Olympic Games in 2008, police arrested Xu and her husband Yu Zhou during an “Olympic check,” after discovering Falun Gong books in their car. Yu, a folk singer and musician, died in detention 11 days later, on the eve of Chinese New Year. Xu subsequently spent three years in detention.

About 22 miles northwest of National Stadium, the Changping District Detention Center held Wang Chaoying for distributing informational materials about Falun Gong. The 68-year-old was hospitalized three times over a six-month period between 2020 and 2021. She was sent home on a stretcher after having lost 40 pounds. Ten

days later, the court delivered her verdict: a 2 1/2-year prison sentence.

Over the past two years, more than 31,000 arrests and harassment cases of adherents have taken place, according to Minghui.org. Records from the site show that about 1,800 of them were sentenced and more than 200 people have died over the same period; however, human rights experts believe the true death toll to be vastly higher because of the challenge of getting official information from China.

## Disposable Chopsticks and Cotton Swabs

Thirteen miles north of the skating oval is the Beijing Juvenile Correction Facility where Liu Jiying, who escaped to New York in 2016, first crossed paths with Xu in 2001. Liu told The Epoch Times. The facility was actually an underground forced labor facility, where they became practically slave laborers. Both were later transferred to Beijing Women’s Prison, then still under construction. Liu was serving an eight-year jail term, while Xu was serving a five-year sentence.

Each prison unit sourced its own “jobs.” Xu was given some of the harshest labor, including sewing shoe soles, which often kept her up until 2 a.m. Liu made sweaters and scarfs for export, stitched lacings on ski socks, and assembled stamp albums. More often, she would need to package about 10,000 disposable chopsticks each day. There would be no sleep until the allotted quota was met. Talking wasn’t allowed, but once, Liu flashed a thumbs-up to Xu to cheer her up.

The hygiene situation on the production floor was often deplorable, according to Liu, now 67. The chopsticks sometimes came with shoe prints on them. When placing cotton swabs—another product she had to package—into plastic bags at the Beijing Women’s Prison, small insects would crawl out. The swabs would be labeled as “disinfected,” she said.

It was while at these facilities that Liu vowed never to use disposable chopsticks again.

“When people take the chopsticks to eat, they’d assume those are clean. Who would examine them that closely?” she said.

## Detained Again

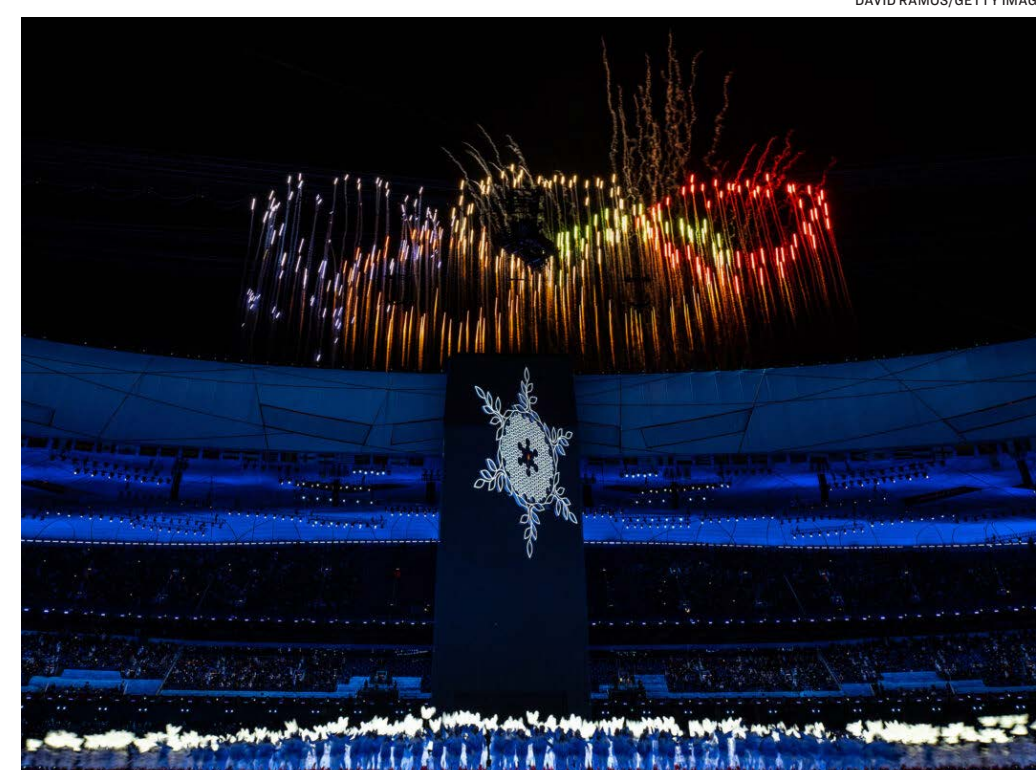
On Jan 14, three weeks ahead of the Winter Games, Xu was handed another eight-year prison term for her role in supplying photos to The Epoch Times that documented the early months of the pandemic. While following Xu’s case from New York, Liu said the news gave her inexplicable sadness.

“She already served eight years, now’s another eight,” she said.

Liu knows of others who have fared even worse: One of her friends, who didn’t cave in to authorities’ pressure to renounce her beliefs, served 12 years. Her son was 9 months old when she was jailed. When the woman was freed, the child didn’t recognize her as his mother.

“What did we do? I didn’t do anything illegal. What right do they have to imprison me for eight years?” Liu said. “It is they who are breaking the law.”

She had once posed the same questions



The Opening Ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games at the Beijing National Stadium on Feb. 4, 2022.



Performers are seen during the Opening Ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games at the Beijing National Stadium on Feb. 04, 2022.

You could literally watch the speed skating Olympic event, walk out the door from the oval, and walk 14 miles due east and you are at a prison camp where people are being incarcerated—at least one case for nine years—for their faith in Falun Gong.

Levi Browde, executive director, Falun Dafa Information Center

at an arraignment hearing in 2016.

“You are committing a crime,” she told authorities.

They, in turn, “said not a word.” Liu lost her mother shortly after her release in 2016. The woman had fallen unconscious following Liu’s arrest and a house raid.

“My mother didn’t have to die,” she said. The tragedies traversing two Beijing Olympics should make plain to the international community that the regime hasn’t changed at all, Browde said.

“Too often, they would look at the high rise buildings and all the Starbucks around Beijing, and they think, ‘Oh, this is the new China,’” he said. “They just think it’s better and more civilized.”

“Seeing Olympic venues right alongside prison camps ... where people are incarcerated and tortured because of their faith makes the deception and the hypocrisy of the CCP very clear.”



A member of Chinese security personnel looks on during the mens downhill first training session during the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games at the Yanqing National Alpine Skiing Centre in Beijing on Feb. 3, 2022.



Falun Gong practitioner Xu Na in China, in this undated photo. Xu was sentenced to eight years in prison for her religious beliefs.

## ANALYSIS

# Chinese Military-Linked Firm Gathers American DNA, Provides COVID Tests

ANTONIO GRACEFFO



China is “developing the world’s largest bio database,” said Edward You, who is the U.S. national counterintelligence officer for Emerging and Disruptive Technologies. “Once they have access to your genetic data, it’s not something you can change like a pin code.”

Racing to dominate the bioeconomy, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is compiling a massive database of medical, health, and genetic information from people around the world, including Americans.

The CCP enlists the help of private companies to aid in gathering genetic data, which can be combined with top military supercomputing capabilities, to discover genetic weaknesses in a popula-

In spite of the obvious dangers, this year, the Biden administration signed a \$1.3 billion deal with iHealth Labs, a unit of the Chinese firm Andon Health Co., for home COVID test kits.

tion. Bioweapons can then be developed, which prey on these weaknesses. As part of Beijing’s military-civil fusion policy, Chinese scientists, along with the military, have been conducting research in the areas of brain science, gene editing, and the creation of artificial genomes.

Similar research could be used to enhance the performance of Chinese soldiers. BGI Group, formerly Beijing Genomics Institute, is the leader of the CCP’s genome project, as well as one of the leading producers of COVID-19 tests. BGI also has ties to China’s People’s Liberation Army (PLA), according to a Jan. 30 report by Reuters.

BGI operates the largest pig cloning project in the world. After manipulating generations of pig DNA, intentionally producing pigs that are smaller or larger, more susceptible to certain diseases, or less susceptible to others, the CCP is zeroing in on the ability to produce

“super soldiers.” Among the projects currently underway is BGI’s attempt to make China’s Han ethnic soldiers less susceptible to altitude sickness.

BGI’s current chief infectious disease scientist, Chen Weijun, was among the first scientists to sequence COVID-19, taking samples from a military hospital in Wuhan. He is also credited with the patent on the BGI test kits, which have been distributed around the world, including in the United States. Four of BGI’s researchers have been affiliated with the National University of Defence Technology (NUDT), under China’s Central Military Commission, which is headed by Chinese leader Xi Jinping. The NUDT has been blacklisted by the United States as a threat to national security.

Under Xi, private technology companies have been increasingly integrated into military-related research. In 2021, BGI offered to set up COVID test centers in the United States. But U.S. security officials warned that test centers would allow China to gain access to American DNA, as the swabs have genetic material on them. According to Mike Orlando, the head of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, no U.S. states agreed, but at least 18 other countries allowed BGI to establish test centers. Additionally, BGI test kits were sent to 180 nations.

Chinese medical testing companies regularly use DNA collected from test subjects for other research. Human rights groups say the CCP is using the data for security purposes such as identifying and tracking Uyghur Muslims. Furthermore, Chinese police are trying to amass samples of DNA from the country’s 700 million males, to keep track of future criminals.

Home ancestry tests are another way that the Chinese regime is obtaining DNA from Americans. The U.S. military has warned soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines to avoid companies such as Ancestry and 23andMe, which have ties to China. An estimated 50 million Americans have already paid to have their saliva tested for their DNA ancestry, according to Bill Evanina, former direc-



The Chinese gene firm BGI Group’s building in Beijing on March 25, 2021.



Technicians work at a genetic testing laboratory of BGI in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China, on Dec. 26, 2018.

tor of the U.S. National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

Chinese firm Wu Xi Biologics bought a Pfizer manufacturing plant in China, and established a production facility in Massachusetts. In 2015, the firm also bought a stake in 23andMe. Wu Xi Biologics now has locations in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and New Jersey, as well as a drug plant in Delaware, which was built with a state grant.

BGI Group earns part of its revenue by selling genetic sequencing services to universities and health systems around the world. The company has also been purchasing U.S. genomics firms since 2013, and now has multiple partnerships with U.S. companies involved in gene sequencing. In each of these arrangements, BGI gains access to genetic data. Under China’s National Intelligence Law, all data obtained by Chinese companies, even abroad, must be turned over to the CCP, upon request.

The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS)

warned that Chinese firms invest in U.S. companies in the hopes of gaining access to U.S. data. Last year, CFIUS blocked a Chinese firm from purchasing a California fertility clinic, which was located in close proximity to six U.S. military bases. The concern was that not only would the CCP gain access to the genetic data of U.S. soldiers, but also of their unborn children.

In spite of the obvious dangers, this year, the Biden administration signed a \$1.3 billion deal with iHealth Labs, a unit of the Chinese firm Andon Health Co., for home COVID test kits. It is part of the administration’s initiative to provide 1 billion free rapid COVID-19 tests to Americans.

The Winter Olympics will provide a perfect opportunity for DNA data gathering. Olympic athletes and coaches will be subjected to daily COVID tests, while media personnel and other attendees will also be tested on a regular basis. This means that the CCP will have the genetic material of every person who attends the

Games. Attendees will also be required to download a government-approved health app, which has been proven to have security flaws. Internet security experts warn that the app will be able to gather user data, which, combined with genetic information, can be fed into China’s massive artificial intelligence and genome projects.

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

Antonio Graceffo, Ph.D., has spent more than 20 years in Asia. He is a graduate of the Shanghai University of Sport and holds a China-MBA from Shanghai Jiaotong University. Graceffo works as an economics professor and China economic analyst, writing for various international media. Some of his books on China include “Beyond the Belt and Road: China’s Global Economic Expansion” and “A Short Course on the Chinese Economy.”

## CHINESE MILITARY

## Microsoft, Intel, GE Provide ‘Direct Support’ to Chinese Military, State Security Bodies: Report

ANDREW THORNEBROOKE

Eight major U.S. tech companies have business links to the Chinese military and security apparatus, according to a new report by the Washington-based advocacy group Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VoC) and Horizon Advisory consultant group.

“In their endeavor to capture Chinese markets and boost their bottom lines, American corporations have increasingly supported Beijing’s military modernization, surveillance state, domestic securiti-

zation, and attendant human rights violations,” the report said.

It examined the activities of eight U.S. companies in China: Amazon, Apple, Dell, Facebook, GE, Google, Intel, and Microsoft, looking for business links “that may directly or indirectly support China’s state surveillance, military modernization, and human rights violations.”

While all of the companies examined in the report had a checkered history of business dealings with state-owned corporations, the report found that GE, Intel, and Microsoft provided “direct support” to

either the Chinese military or state security organizations.

### Communist Military-Civil Fusion, Courtesy of American Tech

It is no secret that American companies are supercharging the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Establishment media has hinted at the prevalence of business deals favoring CCP authoritarianism for years. The new report does, however, add new detail to just how pervasive the trend is.

Indeed, the companies involved are reported to have helped the CCP implement

its militarization of Chinese society at the highest levels.

“Apple and Intel leadership have met multiple times with top brass at the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), a leading Chinese state entity charged with implementing Beijing’s military-civil fusion strategy, which channels technological innovations developed or acquired in the private sector toward the Chinese military,” the report said.

Military-civil fusion refers to a strategy wherein the whole of society is mobilized to participate in the “great rejuvenation”

of the Chinese nation by modernizing the CCP’s military wing, the People’s Liberation Army (PLA).

Under the strategy, all civilian technological development is encouraged to also serve a military function.

“That presents a real problem for any company engaged in technology development or research in China.

For companies intentionally partnering to develop technologies with military corporations, however, the threat to the United States, as well as to Chinese civil liberties, is something more severe.

Partnerships and engagements with Chinese regime entities that support the PLA and state surveillance efforts, however, are far from rare, as the report detailed.

For example, Intel supplies, invests, and engages in technological cooperation with Chinese processor and chip design company Lanqi Technology, which is heavily invested in by China Electronics Corpora-

tion, a state-owned defense company that the U.S. Department of Defense has identified as a military entity. Intel also engaged in a \$2 billion joint project with Lanqi to develop high-performance processors.

“Intel’s Global Vice President attended the signing [of the deal], as did the Chairman and [CCP] Party Secretary of China Electronics,” the report said.

Intel also previously carried out research with a company under contract to provide artificial intelligence technologies to the PLA.

“Intel’s exposure exceeds that of other companies surveyed in this effort,” the report said.

“Intel invests in Chinese high-tech and

military-civil fusion companies, potentially fueling them with both capital and access to technology,” the report added.

“Intel has taken no action to curb or terminate such problematic relationships.”

Likewise, GE was found by the report to have engaged in technological partnerships with key players throughout the PRC’s military-industrial complex.

“[GE’s] partnerships appear to involve technology-sharing, including with core players in China’s military, military-civil fusion, and surveillance system,” the report said.

Among those players were the state-owned defense company Aviation Industry Corporation of China, listed by the United States as a military entity, and the Harbin Electric Group. Notably, Harbin maintains a dedicated military-civil fusion department that focuses on providing turbine technology to the PLA.

According to the report, GE maintains a 51 percent stake in a joint turbine venture with Harbin: The General Electric-Harbin Power-Nanjing Turbine Energy Service.

“Those partnerships have ... granted military-tied Chinese players positions of leverage in GE’s supply chains, critical to both America’s national security and its manufacturing base,” the report said.

“And GE’s operations and partnerships in China systemically expose it to risks associated with forced labor and other human rights atrocities in the country.”

Microsoft’s Innovation Hub, a research center focused on artificial intelligence, meanwhile, counts among its members China Telecom, a state-owned telecommunications giant whose license to operate

in the United States was revoked in 2021 over national security concerns.

Microsoft also launched strategic cooperation agreements with other companies that the U.S. government has identified as tied to the Chinese military or as otherwise under consideration for export restrictions, according to the report.

### Hypocrisy at Home, Authoritarianism Abroad

To be sure, doing business in China at all is increasingly run a risk. Multiple Chinese laws and organizations exist to collect proprietary data and put it to work for the CCP, as the CCP considers data itself to be a “national resource.”

The VoC report is careful to note, however, that one ought not to assume merely doing business in China is wrong. Rather, its authors encourage readers to focus on the ethical doublespeak some companies engage in, championing human rights while also contributing to an authoritarian regime’s repressive technologies.

“US corporate players have no problem saying one thing in the United States while doing (and saying) something different in China,” the report said.

“Such hypocrisy is particularly flagrant when it comes to digital privacy: Companies like Apple, Amazon, Dell, and Intel that stress information security in the U.S. also abide by Chinese regulatory requirements for storing and handling data.”

“This jeopardizes the information, and therefore security, of users in China who oppose the regime, as well as of global users.”

GE, Intel, and Microsoft didn’t respond to requests for comment.



A man uses his mobile phone as he walks in front of Microsoft’s local headquarters in Beijing on July 20, 2021.



The Intel booth during the China Digital Entertainment Expo and Conference in Shanghai on Nov. 6, 2018. Federal prosecutors charged two Chinese men with stealing information related to GE’s turbine technology for the benefit of the Chinese regime.



A General Electric sign during the China International Import Expo in Shanghai on Nov. 6, 2018. Federal prosecutors charged two Chinese men with stealing information related to GE’s turbine technology for the benefit of the Chinese regime.

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TRUTH and TRADITION

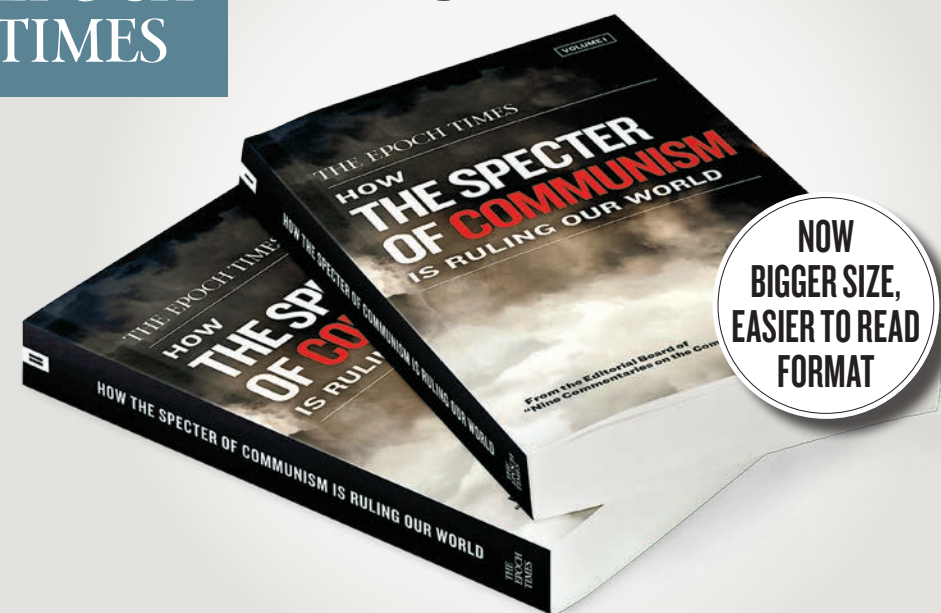
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A man walks past a residential building developed by Evergrande in Shanghai on September 24, 2021.

OPINION

## US Investment Firm Issues Challenge to China's Legal System

FAN YU

We're about to find out just how “free”  
China's financial markets really are.

As the restructuring saga around  
real estate developer China Ever-  
grande continues to drag on, recent  
developments could escalate into a  
financial standoff never before seen  
in China's capital markets.

A U.S. distressed credit fund—  
which owns a piece of Evergrande's  
defaulted dollar bonds—has thrown  
down the gauntlet in a bid to protect  
its interests, potentially ruining the  
Beijing regime's plans to restructure  
and rescue Evergrande.

Here's the background. After  
leverage limits on China's property  
developers were tightened by Beijing,  
Evergrande finally defaulted on its  
offshore bonds in December 2021.  
Since then, the Beijing and Guang-  
dong governments have attempted  
to avoid a disorderly collapse of the  
company by orchestrating a pro-  
posed restructuring.

Full details are still being worked  
out, but it's believed that Evergrande  
could be liquidated, and its assets  
sold off to various state-owned and  
private holders. In turn, Beijing will  
approach its domestic and foreign  
creditors to negotiate a settlement,  
which would be funded by pro-  
ceeds from the sales of such assets  
or swapped for interests in existing  
projects or collateral.

Evergrande's U.S. dollar-denomi-  
nated creditors and bondholders are  
obviously nervous about how much  
they would eventually recover. As  
they should be. Beijing, for its part,  
has urged offshore creditors not to  
pursue aggressive legal action against  
Evergrande and to remain patient.

None of this is unusual—except  
what happened next.

In late January, distressed-credit  
investment manager Oaktree Capital  
seized a 2.2-million-square-foot plot of  
land in Hong Kong that was owned by  
Evergrande, where the developer had  
intended to build a vast mansion for its  
founder, dubbed “Project Castle.”

The move throws Evergrande's  
restructuring plans into jeopardy, as  
the property was supposed to be a  
key piece of collateral in a pool of as-  
sets used to satisfy bondholders.

In a separate move, the Financial  
Times reported that Oaktree has  
seized another Evergrande asset, this  
time in mainland China. This resort  
and entertainment project, on the  
Yellow River delta, is called “Venice”  
and is one of Evergrande's most  
prized development projects.

These brazen maneuvers aren't un-  
heard of in bankruptcy and restruc-  
turing negotiations. The “distressed-  
debt” corner of Wall Street isn't for  
the faint of heart. Hardball, aggressive  
tactics are part of the playbook for  
experienced distressed credit  
hedge funds such as Elliott Manage-  
ment, Appaloosa Management, and  
Oaktree. It's how they're able to turn

pennies invested into dollars re-  
turned.

But Oaktree's moves are absolutely  
unheard of in China.

The fund is openly challenging  
Evergrande—and, by extension, the  
Guangdong government, the Chinese  
Communist Party (CCP), and China's  
legal system.

Oaktree's challenge to the CCP's Ev-  
ergrande restructuring plans in Hong  
Kong is already very problematic.  
Hong Kong courts could let the nego-  
tiations play out in a similar fashion  
to how they are done in the West—  
dragged out and ugly. But given how  
politically sensitive Evergrande is, we  
don't know.

Here we will make a distinction  
between Hong Kong's relatively  
more “free market” court system and  
mainland China's far more corrupt,  
complicated local court system. Ever-  
grande said in a filing with the Hong  
Kong Stock Exchange that it is seek-  
ing legal counsel on how to proceed  
and protect company interests.

We won't speculate on how the  
mainland China “Venice” project  
will proceed. Foreign players are fully  
at the mercy of the CCP-controlled  
Chinese court system. But these mat-  
ters are usually handled by the local  
courts. The interplay between the  
local courts and CCP headquarters in  
Beijing, given Evergrande's national  
significance, will be interesting.

What's clear is that the Los Angeles-  
based Oaktree has put the CCP in a  
tough position.

Oaktree's moves are absolutely  
unheard of in China. The fund is  
openly challenging Evergrande—  
and by extension the Guangdong  
government, the Chinese  
Communist Party, and China's  
legal system.

Will the CCP intervene in Hong  
Kong courts, and disallow Oaktree's  
receivership? Will Beijing tell the Chi-  
nese courts to invalidate Oaktree's  
claims with regards to “Venice”?  
And will Beijing blacklist Oaktree  
from investing in Chinese debt going  
forward?

If the CCP does step in and rejects  
Oaktree's legal position, Chinese  
companies will have an impossible  
time obtaining offshore financing  
going forward, and Hong Kong's po-  
sition as Beijing's designated “offshore”  
money center will effectively end.

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

Fan Yu is an expert in finance and  
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ses on China's economy since 2015.

CCP INFLUENCE

# Propaganda, ‘United Front Tactics’ Are CCP’s ‘Magic Weapons’ Against US: Steven Mosher

ELLA KIETLINSKA & JOSHUA PHILIPP

The three “magic weapons” possessed by  
the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) are  
propaganda, “united front tactics,” and the  
Chinese military—ranked in that order,  
according to Steven Mosher, president of  
the Population Research Institute.

“United front tactics, propaganda efforts  
always precede military action, and in some  
cases, they make military action unneces-  
sary,” Mosher told EpochTV's “Crossroads.”  
The “magic weapons” concept was inven-  
ted by former CCP leader Mao Zedong and  
was successfully used by the CCP during  
the Chinese Civil War, which was fought  
between the Chinese Nationalist Party  
Kuomintang led by Chiang Kai-shek and  
the CCP under Mao, according to Mosher.

The war, lasting intermittently between  
1927 and 1949, was won by the CCP, which  
established the most brutal totalitarian  
communist regime on earth: the People's  
Republic of China (PRC).

During the war, the CCP always advanced  
first—not militarily, but by using a massive  
propaganda barrage in the nationalist ar-  
eas, in which they placed stories favor-  
able to the Party, softening up the opposi-  
tion to those areas and creating an opening for  
the CCP, according to Mosher.

Then, the CCP moved into political or-  
ganizations and entities of nationalist China,  
taking them over by using united front tactics.  
“Then from those bridgeheads, from those  
stepping stones, then moving into control of  
the largest society, and oftentimes, military  
action not only came last—it came after the  
battle had essentially been won by these  
other two magic weapons: propaganda and  
united front tactics,” Mosher said.

According to a 2018 report by the U.S.-  
China Economic and Security Review  
Commission, the Chinese regime uses  
united front work to co-opt and neutralize  
sources of potential opposition to the CCP's  
policies and authority.

“The CCP's United Front Work Depart-  
ment (UFW)—the agency responsible for  
coordinating these kinds of influence op-  
erations—mostly focuses on the manage-  
ment of potential opposition groups inside  
China, but it also has an important foreign  
influence mission,” the report reads.

CCP leader Xi Jinping also talked about  
these three magic weapons in the same or-  
der several years ago, according to Mosher.  
“Everyone's paying attention to the build-  
up in the People's Liberation Army [the Chi-  
nese military], which is real and which is  
frightening,” he said. “But preceding that is  
this even more important buildup in propa-  
ganda efforts. ... And then, of course, there's  
the united front tactics.”

One of the propaganda arms of the Chi-  
nese Communist Party that effectively op-  
erates on U.S. soil is a radio station located  
near Washington that broadcasts news and  
information at all times to the most impor-  
tant audience—at least in terms of public  
policy in the United States—the audience  
in and around the nation's capital.

“The United States does not have a com-  
parable radio station in and around Beijing,  
broadcasting news and information from the  
Voice of America or Radio Free Asia or  
stories from The Epoch Times into China,”  
Mosher said. “So this is a very one-sided  
effort.”

Among other means of the CCP's propa-  
ganda are advertisements placed in major  
publications in the United States, he said.

One of the united front tactics is the estab-  
lishment of Confucius Institutes within the  
body of academia in the United States and



A human rights group urges Tufts University to close its Confucius Institute in Somerville, Mass., on March 13, 2021.



Steven Mosher, the president of the Population Research Institute and a founding member of the Committee on the Present Danger: China, in Washington on June 17, 2019.

United front tactics,  
propaganda efforts  
always precede  
military action, and  
in some cases, they  
make military action  
unnecessary.

Steven Mosher, president,  
Population Research  
Institute

Software engineers work  
on a facial recognition  
program that identifies  
people when they wear  
a face mask at the  
development lab of the  
Chinese electronics  
manufacturer Hanwang  
(Hanvon) Technology in  
Beijing on March 6, 2020.



around the world, said Mosher, author of  
the book “Bully of Asia: Why China's Dream  
is the New Threat to World Order.”

Confucius Institutes seize control of the  
institutions within which they operate,  
at least in terms of dictating what they  
can talk about, and what they're forbid-  
den to talk about in regards to China, the  
author said.

Since 2004, more than 100 Confucius In-  
stitutes have opened in universities across  
the United States, although this number  
has diminished in recent years.

These institutes, many offering for-credit  
courses in Chinese language and culture,  
are largely staffed and funded by an agency  
of the Chinese government's Ministry of  
Education, known as the Hanban, accord-  
ing to a report by the National Association  
of Scholars.

“Official Hanban policy requires Confu-  
cius Institutes to adhere to Chinese law,  
including speech codes. Chinese teach-  
ers hired by, paid by, and accountable to  
the Chinese government face pressures  
to avoid sensitive topics, and American  
professors report pressure to self-censor,”  
the report said.

Mosher said, “Confucius Institutes, for  
example, have enabled the suppression of  
discussion of the persecution of the Falun  
Gong ... the discussion of the Uyghur geno-  
cide, of the oppression of Tibet, of the free-  
dom that people enjoy on Taiwan, and of  
the ongoing suppression of the democracy  
movement in Hong Kong.

“A free society which prizes the free flow  
of information, freedom of speech, freedom  
of assembly, and freedom of association is  
particularly vulnerable to these first two  
magic weapons.

“If you lose the battle for the hearts and  
minds of the people, and if you lose con-  
trol of some of your major institutions in  
a free country like the United States, the  
third magic weapon is almost unnecessary  
because you've already surrendered your  
minds and your institutions to the Chinese  
Communist Party.

“It's a battle that we are not very well  
equipped to fight at this present moment.”

Main Perils to CCP's Rule

The two main perils the CCP perceives as a  
threat to its rule are an accurate discussion  
of the history and the ideology of the CCP

itself, Mosher said.

At the time of the Tiananmen demon-  
strations in 1989, “a new generation of Chinese  
were disillusioned by their experience and  
the experience of their parents and grand-  
parents under communism—which has  
killed tens of millions of Chinese over the  
decades—disillusioned by the Cultural  
Revolution, with its massive destruction of  
traditional Chinese culture and traditional  
Chinese views,” he said.

There was a hope “that in recoiling against  
that, they would come to admire and emu-  
late the West and that the Chinese Com-  
munist Party would collapse under its own  
weight as people fled the party, as millions  
of people resigned from the party in the  
early 90s,” he said.

“Yet in reaction, the Chinese Communist  
Party, which was shocked by the collapse of  
the Soviet Union in 1991, decided to embark  
on a massive propaganda exercise putting  
in place in the schools—basically kinder-  
garten through college—national-patriotic  
education programs. And they were able to  
stave off collapse.”

The CCP increasingly moved toward to-  
talitarian control of China, and continues  
doing so to the present day, Mosher said.

Nanotechnology scientist Charles Lieber,  
former chairman of Harvard's Department  
of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, was  
co-opted around 2012 into the Thousand  
Talents Plan, the CCP's well-financed job  
recruitment program, for one reason only—  
he was successfully implanting microchips  
in the brains of laboratory rats and mice,  
the expert said.

In Mosher's opinion, the CCP would be  
interested in that technology because it  
wants to control the very thoughts of the  
Chinese people.

Although the CCP using microchips in  
the brain to control people “may be fairly  
far off,” the regime has been using “artifi-  
cial intelligence to track people, their ac-  
tions, their thoughts, their purchases with  
the goal of trying to control [people's] very  
thoughts,” Mosher said.

Out of the 20 cities in the world with the  
highest density of surveillance cameras per  
capita, the top 19 of those cities are located  
in China, the expert noted, adding that 24/7  
surveillance on social media has also been  
used by the CCP.

Some people in the West realized that  
people who control high tech or run the  
largest investment firms on Wall Street that  
invest heavily in China “have come to ad-  
mire, and even want to emulate the Chinese  
system,” Mosher said.

“We're a long way from replicating the  
Chinese social credit system in the United  
States in one sense. And yet, in another  
sense, we see that we have our own bat-  
talions of censors monitoring the internet.

“In China, it's done by the state. ... [Here]  
it's being done by nominally private compa-  
nies. And yet those private companies seem  
to be very, very closely tied to the current  
administration.

“We are moving all too rapidly in the di-  
rection of becoming like China.”

Cathy He and Mimi Nguyen Ly contrib-  
uted to this report.



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