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THE EPOCH TIMES

CHINA INSIDER

VIRGINIA HOUSE TAKES STAND AGAINST

CCP'S ORGAN HARVESTING

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ORGAN TRANSPLANT CRIMES

Efforts to End Forced Organ Harvesting in China Lead to Unanimous Resolution in Virginia House

TERRI WU

FAIRFAX COUNTY, Va.—When the TV screen inside the Virginia General Assembly showed the vote of 82-0 on Feb. 11, Wang Chunyan, a 66-year-old Chinese refugee who just became a U.S. citizen a year ago, stood in silence.

The vote in question was a House resolution condemning the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) more than two-decades-long persecution of adherents of the spiritual group Falun Gong.

"The House of Delegates strongly condemns the imprisonment, torture, slave labor, and state-sponsored forced organ harvesting used against Falun Gong practitioners in China and demands an immediate end to the persecution of Falun Gong by the Chinese Communist Party," the resolution states.

"All Virginians stand in solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners in their pursuit of freedom of belief."

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice composed of moral teachings centered around the tenets of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance, and a set of meditative exercises. It expanded in popularity in China in the 1990s, resulting in 70 million to 100 million people practicing by the end of the decade. Deeming such popularity to be a threat to its authoritarian rule, the CCP in 1999 launched an expansive persecution campaign targeting the practice and its adherents.

Since then, millions of Falun Gong practitioners have been detained in prisons, labor camps, detention centers, and other facilities, where they have been subjected to torture, forced labor, and forced organ harvesting.

Before fleeing to the United States, Wang was one of the victims of the persecution.

From late 2020 to 2021, the retired businesswoman and her friends collected over 5,000 signatures in support of local resolutions on the issue in over 20 Virginia counties.

"The unanimous passing [of the resolution] exceeded my expectations," Wang told The Epoch Times.

"In the face of a brutal Chinese communist regime, 82 delegates said 'no.' 'I was overwhelmed by the kindness.'"

Recollections

Despite it being a moment of triumph, the House votes also triggered some painful memories for Wang.

An overwhelming moment from November 2020 flashed in her mind.

Wang was at a Frederick County Board of Supervisors meeting in Winchester on Nov. 12, 2020. A resolution on the meeting agenda alerted county residents and the medical community to the existence of state-sponsored forced organ harvesting.

Due to her limited English, she often relied on her friends and fellow Falun Gong practitioners to speak about the CCP's expansive suppression of the spiritual practice. At this meeting, her friend Tiny Tang informed the board members of various

The Virginia State Capitol in Richmond, Va., on April 16, 2020.



America is a second home to me. I feel an obligation to return the favor to my fellow Americans, to inform them of the evil of the CCP so they won't be fooled by it.

Wang Chunyan, Falun Gong adherent

(Right) Wang Chunyan (C) showcases the slave labor jacket she smuggled from Liaoning Women's Prison in northeast China when Del. Kaye Kory introduces her to members of the Virginia General Assembly during the regular session in Richmond, Va., on Jan. 25, 2022.

(Far Right) Del. Kaye Kory (D-Fairfax) of Virginia introduces Wang Chunyan to the members of the General Assembly in Richmond, Va., on Jan. 25, 2022.

(Below) Practitioners of Falun Gong (or Falun Dafa) practice the sitting meditation of the spiritual discipline in Central Park in Manhattan on May 10, 2014.



SCREENSHOT OF VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY LIVESTREAM VIA THE EPOCH TIMES



abuses suffered by practitioners at the hands of the communist regime.

As Tang spoke about how the persecution tore millions of Chinese families apart, Wang couldn't help but think of her own husband, who died almost 20 years ago.

"It was like my almost-healed wounds were torn open again," she said. Her world had been turned upside down when she lost her husband of 21 years.

In January 2002, 2 1/2 years into the re-

gime's persecution, Wang left home in an effort to evade local police who were bent on arresting her for persisting in her faith.

As a result, Wang's husband, Yu Yefu, who was not a practitioner, was often harassed by police looking to track down Wang.

One day, a policeman visited Yu at his workplace to find out Wang's whereabouts. The officer hit Yu, who fought back. Before leaving, the policeman said he would take revenge.

Because she refused to renounce her faith, Wang Chunyan was arrested and sentenced twice, spending a total of seven years in prison. While in detention, she suffered a range of torture aimed at forcing her to give up her belief.

Several days later, Yu's body was found at home with the gas turned on. The official cause of death was determined to be gas poisoning, but the family suspected foul play given that he was found with a head wound. He was 49.

Traditionally in China, the eldest son occupies a special position in the family, bearing primary responsibility for the welfare of the parents and other family members. Yu was the eldest son and someone the entire family looked up to and relied on. Upon learning of his death, his 37-year-old younger sister suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized. Within weeks, his mother became paralyzed out of grief and remained in a wheelchair for



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SHERRY LIU/THE EPOCH TIMES



Wang Chunyan before a Board of Supervisor meeting in Spotsylvania, Va., on Mar. 23, 2021.

ports about forced organ harvesting first broke in 2006, she realized what it was for—her captors were checking for organ compatibility.

At that 2020 meeting, all of these traumatic memories hit Wang in waves, and she tried her best to hold back her tears.

But the words of Robert Wells, vice-chair of the Frederick County board of supervisors, after the meeting lifted Wang out of sorrow. She recalled him saying that her presence was the best evidence of the CCP's abuses because she was a survivor of the persecution. In January 2021, the board unanimously passed a county resolution decrying the CCP's organ transplant abuses.

Wang told herself then that her suffering was now helping with a good cause.

through.

To Wang's surprise, many people expressed their sympathy and signed right away to support a local resolution in support of Falun Gong. She said people welcomed her with open arms as a fellow Virginian. Backed by signatures from over 5,000 Virginia residents, over 20 local resolutions were passed in 2021.

Awareness

On Jan. 25, Wang experienced another warm welcome from her adopted home—this time by legislators in Virginia's lower house.

That day, Del. Kaye Kory (D-Fairfax) introduced Wang to all House delegates present during the regular session: "Chunyan Wang, a Falun Gong practitioner, who was imprisoned in China for seven years, tortured, and forced to labor making jackets to be sold in the U.S. and Europe."

Kory was aware of the plight of Falun Gong practitioners in China before she heard Wang's story. "Four years ago, I had an intern, a student from VCU [Virginia Commonwealth University], who was a Falun Gong member. He had escaped, and the rest of his family was still imprisoned and died while he was working for me," she told The Epoch Times.

Del. John Avoli (R-Staunton), who sponsored the resolution, told The Epoch Times that he was proud of its unanimous passing and described the Chinese regime's forced organ harvesting as "deplorable and needs to be addressed."

Dr. Tatiana Denning, a family physician in Virginia and a health columnist for The Epoch Times, spoke to the House Rules Committee on Feb. 8 in support of the resolution.

She first heard of forced organ harvesting from her patients in 2017, a couple who practice Falun Gong. "Surely it can't be that bad, or I would have heard about it in the news," she recalled thinking to herself. She later researched the issue and concluded that organ harvesting was indeed happening, and occurring on a large scale.

"Can you imagine if, after the fact, you learned that someone else was probably killed so that you could have your organ?" she told The Epoch Times, referring to those who receive organ transplants in China.

"I don't know how you could live with yourself. It would just be devastating."

The House resolution urges Virginia residents and the medical community to be "fully informed" about the risks associated with transplant tourism to China, to prevent Americans from "unwittingly becoming accomplices" to Beijing's state-sponsored organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience.

Denning underscored this point. "For the sake of, not just the person that's losing their life, but the person that has to live with what they've been a part of and what they've been complicit unknowingly with, I think it's important to let Americans know."

A previous version of this article misstated the Virginia County Board of Supervisors meeting recollections by Wang. The meeting was held in Frederick County in November 2020. The Epoch Times regrets the error.

Wang Chunyan recalled Robert Wells saying that her presence was the best evidence of the CCP's abuses because she was a survivor of the persecution.

'Second Home'

Coming to the United States felt like a second life for Wang.

After serving her first two-year prison term, Wang was arrested again in August 2007 for raising awareness about the persecution in China. After her release five years later, she knew she had to leave China. By that time, over 20 of her close friends had died due to the persecution. To avoid the same thing happening to her, Wang fled to Thailand in May 2013. On her first day of arrival, she applied for United Nations (U.N.) refugee status.

While she was waiting for her application to be processed in Thailand, Reps. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) and Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) wrote letters to the U.N. refugee program to help with her case, urging her case be fast-tracked.

Wang was resettled in the United States two years later. When Wang arrived at New York's John F. Kennedy airport in November 2015, a Customs and Border Patrol officer told her that he knew about her case because other Falun Gong practitioners had rallied for her rescue in New York City.

"America is a second home to me," said Wang, who now lives in Fairfax County in Virginia.

"I feel an obligation to return the favor to my fellow Americans, to inform them of the evil of the CCP so they won't be fooled by it."

Driven by her newfound mission, she traveled to over 20 counties across the state in 2021. She would visit local officials in the mornings and go to shopping centers in the afternoons to collect signatures in support of the passing of resolutions condemning the persecution and state-sponsored forced organ harvesting.

"I need some support," she would say as she reached out to strangers in shopping malls.

The 66-year-old would then show people print materials describing her story, or give people flyers about Beijing's suppression. She used the written materials since her English wasn't advanced enough to adequately describe what she had gone



Del. Kaye Kory
Fairfax County (D-38)

the rest of her life. Unable to cope with the loss, his father killed himself a year later, saying, "I am joining my son."

Ten days after her husband's death, Wang was arrested.

A lawyer said she could be released if she gave up her practice of Falun Gong. She refused, and was sentenced to two years in prison. The judge also ordered that her two cars and office space for her business be confiscated. She also lost her qualification to be a business owner because of her prison sentence. As a result, she lost her business selling chemical production equipment.

Detention

Because she refused to renounce her faith, Wang was arrested and sentenced twice in China, spending a total of seven years in prison.

While in detention, she suffered a range of torture aimed at forcing her to give up her belief. During the first month of imprisonment in the Dalian Detention Center in northeast China's Liaoning Province in 2002, three prisoners took turns beating her with a three-foot-long club made with two iron rods of about one-inch diameter twisted together. The beating lasted for about three hours until she ran and hit her head against the wall out of desperation. The torture session left her back soaked in blood.

At the detention center, Wang was forced to perform slave labor, producing toilet seat covers for eight months. The remaining four months at the facility were spent making Christmas ornaments.

Wang's second year in detention was at the Liaoning Women's Prison, where she was forced to make clothes destined for export to Europe. Slave labor days were

long, from 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., seven days a week. Sometimes the detainees had to work even longer to meet production quotas.

Even outside of detention, Wang wasn't free from the regime's oppression. Discrimination and humiliation followed her wherever she went as a result of the CCP's expansive disinformation campaign against Falun Gong that had turned many in China against the practice.

Before her first arrest, Wang owned a successful sales business with an annual revenue of more than a million yuan (over \$150,000). After she was released in 2004, Wang realized that she had lost a lot of friends. Her acquaintances would avoid eye contact even when they bumped into her on the street. Her socioeconomic status dropped to the bottom of society.

Organ Harvesting

At the November 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting in Virginia's Frederick County, Wang's friend Tiny Tang turned to the subject of forced organ harvesting—a grisly state-sanctioned practice involving detained Falun Gong practitioners being killed for their organs for sale on the transplant market. A 2019 independent people's tribunal found that the practice had taken place for years on a substantial scale, and continues today.

As her friend was speaking about the untold number of Falun Gong practitioners killed as a result of this practice, Wang thought of the blood test she was given while in Liaoning Women's Prison in January 2003.

She didn't know the reason for the blood test at the time. It didn't make sense to her to receive physical examinations alongside being tortured. However, when re-

ANALYSIS

China Insiders Steal Billions From US Investors

The US government, beholden to big banks, fails to protect small American investors

ANDERS CORR



China's corporate insiders are cheating small American investors of billions of dollars through advance information that enables lucrative trades just before the stock price falls.

The total losses that insiders of Chinese companies listed on American exchanges have avoided by selling prior to price drops are at least \$10 billion between 2016 and the middle of 2021, according to a new study of their security filings.

Chinese company shares fell an average of 21 percent a year after the Chinese company insiders sold large quantities of stock, compared to a 2 percent rise after insiders from American companies sold.

The Alibaba Case

The Wall Street Journal covered the study and used Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. as an example. In October 2020, "Alibaba's payments affiliate, Ant Group Co., was preparing for its initial public offering, a move that would have likely increased the value of Alibaba's one-third stake," according to the Journal.

But Alibaba's founder and CEO, Jack Ma, publicly criticized China's financial regulators, who canceled the listing. Instead of rising, which the market predicted, Alibaba shares fell 8 percent on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

One day prior to Ma's announcement, Sky Scraper Enterprises Ltd. sold approximately \$150 million worth of Alibaba stock. An Alibaba insider controls Sky Scraper, but nobody knows his or her identity.

Whoever controls Sky Scraper, according to the Journal, which cited the Financial Times, "was one of the company's best-paid executives in recent years and had been granted huge swaths of stock as compensation."

This unknown Alibaba executive avoided losses totaling hundreds of millions of dollars through what appears to be insider trading. American and other investors who got caught on their back feet—because they couldn't know the inside information no matter how much research they did—apparently got cheated.

The SEC and China Collude Against Small Investors

The researchers—Robert Jackson, Bradford Lynch, and Daniel Taylor—point out that U.S. securities law actually advantages and enables China's insiders relative to those in the United States.

"Executives and other major shareholders at American companies have to disclose their trades within two days in a filing that is posted on the Securities and Exchange Commission's website and freely available to investors," according to the Journal.

That deters bad behavior because American insiders do not want to appear to have acted on inside information. They don't want to signal other market participants to sell the stock and, thus, decrease its value.

China's insiders don't have the same problem because U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regulators treat them with kid gloves. To encourage China's companies to list on NYSE and other U.S. exchanges in the early 1990s, regulators gave China's companies several key preferences relative to U.S. companies.

For example, unlike American insiders, China's insiders don't have to report their trades in a timely and highly public manner electronically but instead can mail paper disclosures. The paper reporting may, by law, be thrown out after three months.

That preference gives China's insiders weeks before their trades are discovered and a window of just three months for investors with a lot of time on their hands to visit the SEC offices and discover the trades. Traders typically don't have that time, so China's insider trades are rarely discovered and seldom signal the market in the timely manner required to shield American investors from unfair losses.

As Western institutional investors increasingly invested in China stocks since the 1990s, however, they acquired an interest in lobbying U.S. regulators to continue providing China's companies with regulatory advantages, which kept up their Chinese stock prices.

That sordid party is ending, but addicted institutional investors are scheming an afterparty and trying to smuggle out their drugs, which are the tanking Chinese assets.



The New York Stock Exchange in Manhattan, where markets roiled after Russia continues to attack Ukraine, in New York on Feb. 24, 2022.

SEC Loopholes for Chinese Firms Should Be Closed Immediately

The three researchers want the insider trading loophole closed, but, as usual, the SEC is dragging its feet and continues to give China's companies a major advantage that likely bilks small American investors of billions of dollars.

There are other SEC loopholes for China's publicly-listed companies as well. The SEC does not require the same auditing standards of Chinese companies listed on U.S. exchanges that are required of U.S. companies.

Some of these auditing loopholes are being closed through legislation rather than quick executive action, which should be the rule. The executive branch is more beholden to big bank lobbying on China than is Congress.

But even this legislation is taking years to effect. Audits are only extracted from China's companies through the too-gradual threat of delisting, with a three-year warning. And new loopholes are being negotiated with China by the Biden administration at this very moment.

Due to the threat of delisting, the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) is proposing that it jointly investigate with U.S. and other authorities, which would give it influence on decisions and a patina of respectability that it does not deserve as a democratically unaccountable authority. It would also provide plenty of opportunities for Beijing officials to attempt to corrupt American SEC officials who are supposed to be laser-focused on integrity.

There is a more significant political reason for the proposal as well. "China doesn't want to be seen as making concessions just to the U.S.," a China financial analyst told the Wall Street Journal. Thus, China's regulators are negotiating face-saving measures for Beijing and advantages for Chinese companies that they don't deserve, given their lack of transparency.

The CSRC should be told in no uncertain terms to pound sand. U.S. authorities should investigate China's companies listed on U.S. exchanges.

Yet the Biden administration is showing weakness. China's companies could hire Western auditors that subcontract key work to Chinese auditors without checking the work closely. This auditing chain that relies on auditors in China—who are beholden



China Securities Regulatory Commission's headquarters in Beijing on Nov. 16, 2020.

U.S. loopholes that give China's companies and insiders advantages are an obvious mistake of current and past administrations since the early 1990s.

to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and unreachable by American and other democratic authorities—will be unreliable and should be forbidden by the SEC.

As usual, the devil is in the details.

All of these loopholes and bargaining by the Biden administration give as much time and space as possible to U.S. banks to unravel their positions, even as their research departments publicly claim that China assets are underpriced. Small American investors, who do not have the time to do the research, have paid the price.

Last month, according to Institute of International Finance (IIF) data, \$11.2 billion flowed out of China bonds, and \$6.3 billion flowed out of China stocks. It is an "unprecedented dynamic that suggests a market rotation" away from China, according to the IIF.

Compare that to emerging markets ex-China, which saw \$10.8 billion flow into debt and an outflow of less than \$400 million from stocks, according to the IIF data. Emerging markets ex-China means emerging markets except for China.

Stronger US Government Action Needed U.S. loopholes that give China's companies and insiders advantages are an obvious mistake of current and past administrations since the early 1990s—none of which fixed the problem, despite years of China's economic and military growth into an existential threat to both the United States and democracy more generally.

The political influence of the big banks, all of which are deeply invested in China, is mainly to blame. So the researchers are right—insider trading loopholes for China's companies should be closed immediately.

But much more is needed.

Even if the SEC closes all loopholes and preferences that favor China, China's insiders could continue to trade on inside information and escape legal consequences if they are far from American law enforcement. That China's insiders are beyond American law—and the law of other democracies—needs to be corrected.

Anyone caught insider trading anywhere in the world, if outside the reach of law enforcement in democracies, should at minimum be subject to individualized economic and visa sanctions by democratic governments. This is absolutely necessary for democratic accountability, the rule of law, fair treatment of small investors, and the smooth functioning of international markets.

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

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. His latest books are "The Concentration of Power: Institutionalization, Hierarchy, and Hegemony" (2021) and "Great Powers, Grand Strategies: the New Game in the South China Sea" (2018).

COMMENTARY

Matas: David Kilgour's Fierce Devotion to Principle and Deep Empathy for Rights Abuse Victims Will Endure

DAVID MATAS



I have known David Kilgour all my adult life. From the get-go, I could see that he had a friendly, outgoing, gregarious personality.

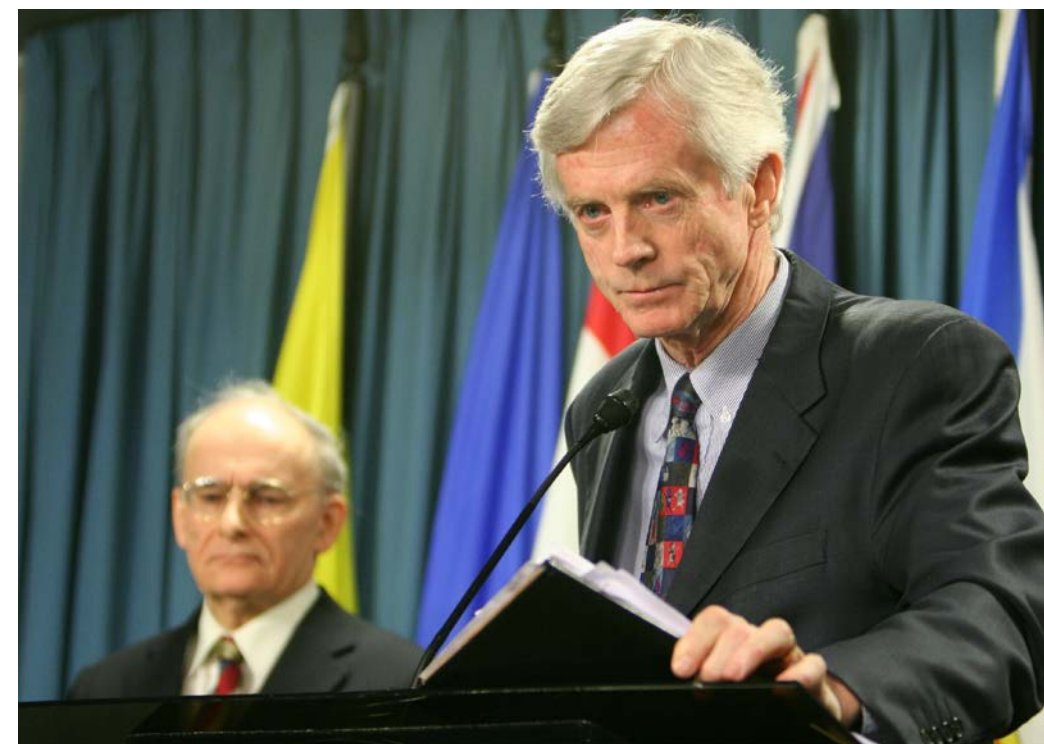
David was an undergraduate at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg in the early 1960s the same time as I. He was a bit ahead of me, but as active in student affairs as I was, and then some. We were both by coincidence in Ottawa and then Paris at the same time in the late '60s, each pursuing our own work and studies. I attended his wedding in Edmonton in 1974 where he was then a prosecutor.

He distinguished himself by his bottomless well of support for victims, his inexhaustible rejection of hypocrisy, his interminable anguish at impunity.

Our casual contact changed dramatically in March 2006 when we began, on request from an NGO, a joint investigation into whether adherents of the spiritual-based practice Falun Gong were being killed in China for their organs to be sold to patients in need of transplants. From that time on, for the past 16 years, I had been in touch with David on an almost daily basis, often several times a day.

The first version of our report, released in June 2006, concluded that the abuse in China of Falun Gong prisoners of conscience that we were asked to investigate was indeed happening. We realized that we could not just release the report and walk away from the issue to engage in our other activities, of which we had many. To keep the issue alive, we had to keep at it. And keep at it we did, with updates to our report, with the co-founding along with journalist Ethan Gutmann of an NGO on the issue (the International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China), and with a steady stream of trips to conferences, rallies, and hearings, and of statements, speeches, submissions, articles, internet postings, and email listserv messages.

We became partners not just on this issue but on a variety of other human rights issues where we shared common cause—the tyranny in Iran, the atrocities against the Uyghurs, the threats to



Former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific David Kilgour presents a revised report about continued murder of Falun Gong practitioners in China for their organs, as report co-author lawyer David Matas listens in the background, in Ottawa, Canada, on Jan. 31, 2007.



(L to R) David Kilgour, David Matas, and Ethan Gutmann, authors of "Bloody Harvest/The Slaughter: An Update," in London, England, on Nov. 25, 2014.

Taiwan, the repression in Hong Kong, antisemitism driven by distorted attacks on Israel, and so on. By sharing the same concerns on so many issues in such depth for so long, I came to know David quite well. What I could see was that he was dedicated to principle without reservation. The principles he held were

fiercely, intensely held personal beliefs.

When he retired from Parliament after 27 years, he was then its longest-serving member. During that career, he was evicted from the Progressive Conservative Party for non-conformity, joined the Liberal Party, and then resigned in disagreement over their policies. Given

his character, that was a fate foretold. His openness to others, as well as his independence of mind and commitment to principle, made him highly electable. That same independence made his climbing what British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli called the greasy pole impossible. The ability to go along to get along was not in his repertoire.

David's finest hours were those spent on human rights after he left Parliament. The issues surrounding human rights in general and China in particular brought out the best in him because they brought out the worst in others. Others might be prepared to trade off or water down principles for money or power, position or access. Others might be willing to accept promises for reality, telling instead of showing. Others might succumb to delusions of grandeur because perpetrators mouthed the words their interlocutors wanted to hear. But not David Kilgour. He distinguished himself by his bottomless well of support for victims, his inexhaustible rejection of hypocrisy, his interminable anguish at impunity.

David died April 5. May he rest in peace, but I do not think he will. His spirit will always suffer from the atrocities of this planet. In spirit, his anger will continue to flare at, and his patience will again and again be tried by, the perpetual onslaught of perpetrators; his sympathy will persistently embrace the unending parade of victims, and his concerns for them will forever mount.

All who have known David will miss him. Yet he will not be gone. His example will endure to remind us of the difference between indifference and empathy, between baffle and honesty, between giving way and standing firm, between doing well and doing good. He has not disappeared because he has become part of us.

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

David Matas, an award-winning Canadian human rights lawyer and a member of the Order of Canada, serves on the board of directors of the Toronto-based International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development. In 2010 he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work related to the investigation of forced organ harvesting crimes against Falun Gong practitioners in China. Matas co-authored "Bloody Harvest: The Killing of Falun Gong for their Organs" and co-edited "State Organs: Transplant Abuse in China."

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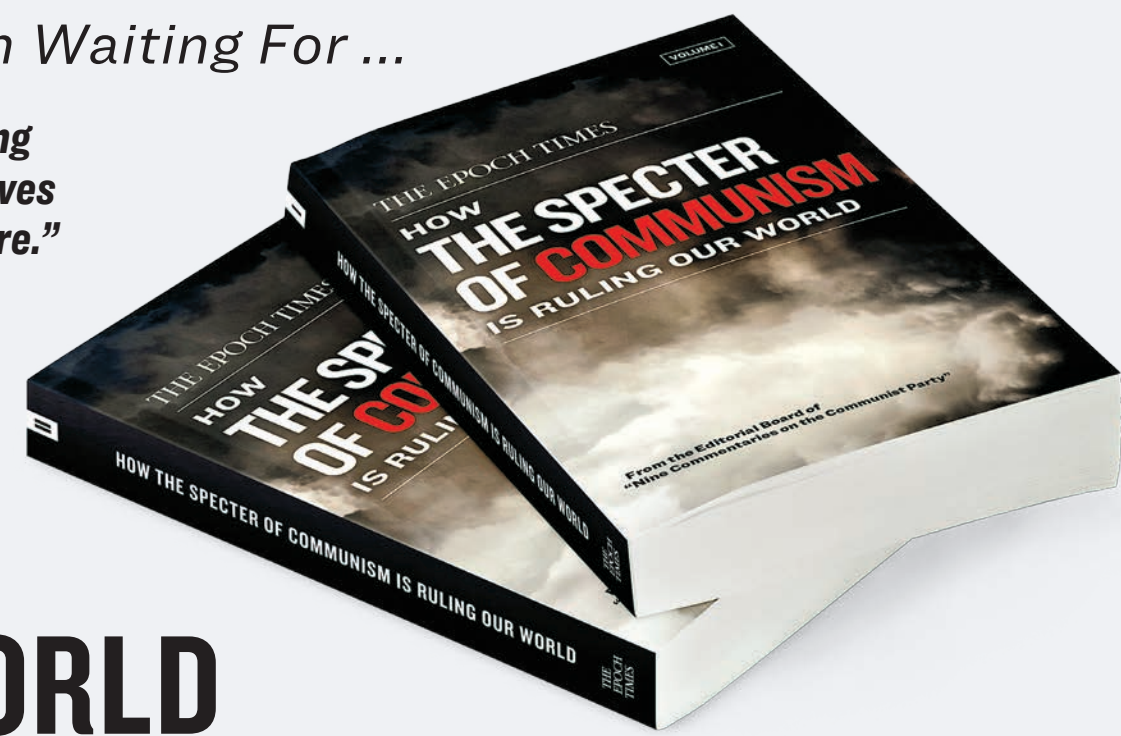
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Chess pieces are seen in front of displayed China and Taiwan's flags in this illustration taken on Jan. 25, 2022.

ANALYSIS

How China Is Systematically Isolating Taiwan in Latin America

AUTUMN SPREDEMAN

The geopolitical power dynamic between China and Taiwan is personified in how relations are unfolding in Latin America. China continues to extend its influence in the region through trade and investment while systematically alienating and undermining Taiwan's dwindling number of allies in the process.

"All of China's economic moves are politically motivated," Latin American economist Eduardo Hoffman told The Epoch Times.

Though its allies in the region are diminishing, Taiwan is working to strengthen ties with friendly countries like Paraguay, Honduras, Guatemala, and Belize.

Presently, there are only 14 countries in the world that recognize the island nation's autonomy.

On March 31, a delegation from Paraguay met with Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen and signed two memorandums focusing on the promotion of investment and exports, the prevention of African Swine Flu, and a letter of intent on industrial policy cooperation between the nations.

Representatives from Paraguay who attended the meeting were the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Luis Alberto Castiglioni, the vice minister of industry, Ramiro Samaniego, and the vice minister of exports, Ambassador Estefanía Laterza.

Agriculture and livestock officials, along with members of the Paraguayan Industrial Union, were also present during a series of discussions between March 28 and April 1. Ing-wen expressed the hopes to comprehensively deepen and strengthen relations between the two countries and jointly promote prosperity and development.

Additionally, the head of state noted since the economic cooperation between Paraguay and Taiwan went into effect in 2018, both countries have enjoyed continuous



China's leader Xi Jinping attends a meeting with Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro at Miraflores Palace in Caracas on July 20, 2014.

All of China's economic moves are politically motivated.

Eduardo Hoffman, economist

growth in bilateral trade.

During the worst of the pandemic, Taiwan was quick to offer support to friendly nations in the Americas.

Back in 2020, Guatemala's President Alejandro Eduardo Giammattei expressed his gratitude for Taiwan's donation of critical pandemic supplies like COVID-19 test kits, surgical masks, infrared thermometers, hospital equipment, and automatic detection systems. The Central American nation reinforced its solidarity with Taipei again in December 2021.

Officials representing Honduras's President Xiomara Castro also pledged to support Taiwan last December, which is a notable shift in attitude from her campaign promises to further develop relations with China. The island nation also donated \$3 million in aid to Honduras during the height of the pandemic in 2020.

Nevertheless, some experts say keeping allies in Latin America has nothing to do with goodwill gestures and everything to do with money.

Analyst Fernando Menendez told The Epoch Times that when it comes to creating partnerships in the region, China has an obvious advantage due to the sheer size of its investments.

"The goal of Latin American countries, ultimately, is to industrialize. China came along and helped make that happen," he said.

Beijing invested a total of \$83 billion from 2005 to 2020, according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Moreover, the Chinese government has increased lending to Latin American countries. As of 2020, the China Development Bank and the China Export-Import Bank granted 94 loans amounting to \$137 billion, the majority of which were to Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador, and Argentina.

This translates into substantial yet subtle influence over governments in the region. El Salvador broke ties with Taiwan in Au-

gust 2018 under former President Salvador Sanchez Ceren. Shortly after in November, Beijing agreed to give the Central American nation \$150 million during Ceren's diplomatic visit to China.

"This historic meeting between the governments of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of El Salvador has produced excellent results. This confirms that the establishment of diplomatic relations with China is the most important decision of my government in foreign policy," Ceren said.

Less than a year later, Nayib Bukele took office and promptly joined China's Belt and Road Initiative.

In December 2021, Nicaragua followed suit and broke relations with Taiwan in favor of China. Foreign Minister Denis Moncada was blunt in his response to the sudden shift toward China in diplomacy.

"The government of the Republic of Nicaragua recognizes that there is only one China in the world... the People's Republic of China is the only legitimate government that represents all of China."

By way of thanks, China pledged over \$500 million to help develop Nicaragua's electrical infrastructure.

Large cash infusions being given or lent to a country shortly after renouncing Taiwan aren't limited to Nicaragua or El Salvador. It's an established trend in Latin America.

This is how Beijing gradually but continuously sways struggling nations: by using the same "dollar diplomacy" the United States has been criticized for employing.

Hoffman says the tactic is colonialism by any other name. "They [China] entered as all other capitalist and colonial foreign entities have in the past. They say they're different, but the approach is the same."

Beijing hasn't been discreet when expressing its sentiments about Taiwan, which it considers a rogue province.

During the National People's Congress on March 7, 2021, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said, "Taiwan will eventually return to the embrace of the motherland."

Moreover, China's strategic moves in the region have turned heads in Washington which, according to some experts, is an issue of national security.

Analyst Dr. Evan Ellis says China's funding of authoritarian populism close to U.S. borders creates a significant threat. Second to that is the possibility of an increased presence of other U.S. rivals growing their presence in the region, like Russia and Iran.

Concerns over China's burgeoning influence were expressed in a November 2021 congressional report, which took special note of the deepening of strategic political and military relationships with authoritarian regimes in the Americas.

There was mention of "democratic backsliding" being exceptionally prevalent in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

US-CHINA

Decoupling From China's Economy 'Is the Future': Analyst

ANDREW THORNEBROOKE & GARY BAI

U.S. political leadership must work with the private sector to decouple critical technology development from mainland China, according to one expert.

"One of the key vulnerabilities that we're becoming more and more aware of is the degree to which Wall Street firms and American banks and investment companies continue to see China as this great market or this great investment opportunity," Arthur Herman, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, a Washington-based think tank, told EpochTV's "Forbidden News."

"Decoupling from China is the future, and we need to establish timelines by which that is possible. We need to explain that both to private companies like Apple, for example, but also to Wall Street."

Hawkish lawmakers and strategists have increasingly called for decoupling from communist China, wherein U.S. economic and research interests would be severed entirely from the nation. Such action is necessary to prevent the use of U.S. research and finances from fueling the continued exportation of the Chinese Communist Party's authoritarianism, they say.

Achieving that decoupling would require a great amount of untangling with regard to U.S. supply lines, however, and Herman believes that political leadership should immediately begin working with the private sector to make that happen.

"How do we distance ourselves from dependence upon supply chains, manufacturing facilities, and investment in American industry and companies?" Herman asked. "How do we divest ourselves from those kinds of connections, in order to both build our modern high-tech arsenal so that it's safe and secure and reliable in our hands?"

With that in mind, large U.S. tech corporations and investment firms have continued to invest heavily in China, regardless of the regime's use of forced labor and its policy of co-opting private data for military purposes.

Nevertheless, Herman believes that U.S. corporations will ultimately work for America's benefit if political leadership works to explain the severity of the situation to them. "They did it because no one said 'don't do it,'" Herman said of U.S. investment in China. "So what we need to do is to change that dialogue into one in which Washington stands up for our national security interest and stands up for our national interests, both for the growth of our economy and also for strengthening our national defense."

"Then I think companies and executives will come around and realize that they have a hugely important role to play in the development of the future arsenal of democracies and in advancing high tech so it benefits everyone."

Quantum Technology

That new "arsenal of democracies," a play on the phrase originating from U.S. World War II-era industrial dominance, is a reference to Herman's belief that the United States needs to lead the Western world in becoming

the globe's preeminent creator of next-generation technologies, such as quantum computing devices.

It's believed that quantum communications, which utilize quantum mechanics to allow secure wireless transmissions across apparently unlimited space, will reshape the nature of telecommunications security.

Whoever guides the emergence of such a technology will likely also guide the future shape of the international order.

"In quantum computing, the United States still enjoys a lead, I would even say a comfortable lead because we've got major companies like IBM and Microsoft and Intel and Google pursuing that avenue in the development of quantum technology," Herman said. "And although the Chinese are sprinting fast to catch up, they just don't have right now the kind of spread of private initiative and know-how that the United States is able to enjoy in that area."

"In the area of quantum communications, however, I have to say the United States lags behind and the Chinese have understood the strategic as well as the technological significance of having instantaneous hackproof networks as a way in which to protect data and networks."

Herman noted that China launched the world's first quantum communications satellite in 2016 and that its efforts to gain dominance in that field were tied directly to its ambitions for global hegemony.

Continued Partnerships

Still, there's a deeper problem at work, which drives Herman and others to push for decoupling from China's communist regime. That's the fact that U.S. companies are supercharging the regime through their work in mainland China.

This is because Chinese security laws dictate that any data gathered or stored within its borders must be offered to Chinese authorities if it's considered a matter of national security. Moreover, the regime's policy of dual-use, wherein every civilian technology is expected to also serve a military function, means that even the most rudimentary technologies created there could unexpectedly wind up in a military role.

One example of this was a touch screen developed by Google, which was subsequently proposed to be used to improve the targeting screens of Chinese fighter jets.

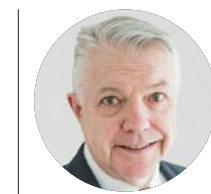
"What we've seen is the unfortunate result of that [corporate] mentality has been that many of our best and brightest technology companies have been very willing to work with China on these technologies," Herman said.

"We've seen [companies] also work with [China] on technology, scientific, and research and development projects in ways that don't take into account the degree to which China wants to achieve with these technologies. And what the United States and these companies themselves want to achieve are two completely different and even contradictory things."

To that end, he said, U.S. political leadership needs to promote a change of con-



A display for facial recognition and artificial intelligence is seen on monitors at Huawei's Bantian campus in Shenzhen, China, on April 26, 2019.



Decoupling from China is the future, and we need to establish timelines by which that is possible. We need to explain that both to private companies like Apple, for example, but also to Wall Street.

Arthur Herman, senior fellow, Hudson Institute

siousness in the U.S. business class and encourage a proactive understanding of national security in product development.

"The basic principle is that whatever you do, whatever you make, whatever you develop as a commercial company, becomes the property of the Chinese military intelligence services," Herman said. "There's no choice with the Chinese military-industrial complex. What you do as a commercial company becomes automatically the property and the technology that the military and intelligence services can use as they, not you, see fit."

Therefore, he said, if the United States were to succeed in developing a 21st-century arsenal of democracies and lead the West in the development of advanced technologies, it would have to effectively tap into the private sector and integrate it with national security priorities.

Then, Herman hoped, a more free and just international order could be secured.

"The arsenal of democracies for the 21st century, I think, can stand as a landmark event, both in the history of the United States, but also in the history of freedom and its endless struggle against tyranny and totalitarianism."

Andrew Thornebrooke is a reporter for The Epoch Times covering China-related issues with a focus on defense, military affairs, and national security. He holds a master's in military history from Norwich University.

Gary Bai is a freelance reporter currently based in New York, covering China-related news for The Epoch Times.



Paraguay's president-elect Mario Abdo Benítez greets Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen at his house in Asunción, on Aug. 14, 2018.

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