

WEEK 43, 2022

THE EPOCH TIMES

CHINA INSIDER

TOTAL CONTROL

**XI SECURES
UPRECEDENTED 3RD
TERM IN POWER**

See Page **2**

Chinese leader Xi Jinping is applauded by senior members of the government and delegates as he walks to the podium to make a speech during the opening ceremony of the 20th National Congress in Beijing on Oct. 16, 2022.

PARTY CONGRESS

Xi’s Consolidation of Power Signals a More Aggressive China: Analysts

DOROTHY LI

The United States is “not seeking a new Cold War” with either the Chinese regime or Russia, U.S. President Joe Biden said at the U.N. in September.

Yet Chinese leader Xi Jinping’s consolidation of power during a twice-a-decade political reshuffle will inevitably intensify competition between the two nations and increase the risk of a cold war, according to Chinese analysts.

Xi secured an unprecedented third five-year team in power on Oct. 23 after the close of the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP’s) 20th National Congress and installed allies in the Party’s top decision-making bodies.

The result of this is that the United States and the West face the prospect of an even more aggressive China, according to analysts. This is partly because Xi, the regime’s most powerful leader since Mao Zedong, now prioritizes ideology over pragmatism. “When politics and ideology completely trump the economy, the space for cooperation [between Beijing and Washington] shrinks,” Shen Jung-chin, an associate professor at the School of Administrative Studies at Canada’s York University, told The Epoch Times. “It means there will be fierce confrontation and competition instead.”

Xi, the regime’s most powerful leader since Mao Zedong, now prioritizes ideology over pragmatism.

Security Over Economy

The frequent use of the words “security” and “socialism” in the report of the 20th Party Congress reveals that national security takes center stage in China, according to Shen. The report featured a separate section with a focus on national security for the first time ever. According to an analysis by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the report mentioned the word “security” 91 times, up from 54 times in the 19th Party Congress report.

While the 20th Party Congress report pledged that market reforms are still “basic state policy,” Shen said references to “reform,” “market,” and “economy” were given less emphasis in the landmark document compared with the one from five years ago.



Workers erect fencing around a neighborhood in lockdown in Shanghai on Oct. 7, 2022.

Shen also noted that there was no mention of an easing of the regime’s “zero-COVID” policy during an oral version of the report delivered by Xi at the congress’s opening ceremony on Oct. 16, even though the strict pandemic-handling approach has damaged China’s economy.

China’s gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 3.9 percent year-over-year in the third quarter, which is better than expected but still far below Beijing’s official full-year target of “around 5.5 percent”—its lowest goal in nearly three decades. This weak economic performance comes as the country grapples with a property crisis, renewed lockdowns, and COVID-19 curbs, along with risks of a global recession, Shen said.

Pessimism toward China’s economy was reflected in the Chinese stock market’s performance following the announcement of Xi’s third term. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng Index fell by 6.3 percent on Oct. 24, its lowest level since April 2009. The Hang Seng Tech Index plunged by more than 9 percent. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index, a gauge of Chinese stocks that are listed in Hong Kong, declined by 7.3 percent, which is its worst performance after a CCP Congress since 1994. This was the worst day for stocks in Hong Kong since the global financial crisis of 2008, while the onshore yuan fell to its weakest level since January 2008.

Despite the country’s sluggish economy, Xi’s speech “reveals that the CCP now puts economic development in second place,” according to Shen.

“Ideology, especially the confrontation

with the West, is given more prominence in the [policy] framework,” he said. “Such a trend is worrying.”

In the congress report, the communist regime alluded to Western nations taking increased actions to counter Beijing’s aggressions by warning of challenges from “a grim and complex international situation.” Without mentioning the United States or other countries by name, the report states that “external attempts to suppress and contain China may escalate at any time.”

During Xi’s tenure, Sino–U.S. relations have deteriorated over a series of issues, including the Chinese regime’s human rights abuses in Xinjiang and Hong Kong, its aggression against Taiwan, and rampant technology theft. But such tensions are still different from those during the Cold War era, when the United States was estranged from the Soviet Union, Shen noted. In contrast, Washington and Beijing have deep commercial ties that largely arose from the regime’s economic reform policies implemented in the 1980s.

“However, now, it seems Xi is walking toward a different direction,” Shen said.

One-Man Rule

Waving his hands and smiling, Xi led six dark-suited men onto the red-carpeted stage at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Oct. 23, sending a message of his tightening grip over the Party and the country.

Xi and the six men form the Politburo Standing Committee, the Party’s pinnacle

decision-making body, a group that’s now stacked with Xi loyalists.

Following the week-long congress, he confirmed his third five-year term as the CCP’s secretary general, a feat that none of his predecessors have claimed since Mao Zedong, who ruled the country for 27 years until his death in 1976. The lack of a possible successor to the 69-year-old leader suggests that he may intend to further extend his term, which ends in 2027.

Xi’s precedent-breaking new term was widely expected. But even veteran analysts were surprised that the Party’s new generation of ruling elites was dominated by the 69-year-old leader’s allies and protégés.

“Xi has now completely controlled the Politburo Standing Committee,” said Li Yuanhua, an Australia-based China expert and a former associate professor at the Capital Normal University College of Education in Beijing.

Except for the two senior officials who retained their positions in the standing committee, Li highlighted that all four newly appointed members are Xi allies.

According to Li, these senior officials were promoted to the Party’s highest positions because of their faithful execution of Xi’s decisions, regardless of their merits.

The analyst cited Li Qiang, Xi’s former right-hand man, as an example. As Shanghai Party chief, Li’s strict implementation of the draconian zero-COVID policy left the city’s residents and economy struggling to cope amid a two-month lockdown. Confined in their homes or quarantine centers, the city’s 25 million residents struggled to obtain food and health care, fueling public anger and provoking small-scale protests. The heavy restrictions in the country’s financial hub also inflicted pain on the country’s economy and ravaged global supply chains.

Speculation had swirled that Li’s political career was doomed. But Li now takes over the Party’s No. 2 position and is believed to become the next premier.

“Xi Jinping’s criteria [for promoting officials] is their connection to him, absolute loyalty to him, and obedience to him,” said Feng Chongyi, a professor of China studies at the University of Technology Sydney.

Thus the political prospects of officials rely on Xi’s continued support.

“Now, the power is all in the hands of Xi,” said Lu Yeh-chung, a professor and chair of the diplomacy department at National Cheng-chi University in Taiwan.

Yi Ru, Lin Cenxin, Luo Ya, and Naveen Athrappully contributed to this report.



Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Oct. 23, 2022. China’s ruling Communist Party today revealed the new Politburo Standing Committee after its 20th congress.

PARTY CONGRESS

Meet the 7 Men Who Will Rule China

DOROTHY LI

Led by Xi Jinping, the seven men strode on the red carpet at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Oct. 23, revealing the new generation of China’s ruling elites.

These powerful officials are members of the Politburo Standing Committee, the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP’s) top decision-making body. Current leader Xi heads the committee again after closed-door meetings at which roughly 370 hand-picked Party representatives rubber-stamped the committee’s members.

The lineup at the conclusion of the 20th Party Congress demonstrates Xi’s further consolidation of power, with all four newly appointed members being his protégés and allies.

The following are the members who will run the Party for the next five years.

Xi Jinping

Xi confirmed his third five-year term as Party general secretary, a feat that no one since Mao has accomplished. Mao ruled the country for 27 years until his death in 1976.

Xi also retained his position as head of the Central Military Commission and is almost certain to remain the Chinese leader, which will be unveiled after the rubber-stamp legislative meetings next spring. He had already scrapped term limits by revising the constitution in 2018.

The lack of a possible successor to the 69-year-old leader suggests he may intend to extend his term further, which would normally end in 2027.

When Xi first joined the Standing Committee in 2007, it was clear from his age and from the makeup of the committee that he would replace then-Party leader Hu Jintao when Hu’s term ended in 2012.

Now, five of seven of the Standing Committee members, including Xi, are over 65, with Ding Xuexiang, now 60, being the youngest. It means none of them would be young enough to take over the Party’s top position in 2027. The CCP’s decades-long norm is that those who are 68 or older at the time of the Congress would retire.

Li Qiang

Taking over the Party’s No. 2 position is Li Qiang, Shanghai’s Party chief. The financial hub’s most powerful position is often seen as a stepping stone to the CCP’s top decision-making body. Li’s predecessor, Han Zheng, was promoted to the Standing Committee in 2017.

But earlier this year, speculation abounded that Li’s political career was doomed because of the COVID-19 lockdown in Shanghai. Confined to their homes for two months, the city’s 25 million residents struggled to obtain food and medicine, which angered the public and provoked numerous small-scale protests.

The political rise of Li shows “Xi Jinping’s

LINTAO ZHANG/GETTY IMAGES

NOEL CELIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

WANG ZHAO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

WANG ZHAO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Li Qiang, Shanghai Communist Party secretary, applauds as he is introduced as a member of the CCP’s Politburo Standing Committee, in Beijing on Oct. 23, 2022.



Zhao Leji, the head of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, at a media meet-and-greet of the CCP’s Politburo Standing Committee, in Beijing on Oct. 25, 2017.



Wang Huning, a member of the Political Bureau of the CCP’s Central Committee, attends the opening session of the National People’s Congress in Beijing on March 5, 2018.



Cai Qi, Beijing Party secretary, stands as he is introduced as a member of the CCP’s Politburo Standing Committee, in Beijing on Oct. 23, 2022.



Ding Xuexiang, a new member of the Politburo Standing Committee, in Beijing on Oct. 23, 2022.



Li Xi, Secretary of the Guangdong Provincial Party Committee, is introduced as a new member of the Politburo Standing Committee, in Beijing on Oct. 23, 2022.

criteria is the connection with him, absolute loyalty to him, and obedience to him,” said Feng Chongyi, a professor of China studies at the University of Technology Sydney.

The 63-year-old is Xi’s close ally. When Xi was a Party secretary of Zhejiang Province, Li was in charge of Wenzhou, a major city within Zhejiang. In 2004, Li was promoted to secretary-general of Zhejiang, becoming Xi’s right-hand man.

After Xi took the helm at the 18th National Congress in 2012, he promoted Li to governor of Zhejiang Province. Three years later, Li became Jiangsu Province Party secretary, the top position in the rich, coastal province that abuts Shanghai. In 2017, Li became Party secretary of Shanghai. Now, Li is widely expected to be the next premier.

Zhao Leji

Anti-corruption czar Zhao Leji is one of two people maintaining their positions on the Standing Committee. Zhao most recently headed the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, the driving force behind Xi’s campaign to rid the Party of political enemies—namely officials still loyal to former CCP leader Jiang Zemin.

The 65-year-old also led the Party’s Organization Department, a powerful body responsible for appointments of senior officials. Zhao helped promote many of Xi’s allies, according to the Brookings Institute.

Zhao started his political career in the northwestern Qinghai Province, where he was born, and worked his way up in the provincial bureaucracy. He became Qinghai’s Party secretary in 2003. Zhao then served as the Party chief of Shaanxi Province before arriving in Beijing in 2012.

Wang Huning

Another person who retains a position in the Party’s top governing body is Wang Huning, a veteran theorist.

The 67-year-old Wang is a rare political figure who has served three Party chiefs amid fierce political infighting and the once-in-five-year reshuffles.

“He [Wang] is not loyal to any leader,” Feng told The Epoch Times. “He is just a theorist that the Party found useful.”

The former professor and dean of the law school at Fudan University defined core ideologies for the three leaders, from Jiang Zemin’s Three Representatives, to Hu Jintao’s Scientific View on Development, to Xi Jinping Thoughts.

“Wang Huning’s presence also indicates to me that the ideological bent of the Party and Xi will continue and even deepen,” Dylan Loh, assistant professor at Nanyang Technology University, told Reuters.

Cai Qi

A newcomer to the elite standing committee, Cai Qi has known Xi for more than two

decades. Cai worked under Xi when he held top posts in Fujian and Zhejiang provinces. After Xi took power, Cai was promoted to Beijing before he became the city’s Party boss in 2017. In the same year, he joined the Politburo, despite public anger over his forced eviction of migrant workers on Beijing’s outskirts.

On Oct. 30, Cai takes over as First Secretary of the Secretariat, overseeing the Party’s propaganda and ideology work.

Ding Xuexiang

As Xi’s right-hand man, Ding Xuexiang’s elevation to the Standing Committee is no surprise to observers, although he has never been a provincial-level Party secretary.

Ding’s ties to Xi could date back to 2007. When Xi briefly served as Shanghai’s Party secretary, Ding was the city’s secretary-general and Xi’s top aide. In 2013, just a few months after Xi took office, Ding moved to Beijing first as the deputy director of the General Office, then as leader of the powerful office that manages the top leadership’s administrative affairs.

The 60-year-old has accompanied Xi on many trips abroad.

“[Ding] has probably spent more time with Xi Jinping than any other official over the past five years,” Neil Thomas, a senior analyst for China and Northeast Asia at the Eurasia Group, told Reuters.

Li Xi

Li Xi, Party chief of the southern economic powerhouse Guangdong Province, is also a new face on the Standing Committee. The 66-year-old’s bond to Xi could be traced to indirect links to Xi’s late father, Xi Zhongxun, who was a Party revolutionary, according to the Brookings Institute.

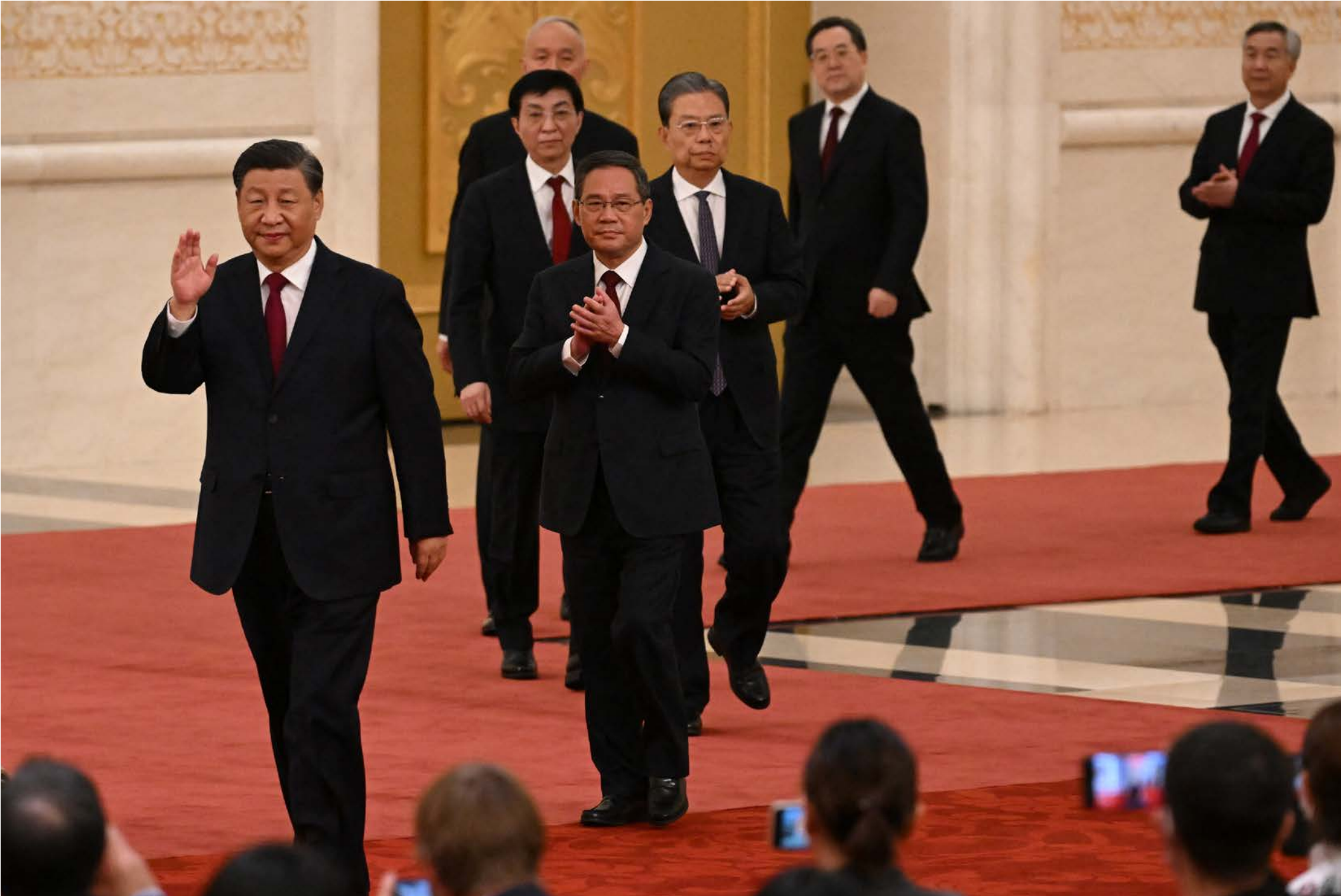
Li spent most of the first three decades of his career in northwest China, in the provinces of Gansu and neighboring Shaanxi. In 2015, Li was promoted to Party chief of northwestern Liaoning Province.

“As Party secretary of Liaoning, Li Xi was known for his tough stance against corruption and his enthusiastic support for Xi’s call for more strict enforcement of Party discipline,” Cheng Li, director of the John L. Thornton China Center at The Brookings Institution, told Reuters.

At the conclusion of the 20th Party Congress, Li will succeed Zhao Leji to lead the anti-graft agency. Analysts suggest that Li’s political advancement reflects Xi’s plan to intensify his anti-corruption drive over the next five years.

“I suppose [the anti-corruption work] after the 20th Party Congress would be fierce,” said Zheng Xuguang, a U.S.-based Chinese commentator and economist. “It could be a ferocious purge.”

Luo Ya, Ning Haizhong, Annie Wu, and Reuters contributed to this report.



China’s leader Xi Jinping (front) walks with members of the Chinese Communist Party’s new Politburo Standing Committee, the nation’s top decision-making body as they meet the media at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Oct. 23, 2022.

CCP ESPIONAGE

US Charges 10 CCP Agents in Alleged Plots to Advance Beijing’s Interests in US

ANDREW THORNEBROOKE

The Department of Justice (DOJ) on Oct. 24 announced charges against 10 Chinese intelligence officers and officials over their alleged involvement in espionage campaigns in the United States to further communist China's strategic interests.

The charges, across three separate cases, accuse agents of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) of conspiring to forcibly repatriate Chinese dissidents living in the United States, obstructing the criminal prosecution of a Chinese telecommunications company, developing pro-China spies within the United States, and illegally acting as agents of the CCP's intelligence and security apparatus. A total of 13 individuals were charged.

“As these cases demonstrate, the government of China sought to interfere with the rights and freedoms of individuals in the United States and to undermine our judicial system that protects those rights,” U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement. “They did not succeed.

“The Justice Department will not tolerate attempts by any foreign power to undermine the Rule of Law upon which our democracy is based. We will continue to fiercely protect the rights guaranteed to everyone in our country. And we will defend the integrity of our institutions.”

The DOJ on Oct. 20 announced an indictment of seven people allegedly involved in a plot to spy on, harass, and intimidate a Chinese citizen and permanent U.S. resident into moving back to China. Two more cases, one in New York and one in New Jersey, were announced by the department on Oct. 24.

CCP Allegedly Paid to Torpedo Prosecution

The first case unsealed on Oct. 24 focused on the alleged efforts of two Chinese intelligence officers to obstruct a U.S. criminal prosecution against a major China-based telecommunications company.

He Guochen and Wang Zheng orchestrated a scheme to steal files and other information from the U.S. attorney's office in New York, according to court documents.

The complaint alleges that He and Wang are intelligence officers conducting foreign intelligence operations targeting the United States on behalf of the CCP and the telecommunications company. It alleges the effort had continued since at least 2019.

He and Wang sought to interfere with the prosecution of the company by bribing a U.S. government employee to steal top secret documents including witness lists, details on employees associated with the case, and prosecutors' notes which, according to court documents, were “expected to cause serious damage to the national security of the United States.” These documents were then delivered to higher-ranking intelligence officers in China, according to prosecutors.

In exchange, He and Wang paid the government employee more than \$41,000 in bitcoin, jewelry, and cash, and advised them as to a location in Las Vegas where they could convert the assets to U.S. dollars, according to the criminal complaint.



U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland (C), F.B.I. Director Christopher Wray (R) and Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco hold a press conference at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington on Oct. 24, 2022.

These cases highlight the threat the PRC government poses to our institutions and the rights of people in the United States.

Matthew Olsen, assistant attorney general for national security, DOJ



(Top to bottom) He Guochen and Wang Zheng.

What He and Wang didn't know was that the documents they received were fake, the DOJ said. The government employee they believed themselves to have compromised was in fact a double agent for the FBI.

Both He and Wang remain at large.

Infiltrating Universities, Controlling Chinese Communities

In the second case unsealed on Oct. 24, three more intelligence officers from China's Ministry of State Security, the regime's top intelligence agency, were indicted over their alleged involvement in a campaign focused on prodding individuals in the United States to act as agents for the CCP, including at American universities and the Department of Homeland Security.

The effort dates back to 2008, and is purported to be part of a systematic effort to target and recruit individuals within the U.S. to act on behalf of the CCP. Posing as academics with the Institute for International Studies, the agents sought to bribe or coerce individuals into providing information, materials, equipment, and assistance to the CCP in ways that would further China's intelligence objectives and undermine U.S. national security, according to the DOJ.

The agents, prosecutors said, also aimed to steal fingerprinting technologies and data and to shut down human rights protests critical of the CCP.

“These cases highlight the threat the PRC government poses to our institutions and the rights of people in the United States,” Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen said in a statement, using an acronym for communist China's official name.

“We will not tolerate these brazen operations: the harassment and attempted repa-

triation by force of individuals living in the U.S.; the effort to corrupt our judicial system; and the attempt to recruit agents for the PRC under the cover of a front academic organization.”

A Systemic Campaign Against US

The charges represent just the latest in the United States' ongoing efforts to combat a wide-ranging CCP campaign to spy on Americans, silence dissent, and promote pro-Beijing views in the country.

Recent prosecutions reveal that the CCP has spent untold millions of dollars developing agents within the United States in recent years, particularly focusing on recruiting informants and agents within the Chinese diaspora to spy on and harass U.S.-based dissidents.

This year alone, the DOJ has brought charges against alleged CCP agents relating to cases including a plot to attack a U.S. Army veteran running for Congress, the torching of an anti-CCP statue in California, and the stalking of an American figure skater.

“These indictments of PRC intelligence officers and government officials—for trying to obstruct a U.S. trial of a Chinese company, masquerading as university professors to steal sensitive information, and trying to strong-arm a victim into returning to China—again expose the PRC's outrageous behavior within our own borders,” FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a statement.

“The FBI, working with our partners and allies, will continue to throw the full weight of our counterintelligence and law enforcement authorities into stopping the Chinese government's crimes against our businesses, universities, and Chinese-American communities.”

CHINESE INVESTMENTS

Chinese Lab’s Purchase of US Land for Primate Breeding Facility Draws Scrutiny

EVA FU

A Chinese firm's purchase of land in Florida to build a breeding facility for lab monkeys is drawing scrutiny over the company founders' ties to the Chinese military.

JOINN Laboratories CA Inc., the California subsidiary of a biotech firm headquartered in Beijing, in July purchased more than 1,400 acres of land for building a primate facility in Florida's Levy County, county records show.

With a combined value of \$5.5 million, the 10 parcels of land purchased from L & T Cattle & Timber represent one of the largest known Chinese acquisitions of U.S. land in recent years. While construction has not begun, the deal has attracted public attention at a time of heightened concern about Chinese investments in the United States over security and other risks.

The purchaser's parent company JOINN Laboratories describes itself as a leader in non-clinical drug screening in China. According to its website, the company was founded in 1995 and employs over 1,500 staff. It has wholly-owned subsidiaries in major Chinese and U.S. cities, including Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong, San Francisco, and Boston.

Zhou Zhiwen and Feng Yuxia, the couple who founded and control JOINN Laboratories, both graduated from China's Academy of Military Medical Sciences, in 1989 and 1992 respectively. The school is the Chinese military's top medical institute, which was added to a U.S. trade blacklist last year for supplying biotechnology to the Chinese military.

After graduating, both Zhou and Feng went on to work as researchers at the academy before establishing their business venture, according to Chinese media reports. Zuo Conglin, a board member of JOINN Laboratories, also graduated from the same academy.

These links with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) should raise red flags, according to Rep. Scott Franklin (R-Fla.).

“The idea that we would permit a ... biotech firm with ties to the Chinese military to breed lab monkeys on U.S. soil is baffling, especially after China unleashed the COVID-19 pandemic on the world,” he told The Epoch Times.

“The Biden administration allowing Chinese Communist Party affiliated companies to buy up American land is unacceptable, especially for these purposes. If the President won't put his foot down to protect American interests, Congress will.”

Future of Project Uncertain

It's unclear if JOINN Laboratories can proceed with its plans in Levy County. Because the purchased land is currently zoned for forestry and rural residential, the company would need to rezone the land to industrial to build its lab facility, the county said in a Sept. 22 statement.

The county said that it had been asked about a possible rezoning of the land, and that it replied that “such a request would not receive a favorable staff recommendation” because of “compatibility” issues and that it would create “spot zoning,” referring to the controversial practice of singling out a piece of land for special zoning laws different from the zoning laws around it.

County officials, when reached by The Epoch Times in early October, said it hasn't received such a formal rezoning request from JOINN Laboratories.

The company did not publicly announce the sale and not much is known about the proposed breeding facility. JOINN Laboratories didn't respond to an inquiry from The Epoch Times regarding the purchase and its plans for the site.

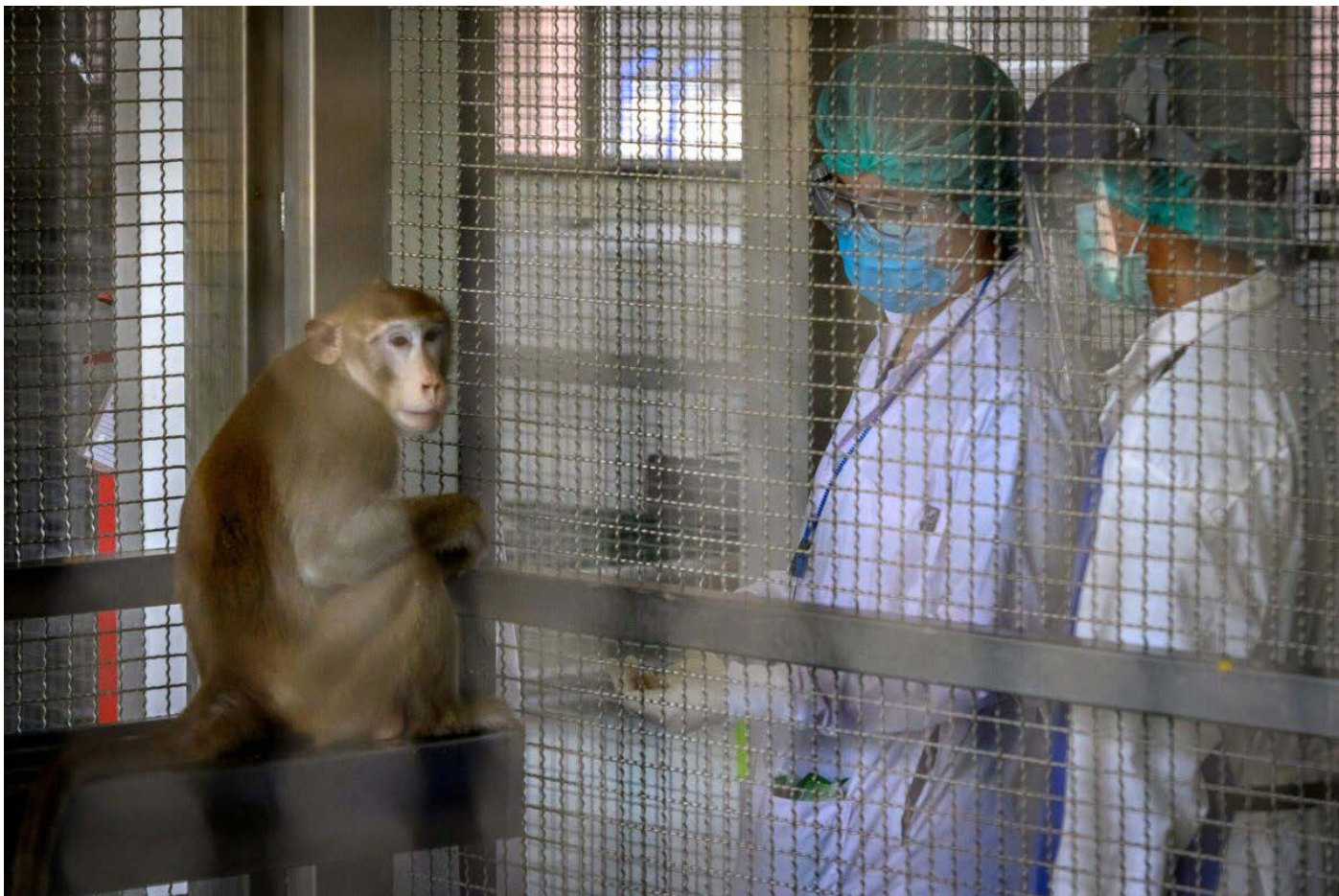
It's unclear whether the company intends to sell the lab monkeys in the United States, China, or elsewhere. Both countries have a high demand for primates for experimental use, and the United States imports a large portion of monkeys from China.

According to Chinese media reports, the average cost for a long-tailed macaque, commonly used for lab research, paid by the Chinese regime has soared from around 30,000 yuan (\$4,153) in 2019 to over 130,000 yuan (around \$18,000) in early 2022.

JOINN Laboratories currently owns about 18 acres of animal testing facilities in Beijing and Suzhou, a major city in eastern China's Jiangsu Province, according to its 2021 annual report. It is also building another primate breeding base with the capacity of raising 15,000 large animals in Wuzhou of southern China's Guangxi Province. The quarantine station for the



An engineer looks at monkey kidney cells as he make a test on an experimental vaccine for the COVID-19 virus at the Sinovac Biotech facilities in Beijing on April 29, 2020.



A laboratory monkey interacts with employees in the breeding center for cynomolgus macaques (longtailed macaques) at the National Primate Research Center of Thailand at Chulalongkorn University in Saraburi on May 23, 2020.



A sign spells out the concerns many residents have over a proposed corn mill in Grand Forks, N.D.

base is now complete, the report stated.

Chinese Deals Under the Spotlight

Around the time JOINN Laboratories inked its Florida land deal, another Chinese firm's farmland investment near the northern border was also drawing scrutiny.

Fufeng Group, a Chinese agricultural firm, acquired 370 acres of land near the Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota, where it plans to build a corn mill.

But such proximity to a sensitive U.S. military base has alarmed residents and lawmakers alike, who fear that the location could be used for foreign espionage.

Construction on the land was halted in September when the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), a federal interagency panel tasked with conducting national security reviews of foreign investments, sought more information about the project.

While construction has not begun, the deal has attracted public attention at a time of heightened concern about Chinese investments in the United States over security and other risks.

A local group opposing the Fufeng project is appealing to the state's highest court to allow a public vote on the plan. The city had earlier denied a local petition that had collected over 5,300 signatures to bring the project to a referendum vote.

Florida, meanwhile, is also paying attention to the Fufeng case. Standing behind a “Stop CCP Influence” sign, Florida's governor Ron DeSantis last month proposed a legislative measure to bar Beijing-affiliated companies from buying land surrounding military bases, of which the state has 21.

“There's the danger of having this land misused for intelligence or military purposes. But put that aside, we saw what happened with COVID, when almost all this stuff was made in China, why would you want them to be involved in our own food supply in our chain supply chain here in the United States?” Desantis told the audience at Miami Dade College on Sept. 22.

THE EPOCH TIMES

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OPINION

Xi's 3rd Term: More Policy Failures for the CCP

Beijing clumsily turns New Delhi into a formidable geopolitical, economic rival that threatens China's dream of global hegemony

JAMES GORRIE

 As the Xi Jinping era continues in China with an unprecedented third term, no doubt the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) will celebrate his top achievements over the past decade. The list is short.

CCP Victories in the Xi Era

Those victories include crushing Hong Kong's democracy, purging rivals through anti-corruption campaigns, and strangling speech, technology, and entrepreneurship while expanding the slave labor ranks with millions of Uyghurs. There's also forced organ harvesting from political prisoners, religious persecution, and, of course, hosting the 2022 Olympic Games. The most unforgettable triumph, however, is "Xi Jinping Thought" becoming a part of the Party's constitution like Mao Zedong's before him.

As for the very near future, bullying Taiwan into submission is on the CCP's agenda.

CCP Failures Multiply

But it hasn't all been fun and games in China, especially recently. The COVID-19 pandemic, which many believe originated from the Wuhan lab in 2019, killed millions of people and destroyed jobs and businesses worldwide. The CCP's "zero-COVID" lockdown policy continues to stifle economic growth and activity for millions of people while driving foreign manufacturers out of the country. Thus, China's gross domestic product (GDP) continues to fall, as do the prospects for a recovery in the near future.

Those economic woes include the collapse of its real estate development sector. Evergrande's spiraling debt, and the mass demolition of apartment towers where no one wants to live, are symbolic of a bankrupt industry, as tens of millions of investors face losses of \$130 billion.

The real estate collapse is also threatening what's left of China's financial sector. What's more, an unaffordable demographic contraction is looming, while much of the country's disillusioned young people see no point in working, planning, or procreating for the future.

Alienating the Rest of the World

But the CCP's vast catalog of failures doesn't end at the water's edge. Beijing has successfully alienated most developed countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Australia, Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines.

This widespread negative view of China results from the pandemic and its long record of adversarial trading practices—in direct contrast to the positive views



Chinese leader Xi Jinping gives a speech during the opening of the Chinese Communist Party political conference in Beijing on Oct. 16, 2022

held by most just a few years earlier. Beijing's treatment of Hong Kong and the Uyghurs adds to European anti-China sentiment. It has only deepened their negative view of Beijing.

The CCP's vast catalog of failures doesn't end at the water's edge. Beijing has successfully alienated most developed countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Australia, Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines.

Turning India Into an Enemy

But the CCP's greatest geopolitical policy failure is its inability to maintain good relations with India, a nuclear-armed nation of more than 1.4 billion people with a GDP growth rate of over 7 percent. The strategic costs of doing so could be high. In fact, the bloody border battles started by China have turned its biggest neighbor into an enemy that's now more strategically and economically aligned with the West.

That doesn't mean that India's leaders can ignore the geographic realities of the region. Russia and China are permanent neighbors. New Delhi knows it must play a balancing act between the superpowers to maintain its own sense of strategic independence and relatively stable relations with Russia and China. India also knows there is no advantage in creating two active regional adversaries instead of just one, given that China is its biggest security threat.

New Delhi has little or nothing to gain from antagonizing Moscow as it's

fighting—and perhaps losing—its war in Ukraine. Besides, New Delhi has ongoing weapons deals and cheap oil import deals with Moscow, as well as strategic investments in eastern Russia. Even so, India's security relationship with the United States has grown rapidly over the past 15 years.

For these reasons, India participated in the Vostok 2022 multilateral military exercises with Russia, China, and other countries. Notably, however, India refused to join the maritime exercises in deference to Japan's objections to those exercises being held near Japan's southern islands.

India has successfully managed to keep in Russia's good graces while rejecting China as it turns toward the United States, fulfilling Beijing's worst fears.

Undercutting Its Own Strategies

A recent policy paper from the think tank Stimson Center concluded that the effect of U.S.-India economic cooperation could mean "big trouble" for China in the strategic military and economic realms. Many of China's own strategists agree.

What was gained by the CCP attacking the border and reversing 45 years of progress in bilateral relations?

Nothing except undercutting at least two of Beijing's strategies concerning its relationship with New Delhi. The first, the Major Power Diplomacy strategy, involved Beijing offering non-core economic incentives and concessions to attract India into China's geopolitical orbit. It would have also potentially made it a key partner in Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI, also known as "One Belt, One Road").

The idea behind the second, Beijing's Neighborhood Strategy, was to force New Delhi to accept China's hegemonic role in the region and acknowledge its "na-

tional superiority." That sense of superiority is insulting to India and comes from a fable that portrays China as a once-global hegemon in the distant past, a role it thinks is rightfully theirs. At the same time, India plays a key role in the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy to counter China.

But both of the CCP's India strategies vanished when China took advantage of the pandemic to move its forces into the disputed Himalayan border territories. In fact, China's actions only succeeded in driving India's strategic shift to the West. That was unwise.

India Wants to Decouple From China

Why should it see China as "superior" when every serious technological and economic development came from outside China? Besides, it's likely that in the next decade or less, India will overtake Japan to become the world's third-largest economy on its way to becoming a superpower.

In that light, we've seen the reemergence of the Quad, a coalition comprised of India, Japan, Australia, and the United States that began in 2007 and intensified in 2017 in the face of communist China's aspirations to dominate both the Asia-Pacific and the Indo-Pacific regions.

The attack in 2020 solidified New Delhi's commitment to the Quad military alliance to counter China's threat to India and the region. India knows that "China would like to see India slotted into a subordinate role in an Asia dominated by itself," according to the Financial Times.

Clearly, India will resist such an order in Asia and thwart China's dream of unchallenged hegemony.

One-Man Rule Proves to Be Destabilizing

Such a massive policy failure begs the question of how the CCP leadership could make such an obvious yet critical blunder.

The answer to that question lies in the fact that the CCP and the entire nation have been reduced to one-man rule, which often results in catastrophic policies based on a single, distorted view of reality. Purging political competitors drives a groupthink mentality, where only those who agree with the leader are allowed to participate in the policymaking process.

Moreover, political thought patterns in dictatorships make the leadership unable to tolerate opposing views, domestic or foreign. That sense of threat is too often expressed with disdain and suppression. In short, the CCP is driven by the singular arrogance of one leading a political machine that assumes it can treat its neighbors the same way it treats its own people.

History is clear: that kind of thinking leads to very big trouble for everyone.

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

James R. Gorrie is the author of "The China Crisis" (Wiley, 2013) and writes on his blog, TheBananaRepublican.com. He is based in Southern California.



Unfinished apartment buildings stand at a residential complex developed by Jiadengbao Real Estate in Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang region, China, on Sept. 17, 2022.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Hangzhou, China, on Sept. 4, 2016.

TECH COMPETITION

New Chip Ban Accelerates US Decoupling From China: Experts

ALEX WU

The United States expanded its semiconductor ban on China and issued a China-focused "National Security Strategy" five days before the beginning of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) party congress on Oct. 12.

Experts believe these unprecedented moves will accelerate the United States' decoupling from China, and that the Biden administration is manoeuvring for an all-round containment of the CCP.

Moreover, the sanctions in the semiconductor field are likely just the beginning, they say. If similar sanctions expand to other fields like finance and biotechnology, the decoupling of the United States and China will truly take effect.

Chip Ban Extended to 'Talents'

The U.S. Department of Commerce announced on Oct. 7 that it imposed new export restrictions on advanced semiconductors and chip-manufacturing equipment to prevent American technology from being used for China's military development.

The sweeping ban also effectively prohibits U.S. persons from supporting the development or production of chips covered by the restrictions. Under this rule, U.S. nationals in Chinese chip-related companies will face a choice between leaving U.S.

It's very likely to form a trend. Previously, capital was leaving China, and the next trend is technology professionals leaving China.

Chiou Jiunn-Rong, economics professor, National Central University in Taiwan



A visitor looks at a 300mm wafer at the booth of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company Ltd. during the 2021 World Semiconductor Conference in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China, on June 9, 2021.

CCP INFLUENCE

China Seeks to Influence US Politicians Ahead of Midterm Elections: Former Intelligence Officer

HANNAH NG & TIFFANY MEIER

Just weeks before the midterm elections, the FBI issued a warning to some of the Democratic and Republican state party headquarters of a possible attack by Chinese hackers. The hacking might be part of Beijing's political espionage efforts or an effort to influence the nominees' positions on China, according to Nick Eftimiades, a former senior intelligence officer and author.

They are all geared toward shifting opinion or controlling or directing foreign opinion on China.

Nick Eftimiades, former senior intelligence officer

"And we've seen this actually come to light in a number of cases in the United States and the UK and Italy, elsewhere in Sweden, where they actually work very, very aggressively to try and shape any opinions that can be formed toward China," Eftimiades told NTD's "China in Focus."

That kind of attack might be used for information collection, he said.

Eftimiades said the monitoring work would help them to observe which way the elections are going to go, which candidates have advantages, and what each party's strategies are.

"So that they can better prepare for it, so they can shape the international envi-

ronment for which they're gonna have to deal," he said.

In his opinion, this approach is just a portion of a broader plan being pushed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

As author of the book "Chinese Intelligence Operations," Eftimiades pointed out that the influence operation is conducted through two formats: propaganda and covert agents.

In relation to the first format, the regime spends billions every year to advance its propaganda through news broadcasting on thousands of different forms of media globally and through its diplomacy, he said.

Covert Influence Operations

"And then there's a whole covert dynamic of this, where China will try and influence political leaders, business leaders, the Chinese diaspora to not vote for certain candidates, for example, to assume certain positions on China," Eftimiades said.

The covert operations are coordinated by various bodies of the regime, including the China friendship associations, the United Front Work Department, and the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he said.

According to the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, the CCP's United Front Work Department guides key affiliated organizations abroad to conduct influence operations targeting foreign actors and states.

"They are all geared toward shifting opinion or controlling or directing foreign opinion on China," Eftimiades said.

He singled out the case of Christine Fang,



US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo (L) listens as US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan speaks during a virtual meeting with US President Joe Biden, CEOs, and labor leaders, not pictured, regarding the Chips Act, in the South Court Auditorium of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, next to the White House, in Washington, DC, on July 25, 2022.

citizenship or quitting their jobs in China.

For years, U.S. export controls for China have only involved technologies, products, companies, or organizations, but the new ban is extending the export controls to individual U.S. citizens and green card holders for the first time. It is considered to be the most restrictive ban on China's semiconductor industry.

According to Radio Free Asia, on the day the ban took effect, hundreds of Chinese-Americans working in semiconductor companies resigned from Yangtze Memory Technologies, Changxin Memory Technologies, Shanghai IC R&D Center Jiading Factory, Hefei Changxin Memory Technologies, and others.

Chiou Jiunn-Rong, an economics professor at National Central University in Taiwan, told The Epoch Times on Oct. 14: "It's very likely to form a trend. Previously, capital was leaving China, and the next trend is technology professionals leaving China."

Chiou said that after the chip industry is hobbled, a spate of indirect effects will be following, including impacts to China's overall economy and other fields—even people in the field of business and business management may also leave China.

The United States also announced its National Security Strategy on Oct. 12, which focuses on the CCP and Russia, calling the latter an "immediate threat" and the CCP a competitor with the intention and ability to reshape the international order.

Doong Sy-Chi, deputy chief executive of a Taiwanese think tank, told The Epoch Times on Oct. 14 that the United States is determined to set the CCP as a strategic competitor in all arenas, including trade.

Decoupling Accelerated

Tsai Ming-fang, an economics professor



People vote at outdoor booths during early voting for the mid-term elections in Pasadena, Calif., on Nov. 3, 2018.

the alleged CCP spy who, according to an Axios report, built up an extensive network of contacts with up-and-coming politicians in the San Francisco Bay Area, including Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.)

Encirclement Strategy

"One of the more interesting aspects of China's strategy in this regard is encirclement," Eftimiades said.

With this strategy, the regime tends to exert influence on individuals around the targeted politician, rather than directly on the person, according to the expert.

They can take aim at "the academics

at Tamkang University, told The Epoch Times on Oct. 12 that the trend of decoupling between the United States and China is becoming more clear and certain from the ban. He predicts, "Taiwan factories will no longer help Chinese manufacturers but will help more brands in democratic countries."

Shen Rongqin, a professor at York University in Canada, told The Epoch Times that the Biden administration has from day one attached great importance to technological sanctions of China. Republican lawmakers had also used the entity list to contain the CCP before. But what Biden has done is more radical and comprehensive. "Starting under the Trump administration, now Biden has accelerated the trend of decoupling between China and the United States in semiconductor technology," Shen said.

U.S.-based current affairs commentator Li Linyi told The Epoch Times on Oct. 14 that the Biden administration's actions this time are much tougher than before.

He said: "These measures are likely to be just the beginning for the U.S. government. If these measures are extended to other fields such as finance, biotechnology, etc., it will really become a headache for the CCP. That is the U.S.-China decoupling is really happening."

Chiou Jiunn-Rong pointed out that the tension between the United States and China seems to be very high now, but not as a military situation unlike the U.S.-Soviet standoff during the Cold War. The first will be the economic wars and technological wars.

Xia Song, Luo Ya, Yi Ru, Li Xinan, and Zhang Yuanzhang contributed to this report.

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