

WEEK 33, 2022

THE EPOCH TIMES

CHINA INSIDER

**CCP THE CHINESE
REGIME COMMITS,
ENABLES HUMAN
TRAFFICKING,
SAYS US STATE DEPARTMENT**

See Page 7

A "vocational skills education center" under construction in Dabancheng, in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China, on Sept. 4, 2018.

OPINION

China's 'Gray Swan' Risk

FAN YU

The real estate industry accounts for 25 percent of China's GDP, and more than one-third of local government revenues are tied to either land sales or home sales.

But mounting problems—with no obvious solutions—are threatening to destabilize not just the real estate sector but China's banks and industrial producers. It's a "gray swan" problem that has long simmered but may finally tip over.

Despite recent attempts by Beijing to bolster the country's real estate markets, combined sales at China's top 100 property developers in July fell by 29 percent from June and by 40 percent year-over-year. This is after two consecutive monthly increases, according to data released by China Real Estate Information Corp. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has attempted to shore up housing demand since at least March, introducing measures such as reducing the required down payment and cutting mortgage rates.

The unanswered question is how much this turmoil in the real estate industry will impact China's broader economy, specifically the \$50 trillion banking system.

There are question marks around whether the recent measures had enough time to make an impact or were too weak to offset negative market sentiments.

The average selling price of pre-owned housing across 100 Chinese cities also declined in July. It was the second straight monthly decline.

Mortgage boycotts continue to plague developers throughout the country, complicating Beijing's efforts to rescue the real estate industry.

Many homebuyers boycotting paying mortgages complained that their monthly mortgage payments had not been held in escrow accounts as stipulated in the purchase agreements, but were siphoned out of those accounts by cash-strapped property developers.

The issue is rooted in China's "pre-sale" system, where buyers typically begin making payments to purchase an apartment before the apartment is built.



Residential buildings under construction are seen in Yichang, in central China's Hubei Province on Oct. 20, 2021.

People gather to demand repayment of loans and financial products as security personnel guard outside Evergrande's headquarters in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China, on Sept. 15, 2021.

This system helps developers raise cash quickly to buy new land and start new developments.

Until recently, developers had ample access to debt financing and were allowed to use the bulk of this presale revenue for whatever they wanted, only setting aside a small amount to finish the construction of the housing project.

But in the last 12 months, developers have become increasingly cash-strapped while Beijing has imposed more stringent restrictions on how the cash can be used. This created a "catch-22" where many developers ran out of cash before fully finishing the apartments, leaving masses of angry customers in their wake.

Recently, lax supervision and oversight within some localities had allowed some developers to tap into this presale cash supposedly held in escrow accounts to fund new land purchases. Recall that it is in the best interest of local governments to unlock this cash, as land sales to developers are a key revenue source for municipalities.

Those transfers were also made through kickbacks from contractors, where developers moved more cash out of customer escrows than necessary to construction companies, which in turn transferred the excess back to the developers. Customers only saw that cash was used for construction, a permissible expense from the escrow accounts.

This underscores the deep-seated problems plaguing China's developers and their business model. Absent a massive bailout from the CCP regime, it's impossible to envision how the real estate industry can pull itself out of

this downward spiral.

The other side of the coin is downstream customers. Buyers fed up with the status quo system and boycotting mortgages are creating issues for both banks and developers. The nationwide mortgage boycott began at an Evergrande housing project in Jiangxi Province.

Yet today, protests have spread beyond mere customers. Dozens of contractors such as construction companies and landscaping firms have also halted their debt payments, citing an inability to pay their debts due to money owed to them from developers.

The unanswered question is how much this turmoil in the real estate industry will impact China's broader economy, specifically the \$50 trillion banking system.

Banks are caught in the middle of this crisis. The real estate industry is Chinese banks' biggest source of business—providing a stable foundation in prior periods of market disruptions—yet it could prove to be their undoing.

If banks don't step in and provide loans to developers to help finish projects and induce buyers to pay, they will stand to lose more money. But stepping in is also undesirable—it is increasing their exposure to a failed industry and potentially more risks later.

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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STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

OPINION

China and Taiwan: The Chinese Python

GRANT NEWSHAM



A U.S. government friend involved in Indo-Pacific defense matters asked me the question a lot of people are wondering about.

Following U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei on Aug. 2 to 3, China launched a series of aggressive moves targeting Taiwan, most visibly unprecedented military exercises. So he asked: "Running up to the 20th Party Congress to be held towards the end of the year, do you think the PRC [People's Republic of China] will ramp up? Keep the 'new normal'? Or decrease its pressure on Taiwan?"

Here's what I told him: China is on a timeline for seizing Taiwan. It will move faster or slower as opportunity allows. When does the timeline "end"? By 2030 or sooner—and maybe much sooner.

Beijing prefers to get Taiwan without fighting—and ideally without tangling with the Americans. But it's willing to do both—to include "going kinetic" and taking on the Americans (and the Japanese)—and sees itself as able to do so and succeed.

The upcoming 20th Party Congress somewhat shapes the Chinese regime's behavior toward Taiwan, but I think it's a less important variable. Xi Jinping has plenty of enemies, but his control seems solid enough as things stand now. However, he doesn't want to appear to have been "bested" by the Americans (or anyone else) or to have gotten China into a catastrophe of some sort. Neither has happened.

I would suggest that Chinese decision-making is more affected by the state of affairs on the U.S. side. Specifically, the more the United States (and the Biden administration) looks weak, distracted, and confused, the more pressure the Chinese communists will apply on Taiwan—including tightening the "military" noose.

And there is also the all-important question of "will"—that is, Beijing's perception of whether the Biden administration has the nerve/spine/fortitude/sang-froid to respond effectively as China makes its incremental moves against Taiwan. And the moves at some point will not be incremental as China



A People's Liberation Army member looks through binoculars during military exercises as Taiwan's frigate Lan Yang is seen in the background on Aug. 5, 2022.

aims to finish things off.

At least from my perspective, the Biden administration's responses to the most recent exercises and rehearsal for blockading and assaulting Taiwan were weak. Yes, some nice language, but nothing that would make Beijing think it had gone too far—and was going to face some serious punishment.

The Biden administration's response has been largely "reactive"—doing very little in hopes China will back off. And many parts of the U.S. elite, commentariat, business, and official classes called for the United States not to escalate matters. Washington even "postponed" a scheduled missile test in the Pacific and billed it as a "responsible" step to not escalate matters further. Beijing saw it as a weakness.

One notes that many officials handling Indo-Pacific affairs for Team Biden have "a history" with China—and don't exactly put the fear of God into the Chinese



The rocket force under the Eastern Theatre Command of China's People's Liberation Army fires live missiles into the waters near Taiwan, from an undisclosed location in China on Aug. 4, 2022.

Communist Party (CCP) leadership (that undoubtedly has thick files available on demand about each of them).

Additionally, the American response has also seemed condescending, including prim statements that the Chinese are "overreacting" to Pelosi's visit and are not behaving the way a "responsible nation" acts.

One imagines the men running China (they're all men) chuckling and saying, "Maybe that matters to Americans, but we've just taken a few more serious steps towards 'locking up' Taiwan."

Indeed, imagine you are in Zhongnanhai and, in a very short period of time, you:

- Basically surrounded Taiwan, declared large areas off limits, fired missiles into them and conducted naval and air exercises close to and all around the island—in places and on a scale you'd never done before.
- Carried out "invasion-related" training closer to the Chinese mainland.
- Used unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) over Taiwan's territory.
- Fired missiles over Taiwan, also bracketing Japanese territory, and splashed missiles into Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ)—as a message to Tokyo and the Americans to stand clear.
- Issued a white paper regarding Taiwan that, in so many words, says to Taiwan: "Do what we say, or we'll kill you."
- Had diplomats insulting and threatening countries that might support Taiwan.

And then ask yourself, "What punishment did we receive?"

You might say... none. Or none that matters.

Damaged reputation? Who cares? And anyway, some Americans of influence

think the United States is to blame or who are willing to concede whatever it takes to placate China. And don't forget the weaponized "peace groups" and agents of influence, including within the Chinese diaspora in the United States, that are standing by.

The CCP bosses might think it may be time to use more force against Taiwan—and there may never be another better chance.

Another thing I recommended to my friend: Pay particular attention to the Chinese use of deception—and get ready. You can bet that whatever is coming won't happen exactly the way or when the "China Hands" or the intelligence community says it will. They've been mostly wrong about China for over four decades.

One last thing: If the Chinese appear to "ease up" on Taiwan and offer to meet with President Joe Biden, it means nothing. The CCP is going after Taiwan the way a python strangles its prey. It never relaxes the pressure. It may stop for a bit, waiting for the prey to move a little or breathe, but then it will tighten its grip even more.

At some inevitable point, the final squeeze will come and finish off the poor victim. A python never loses interest and goes away of its own accord—you must make it do so.

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

Grant Newsham is a retired U.S. Marine officer and a former U.S. diplomat and business executive with many years in the Asia/Pacific region. He is a director at One Korea Network and a senior fellow with the Center for Security Policy and the Yorktown Institute.

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OPINION

Time to Call Communist China What It Has Always Been: A Rogue Nation

When will the rest of the world ever learn?

STU CVRK



With their well-orchestrated intimidation of Taiwan in response to U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's brief visit to Taipei on

Aug. 2, the Chinese communists have once again removed their masks for all the world to see.

Under the leadership of Xi Jinping, who regularly pontificates about China "leading the world" in this, that, or the other—as well as the inevitability of Chinese domination in all spheres of human endeavors—the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) bellicosity, belligerence, and boisterousness seem to grow day by day.

Fifty years of appeasement and economic engagement with Red China have conditioned the United States and world media, and many "pro-CCP" politicians to understate and excuse the various crises instigated by the CCP. When will the rest of the world ever learn that Beijing's promises are worthless—and that the promised benefits to the world of appeasing communist China are completely ephemeral and indeed dangerous?

Here's an example from the Hong Kong takeover era—just two short years ago!—from the appeasers at The New York Times: "Hong Kong is China, Like it or Not." Never mind that Beijing violated its own treaty pledges by unilaterally ending Hong Kong's separate legal status and the "one country, two systems" framework and imposing the communists' draconian national security law on the former British colony. That communist promise was worthless.

Then there was this piece about China-Tibet relations from The Associated Press in 2021: "China Offers Glimpse of Tibetan Life without the Dalai Lama." The title itself is an insult to many Tibetans who follow closely and try to live their lives according to the teachings of the exiled Dalai Lama.

The AP article touts this communist propaganda prominently displayed in Lhasa, "Xi Jinping's new socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics is the guide for the whole party and all nationalities to fight for the great rejuvenation of China," while essentially conveying the CCP's line that Tibet has effectively been "sinicized" ostensibly to the benefit of all Tibetans.

Never mind that Tibet was a separate country for over 2,000 years until the People's Liberation Army (PLA) invaded and occupied eastern Tibet in 1951, forcing the Tibetans to sign the 17-point "Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet." Or the subsequent imprisonment, beating, torture, and "re-education" for decades of Tibetans who refused to assimilate into the godless Chinese state. But the AP managed to convey the CCP's ongoing persecution of Tibetans as somehow a "good thing."

The Uyghurs, Falun Gong, and other religious and ethnic minorities in China have had their own terrible experiences at the hands of the CCP. In contrast, foreign appeasers from political circles, multinational corporations, academia, media, and others have gotten rich through CCP bribes and corruption.

What other civilized country treats its indigenous minorities as harshly as the communist Chinese treat their own?

What other self-declared democratic government (China's "whole people's democracy") persecutes its citizens through long-term imprisonment, torture, and internment in reeducation camps?

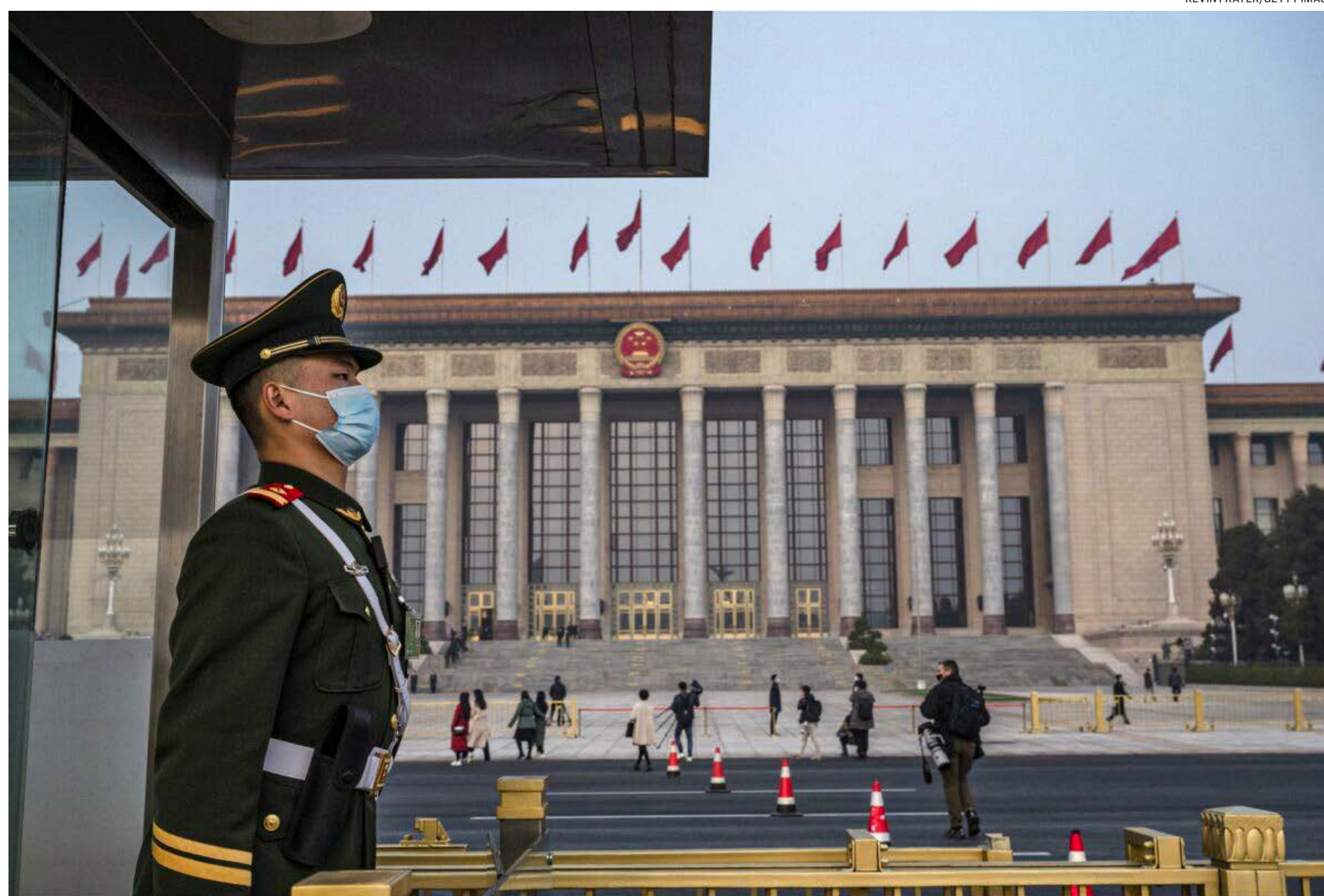
What other country guilty of these horrible human rights violations is treated with deference and kowtowing besides communist China?

How can the appeasers continue to look the other way? What will it take to admit that Chinese appeasement has been an abject failure?

Appeasement in the Face of PLA Intimidation

Those same appeasers and supporters of

A police officer stands guard before the closing session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on March 10, 2022.



KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES

The 'wolf warriors' in Beijing's diplomatic corps routinely issue threats to targeted countries, especially to the United States, Japan, Australia, and the United Kingdom.

"cooperation, competition, and engagement" with China were hard to work surrounding Pelosi's trip to Taiwan. Note the soft-on-China messages:

Bloomberg reported on Aug. 3 that China appeasers in the Biden administration are "lobbying Democratic senators to put the brakes on a bill that would alter US policy toward Taiwan, including by designating it as a major non-NATO ally."

Just when a show of strength and deterrence was needed in response to the Chinese military belligerence, the Biden administration decided on Aug. 4 to postpone a long-scheduled Minuteman-III intercontinental ballistic missile test, ostensibly to "lessen tensions with communist China," as reported here.

A Bloomberg piece on Aug. 5 claimed that "Beijing may continue to escalate its response." What civilized country responds to a less-than-one-day visit by a career politician with large-scale coordinated military exercises like China did?

A Reuters article on Aug. 7 stated that "Chinese and Taiwanese warships played high seas 'cat and mouse.'" That's how Reuters described the unprecedented PLA/PLA Navy intimidation of Taiwan that continued into its fifth day.

And the editorial board at The New York Times weighed in on Aug. 6 with a piece titled, "The U.S. Relationship With China Does Not Need to Be So Tense." The situation is "tense" because the communists have made it so. Now is not the time to show weakness in the face of PLA belligerence (assuming the Biden administration believes in deterring the

CCP at all). Instead, the op-ed argues for a return to the failed "cooperation, competition and engagement" policies that have led to the PLA's military buildup that made the intimidation of Taiwan possible!

The Rogue State

Xi Jinping's 10-year rule has been marked by increasing bellicosity and belligerence in communist China's diplomatic, military, and economic interactions with the rest of the world. Xi's Belt and Road Initiative creates debt traps for developing countries that accept the communists' gifts/loans. The PLA regularly intimidates neighboring countries, including Japan, the Philippines, Australia, Vietnam, and South Korea. And the "wolf warriors" in Beijing's diplomatic corps routinely issue threats to targeted countries, especially to the United States, Japan, Australia, and the United Kingdom.

The CCP has developed a playbook for hybrid warfare to achieve its regional and global dominance objectives laid out by Xi. Various aspects of the playbook are being implemented against the United States, Japan, Australia, India, the Philippines, and of course, Taiwan.

That playbook includes these actions: set a target/goal/objective and propagate that goal via state-run media; undermine international conventions and norms; subvert and exploit international institutions to align them with CCP policies; use psychological/information warfare to achieve all objectives; ignore past treaties and commitments; exploit the

communists' new national security law; intimidate others (via the diplomatic corps, Chinese coast guard, navy, and air force overflights, etc.); leverage appeasers/China hands to create an echo chamber; vehemently denounce all attempts to defeat and deter CCP policies.

What other civilized country makes threats against neighboring nations and others like the following?

In May 2021, state-run Global Times threatened "long-range strikes on the military facilities and relevant key facilities on Australian soil" if it aids Taiwan in a future conflict.

In July 2021, the Center for Security Policy reported that "China has threatened to 'nuke Japan continuously' if Japan supports the US in protecting Taiwan from a Chinese invasion."

With impunity, China has built and militarized islands in the East China and South China seas claimed by other nations.

Beijing regularly engages in saber-rattling in contested areas along the India-China border and has been meddling in Kashmir.

According to The Australian, Hu Xijin, a former editor of state-run Global Times, urged the PLA to "shoot her [Nancy Pelosi] down." Hu fanned the flames of Chinese communist nationalism for years at Global Times and is a reliable mouthpiece for the Beijing regime, no doubt expressing the sentiments of many communists.

The day before Pelosi visited Taiwan, Global Times blared that her visit "won't be tolerated." Not the action of a gov-

ernment-run media shop in a civilized country.

On the day of Pelosi's visit, Global Times headlined that the PLA "will not sit idly by." That was a direct military threat against the United States and other countries committed to defending Taiwan.

According to Taiwan News, "China's Ambassador to France Lu Shaye on Wednesday (Aug. 3) claimed that Beijing would impose reeducation after it annexes Taiwan." The communists apparently have plans to keep their Uyghur and Tibetan reeducation camps going with "other tasking."

The Wall Street Journal reported that "Chinese aircraft and ships crossed the midway mark of the Taiwan Strait" into the Taiwanese air defense identification zone (ADIZ) to conduct simulated attacks on Taiwan.

Are these the actions of a civilized country?

On Aug. 6, Chinese Foreign Minister (and "wolf warrior") Wang Yi warned the United States "not to act rashly to avoid creating bigger crisis."

Concluding Thoughts

What defines whether a country is a "rogue nation"? A classic definition of a rogue nation is "a state that does not respect other states in its international actions." To that definition can be added the following:

- An unwillingness to conform to international law.
- Actions contrary to generally accepted international behavior.
- Military threats against neighboring nations and others.
- Ongoing genocide against minority groups in one's own country.
- Threats to launch nuclear attacks on another sovereign state.

Only a rogue nation and one that refuses to conform to international consensus and the rule of law makes threats such as those described above by the CCP against other sovereign nations. In short, a rogue nation like China should be returned to its pre-1972 status as a pariah (outcast).

It is long past time for the appeasers and "China hands" who have favored dialog, cooperation, competition, and engagement with communist China since 1972 to call a spade a spade and admit the error of their ways.

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

Stu Cvrk retired as a captain after serving 30 years in the U.S. Navy in a variety of active and reserve capacities, with considerable operational experience in the Middle East and the Western Pacific. Through education and experience as an oceanographer and systems analyst, Cvrk is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he received a classical liberal education that serves as the key foundation for his political commentary.



China's ambassador to the Solomon Islands Li Ming (R), and Solomons Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare are cutting a ribbon during the opening ceremony of a China-funded national stadium complex in Honiara on April 22, 2022.

EXCLUSIVE

Senator Seeks to Expose CCP's Authoritarian Ambitions

EVA FU

The Chinese Communist Party has for years been bent on cementing its influence over the developing world.

One U.S. senator is hoping to counter this through an awareness-raising initiative.

In a Twitter campaign dubbed "#ExposingTheCCP," Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) plans to spotlight the regime's "sinister relationships" with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, as well as parts of the Middle East, where Beijing has made extensive investments to expand its political and economic clout.

Focusing on one country at a time, the weekly installments will feature those that have "struck a bad deal with China," to "expose the CCP's intentions in the Global South and ensure that Beijing no longer controls the narrative," according to Rubio's office.

"Now is not the time to be silent," the senator told The Epoch Times in an email.

"We need to be vocal about what the Chinese Communist Party is doing," he said. "Beijing is attempting to overpower, exploit, and hold hostage sovereign nations. The United States must stand up against Xi Jinping's authoritarian vision and hold the CCP accountable."

With the CCP strategically making social media its megaphone to attack the West and spread disinformation, the campaign aims to counter such efforts, according to Rubio's office. It will also "fill a void" in the U.S. government communications, which currently lack a coordinated way to alert countries of the "many pitfalls" attached to Chinese investments, a spokesperson for Rubio's office said.

The first "#ExposingTheCCP" tweet, shared with The Epoch Times ahead of its launch on Aug. 11, focuses on the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific which has recently signed a security pact with Beijing that has sparked widespread concerns that it could pave the way for the establishment of a Chinese military base.

New documents recently obtained by local media show that a Chinese state firm is looking to buy a deep water port and a World War II-era airstrip in the island nation. While the country's Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare has repeated his assurances that there would be

no Chinese military base, he was recently noticeably absent from a key memorial service event organized by the United

States, a move that some local media have described as a "snub."

The Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi saw a red carpet welcome after landing in Solomon Islands capital Honiara in late May, during his tour to advance the security deal, under which the Chinese troops are now training the Pacific nation's police.

Rubio warned that the developments in the Solomon Islands are playing right into the regime's hands.

"The Solomon Islands should call off the deal & put a stop to Beijing's plan to establish dominance in the Indo-Pacific," the senator said in the Aug. 11 tweet.

The campaign will also highlight the impact of Beijing's trillion-dollar infrastructure investment program, the Belt and Road Initiative, which critics say saddle developing nations with unsustainable debt burdens. Other tactics that the regime employs, the senator's office said, include technology transfers and media exchange programs.

(Bottom Left) Some of the 220 Chinese vessels are seen moored at Whitsun Reef, South China Sea, on March 7, 2021.

(Bottom Right) A man uses a magnifying glass to read a newspaper headline reporting the Chinese People's Liberation Army conducting military exercises at a stand in Beijing on Aug. 7, 2022.



PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD/NATIONAL TASK FORCE-WEST PHILIPPINE SEA VIA AP



AP PHOTO/ANDY WONG



Sean Lin, former head of a U.S. Army virology laboratory, speaks at a "Wake Up to the CCP Threat" rally in Otisville, N.Y., on Aug. 13, 2022.

CCP THREAT

‘CCP Threat’ Rally Warns of Communist Infiltration, Subversion

PETR SVAB

OTISVILLE, N.Y.—The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has infiltrated the United States to an alarming degree, not just to steal economic and military secrets, but also to expand divisions, finagle, and sway Americans’ opinions, attendees were told at a rally dubbed “Wake Up to the CCP Threat” in New York state.

Resisting the CCP’s plan to bring the United States to its knees presents a rare opportunity of common ground for Americans of varied political stripes to unite, speakers at the rally said, urging people to spread the word and engage civically.

“The CCP aims to bring down America in a very comprehensive multi-domain warfare,” said Sean Lin, a former U.S. Army virologist and member of the Committee on the Present Danger: China.

Following a doctrine of “unrestricted warfare,” the CCP regime uses any area of human action as a “battlefield,” Lin said at the Aug. 13 rally. Economic warfare seeks to “destroy U.S. industrial base” and “create supply chain dependencies”; financial warfare seeks to cajole Wall Street into shifting investments to China; political warfare seeks to “delegitimize” the American system of a constitutional republic and fuel “Maoist race theories” in the United States; information warfare focuses on propaganda to instill positive impression of the totalitarian system of the CCP; technology warfare aims to capture the intellectual property of American companies; cyber warfare seeks to steal Americans’ personal information; chemical warfare seeks to poison Americans by encouraging illegal trade in fentanyl, a powerful opioid; and biological warfare focuses on weaponizing viral pathogens.

The last of those categories especially plays into Lin’s expertise. He noted how the CCP blocked and manipulated research into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic that started in Wuhan, China, in 2019, so there’s no way to say definitively how it started.

“But there’s no doubt the CCP let the virus spread to the whole world, let the people who got infected in Wuhan travel to the whole world, while they locked down the city of Wuhan,” he said.

He pointed out that various types of “gain-of-function” viral research continue in China, and the CCP persists with biological warfare projects. The People’s Liberation Army (PLA) is currently working on a “level four” bio-containment laboratory in cooperation with Pakistan’s army, he said. “There’s no famous research institute in Pakistan for any infectious disease. Why does PLA want to collaborate with the Paki-

stan army to have a P4 lab there? Because next time, if another outbreak happens, Pakistan is to blame, not the CCP. This is their strategy,” he said.

Lin supports designating the CCP as a transnational criminal organization, similar to Mexican drug cartels.

“If our enemy is waging an unconventional war against us, if we still think the CCP is just a competitor or a collaborator, we will lose the war,” he said.

The way to resist CCP influence in the United States is through strengthening core American values as well as becoming active in the political realm, said Rev. Bill Banuchi, head of the New York Faith and Freedom Coalition.

“I have two grandchildren now, and I rue the day when I will have to sit down with them and tell them what it was like in America when we knew freedom,” he said.

He encouraged Americans not just to vote, but also to consider running for office, whether for a school board, a municipal council, or a county legislature.

He noted that Americans, who come from varied ethnic and cultural backgrounds, find their unity in the belief in the nation’s founding values, in that “in this nation, our rights do not come to us from Washington, D.C., or from Albany, our rights come to us from the very hand of God.”

“When an outside force comes to threaten us, what do we do? We forget our internal squabbles and we lock arms and we join ranks against that outside enemy,” he told a cheering crowd of about 120 people.

The rally in Otisville, New York, was sponsored by the local Mount Hope Chinese Association and the New York-based Global Service Center for Quitting the CCP.

Robin Imbarrato, 52, came after her father told her about the rally, she said, so she could stay educated on the topic.

“Communism is now becoming part of

The way to resist CCP influence in the United States is through strengthening core American values, Rev. Bill Banuchi says.

Attendees listen to speeches at a “Wake Up to the CCP Threat” rally in Otisville, N.Y., on Aug. 13, 2022.



LARRY DYE/THE EPOCH TIMES

our world, it’s infiltrated here,” she told The Epoch Times. “That’s why I came, to see what I can do possibly to combat it.”

It was “a big eye-opener,” she said, when the COVID-19 pandemic came and U.S. authorities to a large degree followed the type of response proscribed by the CCP, including business shutdowns and mandates.

Another participant, James Snyder, 32, said he came to “support the cause.”

“I don’t enjoy the way I observe the CCP’s tendrils infiltrating our media, government, and social media—our society as a whole,” he said.

He started to look into CCP influence in America in 2016 after hearing then-candidate Donald Trump repeatedly bringing up China in his campaign speeches.

He began to wonder, “What is the big deal about China’s Communist Party?,” and over time, he learned more by remaining “plugged into alternative news sources” and staying away from mainstream news sources.

He noted that more and more athletes and entertainment conglomerates were censoring themselves in order to appease the CCP and be allowed to reach the Chinese audience.

“I’ve noticed these things just a little bit at a time. And the more I notice it, it becomes harder and harder to ignore,” he said.

For Howard Bellingham, 37, the “wake-up” point came last year when he saw former professional wrestler John Cena apologize to China for calling Taiwan a country in a promo video for the ninth installment of the “Fast and Furious” movie franchise.

He then started to look into China’s economic influence, noticing that U.S. corporations are becoming increasingly beholden to the Chinese market.

“[I used to be] they’d have a stake in the community, they’d have an interest in people coming to their business,” he said.

But the proliferation of online shopping, in his view, has divorced U.S. businesses from their domestic clientele.

“China’s got a billion people, we have 330 million. Which market is going to command the authority there?” he said.

He said it was encouraging to see so many people show up for such an event in a small town.

“It’s easy—you don’t see it on mainstream news—to think that you’re by yourself with your thoughts on stuff like this,” he said.

“So when you come out to an event like this and you see a whole lot of people who are here for the same reasons, who think the same things, and want to learn about the same subject, it lets you know that you’re not alone, that people do care, that the community does exist, that we just got to dig through the dirt to find it again.”

HUMAN RIGHTS

The Chinese Regime Commits and Enables Human Trafficking: US State Dept Report

DANELLA PEREZ SCHMIELOZ

The Chinese regime commits and enables trafficking in persons, primarily by subjecting religious and ethnic minorities to forced labor, according to the U.S. Department of State’s latest Trafficking in Persons Report.

Forced labor in China is so prevalent—that it amounts to a “government policy or pattern”—conducted by Chinese Communist Party (CCP) officials at all levels, the report stated.

Chinese citizens have further reportedly suffered forced labor at Belt and Road Initiative (BRI, also known as “One Belt, One Road”) projects abroad due to the regime’s neglect to supervise recruitment and labor conditions, the report added.

During the reported period—from April 2021 to March 2022—China showed indicators of state-sanctioned forced labor, did not meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons, and did not make serious efforts to fight it, causing the country to rank among the lowest tier of nations, the State Department said in the report.

Forced Labor in Detention Centers

State-sponsored forced labor occurs mainly under the CCP’s “mass detention and political indoctrination” campaign targeted against Uyghurs and other Muslim or Turkic minorities in China’s Xinjiang region, according to the State Department.

Victims include Tibetans, Christians, and members of other suppressed ethnic and religious minorities, such as Falun Gong adherents.

The CCP “subjugate[s] and exploit[s] minority populations in forced labor in internment camps under the pretext of combating violent extremism and other social ills,” the report stated.

“Authorities continued to amplify the magnitude of trafficking crimes in the country and abroad, including by perpetrating genocide,” it added.

An independent people’s tribunal, known as the Uyghur Tribunal, ruled in December 2021 that the Chinese regime had committed genocide against ethnic Muslims in Xinjiang—through an array of repressive acts that included mass internment, family separation, sterilizations, and forced labor.

The United Nations estimates that more than 1 million Uyghurs have been detained in internment camps in Xinjiang. Such internment camps are “designed to erase ethnic and religious identities under the pretext of ‘deradicalization,’” according to the State Department.

Detainees may be subject to forced labor within internment camps or at near or

external factories. The goods produced range from garments to consumer electronics, face masks, automotive components, and holiday decorations, among many others.

Domestic companies are incentivized to open factories near internment camps through tax cuts and subsidies, as well as to take in transferred detainees from other provinces, as stated in the report.

Local authorities are also incentivized to conduct forced labor, as they are awarded funds “for each inmate forced to work in these sites at a fraction of minimum wage or without any compensation,” the report read.

Local officials are also encouraged to meet detention quotas to keep the system functioning. They achieve this by issuing arbitrary arrests and accusing individuals of false criminal offenses or administrative violations—such as violating birth regulations. This data was extracted from the regime’s official documents, according to the State Department.

Non-interned Forced Labor

Besides being subject to forced labor under detention, victims are coerced into forced labor through threats of internment. They are also transferred to manufacturing sites in other provinces under “poverty alleviation” programs.

China “has reportedly placed 2.6 million members of minority communities in agricultural and manufacturing jobs within Xinjiang and across the country through state-sponsored ‘surplus labor’ and ‘labor transfer’ initiatives featuring overt forced labor indicators,” the report stated.

“The government has transported at least 80,000 of these individuals to other provinces for forced labor under the guise of poverty alleviation and industrial aid programs,” it added.

Trafficking in Persons Linked to China’s BRI

The Chinese regime has reportedly omitted to oversee BRI projects’ recruitment channels, labor conditions, and contracts, which resulted in Chinese citizens being deceived into moving abroad, where they were subjected to forced labor and other abuses, according to the report.

The BRI—a tool for the CCP’s global expansion—finances enormous loans to developing nations for building infrastructure. Chinese state-owned banks provide the countries with loans that experts say open the nations to the risk of being saddled with unsustainable debt levels.

The loans are then used to pay Chinese companies to build infrastructure, including the development of roads, ports,



A perimeter fence is constructed around what is officially known as a vocational skills education center in Dabancheng in Xinjiang Uyghur region, China, on Sept. 4, 2018.

power plants, mines, telecommunications, or banking institutions. The ostentatious projects have been described as part of so-called debt-trap diplomacy since the often-unpayable loans will force the nations to repay China with goods or land.

Chinese citizens employed in BRI projects abroad have suffered forced labor at worksites funded totally or partially by Beijing, Chinese companies, or Chinese nationals, said the State Department.

Chinese and “host country nationals employed in some BRI construction projects, mining operations, and factories in African, European, Middle Eastern, Asian, Pacific, Latin American, and Caribbean countries experience deceptive recruitment into debt bondage, arbitrary wage garnishing or withholding, contract irregularities, confiscation of travel and identity documentation, forced overtime, and resignation penalties,” the report read.

Such was the case of Li Wei and Mao Chen, two Chinese citizens recruited for a rural BRI project in Indonesia, which included flights, housing, food, and wages. However, once at the smelting plant, their passports were seized, and they were subject to forced labor, working 16 hours a day without a salary, according to the report. They were accommodated in small quarters, surveilled by armed guards.

A subcontractor later took over their contracts, but their labor conditions did not change. While Li escaped the facility, Mao was still subjected to forced labor.



Authorities continued to amplify the magnitude of trafficking crimes in the country and abroad, including by perpetrating genocide.

US State Department report

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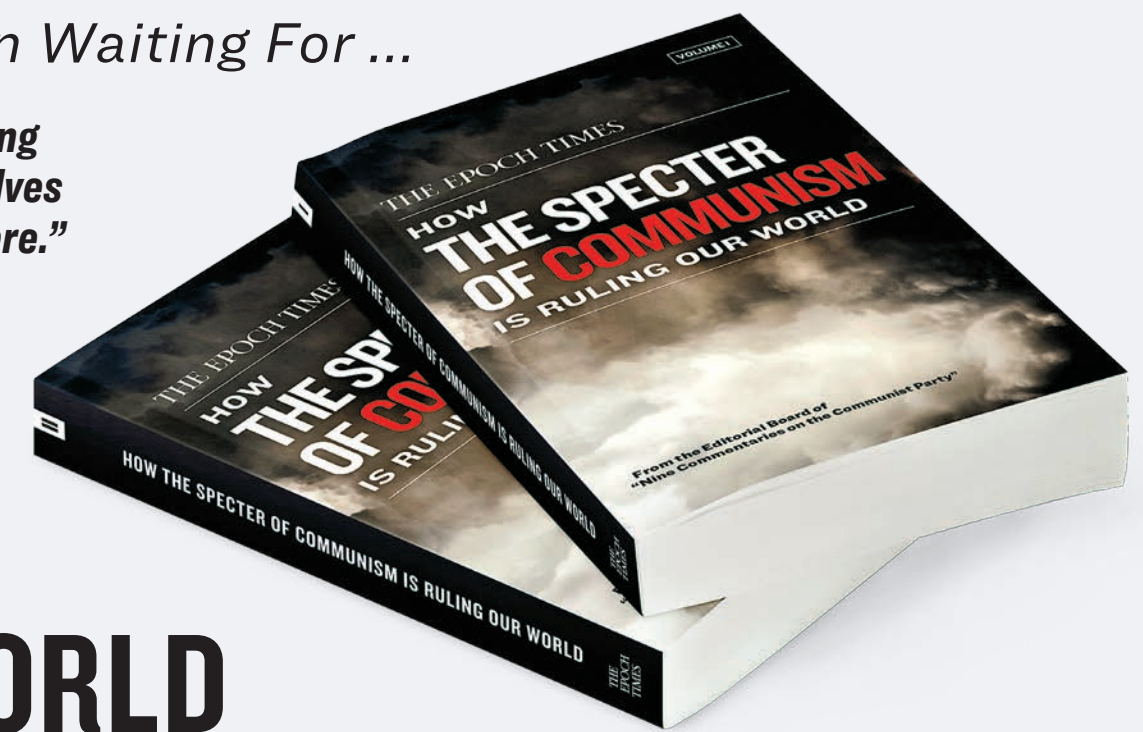
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