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CHINA INSIDER

The coal-powered Datang International Zhangjiakou Power Station in Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province, China, on Nov. 15, 2021. Zhangjiakou is one of the host cities for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

THE CCP AND THE CLIMATE AGENDA

See Page 4

CCP COVERUP

Chinese Regime Hiding Real COVID Death Toll; Figure Far Higher Than Official Tally: Experts

The CCP's official death figures barely scratch the surface of the real toll, analysts say, pointing to infection estimates, accounts from mortuary workers

DOROTHY LI

The Chinese regime is still covering up the true COVID-19 death toll in China, experts said in response to Chinese authorities' recent admission of tens of thousands of deaths in the latest wave. The true figure is likely exponentially higher, they say. Studies and official statements revealing high infection numbers, as well as accounts from residents and mortuary workers, suggest the country is harboring a significant death count, according to analysts. China's top health regulator on Jan. 14 acknowledged nearly 60,000 COVID-19-related deaths in the first five weeks after the regime's abrupt retreat from its zero-COVID policy in December 2022.

While the figure is an increase from the absurdly low official tallies—37 deaths—previously reported by Chinese officials that prompted widespread skepticism, experts remain unconvinced by the disclosure.

"The newly reported death figures are still suspicious," said Song Guo-cheng, a researcher at National Chengchi University's Institute of International Relations in Taiwan. The rate of COVID-19 infection suggests a far higher death toll, according to Song.

Massive Outbreak

A study by China's Peking University estimated that up to 64 percent of the country's population, or 900 million people, had already contracted COVID-19 by mid-January. The researchers' model is based on online search data of COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever and cough.

As explosive outbreaks ripple across the country, health experts both at home and abroad have turned to proxy data, such as online

surveys and anecdotal accounts, to gauge the scale of the outbreak in the absence of reliable COVID statistics.

China's top health regulator stopped publishing daily infections and acknowledged only dozens of deaths prior to the latest disclosure. But scenes of overwhelmed hospitals and crematoria have stoked distrust of the official tallies among Chinese residents and outside observers.

Even regional data pointed to an outbreak far more severe than what the nation's top health authorities disclosed.

An official in China's central Henan Province, home to 99.4 million people, said in a press conference that the COVID-19 infection rate may have hit 89 percent by Jan. 6. In the northern city of Hohhot, which has a population of 3 million, authorities said on Jan. 14 that between 74 to 81 percent have caught the virus.

China's top health body estimated that 250 million people had contracted the virus from Dec. 1 to Dec. 20, 2022, according to leaked minutes from a meeting last month.

With the roughly 70 percent infection rate and a large elderly population, the death toll, based on a 1 percent mortality rate, should be much higher than the official tally of 60,000 COVID-19-related deaths, according to Song.

"The information obtained from various sources and online reports is in sharp contrast with the [COVID-19] figures disclosed by the Chinese Communist Party [CCP]. This underscores that the CCP is still playing with the data, covering up [the true scale of the outbreak]," Song said.

Dr. Scott Atlas, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford and a COVID-19 adviser during the Trump administration, expressed a similar viewpoint.

"We cannot trust the numbers coming out of China. They didn't make sense in the beginning," Atlas said of China's COVID data in a recent interview with NTD, a sister media outlet of The Epoch Times.

While Chinese authorities may



Patients on stretchers at a hospital in Shanghai on Jan. 3, 2023.



We cannot trust the numbers coming out of China. They didn't make sense in the beginning.

Dr. Scott Atlas, senior fellow, Stanford University's Hoover Institution

have made revisions to the death toll, Atlas suggested that the true situation remains concealed.

"It's very difficult to figure out what's going on when there's no transparency," said Atlas, who's also a contributor to The Epoch Times.

He noted that the Chinese regime "apparently prefers to save face rather than tell the truth and cooperate fully with the international community."

Death Toll Concealed

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the regime has drawn widespread criticism for its covering up of COVID-related information in a bid to downplay news that it deems harmful to its image. As the virus first emerged in Wuhan in late 2019, the regime concealed the scale of the outbreak and silenced whistleblowers, allowing regional outbreaks to develop into a pandemic.

Now, with the virus spreading like a wildfire through the nation's vast population, who have weakened

immune systems after three years of harsh lockdowns, there's a widening gap between official figures and accounts from crematorium workers, frontline staff, and residents on the ground.

A worker at Baoxing funeral home in Shanghai told The Epoch Times in December 2022 that they were burning 400 to 500 bodies a day, up from the maximum of 90 before the pandemic restrictions were lifted.

Another resident in the nearby city of Suzhou described the crowded condition at Suzhou Funeral Home as akin to the city's most famous shopping street, which is always packed.

"It's such a miserable scene," she said in a recent interview with The Epoch Times. The woman, who declined to be named for fear of reprisals, joined the long lines outside the building on Jan. 6, waiting for the cremation of her late mother, who died of COVID two days earlier. That same day, the woman lost two other relatives who died from COVID, she added.

89 PERCENT

▶ The infection rate may have already hit 89 percent of the population in Henan, China's third-most populous province, by Jan. 6, an official said, meaning 88 million people had contracted COVID-19.

Sean Lin, a virologist and former lab director at the viral disease branch of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, gave a conservative estimate that about 6 million bodies could have been burned over the past month, assuming that China's crematoriums are running 24/7. But that figure is likely only about half of all deaths, as people in the countryside may not have access to such services and are buried rather than cremated. After subtracting non-COVID-19-related deaths, the death toll could have reached 10 million, Lin said.

"The government is certainly completely lying on this," he told The Epoch Times.

Lin noted that his rough estimate "is still probably far lower than the real situation, but it's already much higher than that government's lie."

Rural Communities Struggle

The COVID-19 crisis appears to be more acute in rural communities, where medical resources lag behind the large cities.

A villager at Chisha, home to 14,000 in southwest China, said people aged over 70, especially those with underlying diseases, were dying in high numbers. "There were so many catching the virus [in the village]. Around a dozen [of the elderly] have died," she told The Epoch Times on Jan. 16.

The woman, who only gave her surname Yang for fear of reprisals, noted that the explosive outbreak starting in December 2022 had drained the medical resources of the village in Shaanxi Province.

"The village doctors went home to give an injection as people tested positive for the first time. Soon after, they ran out of medicine. Many elderly people weren't able to make it through and passed away," she said.

But those villagers dying at home likely aren't included in the recent update of the fatalities linked to COVID-19. The National Health Commission said that the 59,938 COVID-19-related deaths between Dec. 8, 2022, and Jan. 12, only referred to

people who died in hospitals, implying the latest acknowledgment is still likely to be a vast undercount.

The World Health Organization (WHO) welcomed the regime's disclosure but appealed to Chinese authorities to continue monitoring "excess mortality." China's narrow definition of COVID-19 mortality, which is limited to patients who died from respiratory failure after contracting COVID-19, has led to global criticism, with the WHO saying the criteria "will very much underestimate the true death toll associated with COVID." No other country uses this narrow definition of a COVID-19 death.

There are already indications that the CCP is pressuring doctors and funeral workers to cover up the fatalities. In December 2022, a funeral parlor leader in Anhui Province said they were instructed to avoid writing COVID-19 pneumonia as the primary cause of death on certificates and use words like lung infection instead.

Outside observers worry that the regime's cover-up of the country's current outbreaks poses a fresh risk to global health.

Without reliable data, it's impossible for international health experts to build mathematical modeling, assess the transmission and fatality rate, and determine whether there are new variants, not to mention develop vaccines to combat it, according to Song.

"Such practices by the CCP will basically create chaos in public health across the globe," he said.

Global Concern

The lack of reliable public health data has sparked international concern, particularly regarding a new, more deadly variant emerging from the country. The United States and more than a dozen countries now require visitors traveling from China to present negative COVID-19 test results, a border curb that China itself has in place.

Gordon Chang, an author and senior fellow at the Gatestone Institute, a conservative think tank, suggested that all countries should shut down their borders as the CCP is once again concealing the true scale of the COVID-19 crisis.

"China is too dangerous to deal with, whether we're talking about COVID or talking about something else. We can not have relations with China, as long as it's ruled by the Communist Party, because the Communist Party, just by its inherent nature, is malicious," Chang said in a previous interview.

"We've got to defend ourselves."

Eva Fu, Hong Ning, and Luo Ya contributed to this report.



Funeral workers load a body onto a cart at a crematorium in Chongqing, China, on Dec. 22, 2022.

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A worker uses a torch to cut steel pipes near the coal-powered Datang International Zhangjiakou Power Station in Zhangjiakou in Hebei Province, China, on Nov. 12, 2021.

OPINION

CCP Proves ‘Climate’ Fight Not Really About Climate

ALEX NEWMAN



You don't have to be a climate scientist to know the ringleaders of the “climate change” bandwagon don't truly believe the narrative they're selling.

And it isn't just because they jet around the world in private jets to lecture you about your car and your hamburgers.

In fact, if the people at the top bought into the notion that human emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) are really “pollution” producing a “climate crisis,” they'd be doing exactly the opposite of what they're actually doing.

Examining climate policy and communist China proves the point.

Consider the United Nations' Paris Agreement. Negotiated at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris in 2015, the global deal calls on national governments to make their own pledges about what they force on their populations to combat the alleged “climate crisis.”

Under the deal, the Obama administration unilaterally pledged to slash CO₂ emissions in the United States by more than 25 percent by 2025. That was to be imposed on Americans through executive orders and federal regulations, to avoid involving Congress. Other Western governments made similar promises.

The Chinese communist regime, by contrast, was already emitting far more CO₂ than the United States and now spews more than the entire Western world combined by far—and yet it pledged only to keep increasing its emissions for the next 15 years. Seriously.

In its submission to the U.N., the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) agreed “to achieve the peaking of carbon dioxide emissions around 2030.”

If one truly believes that CO₂ is bad for the climate, shipping U.S. production and industry to China is the worst possible way to deal with it.

One must say clearly that we redistribute de facto the world's wealth by climate policy. ... One has to free oneself from the illusion that international climate policy is environmental policy. This has almost nothing to do with environmental policy anymore.

Ottmar Edenhofer, joint chair, Twenty-Ninth Session of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

In other words, the regime proudly announced to the world that its CO₂ output would continue to grow for at least 15 years, at which point nobody will even remember the Paris pledges.

When I asked members of the Chinese delegation for comment at the U.N. summit, instead of responding, they sent one of their minions to follow me around the conference and take pictures of me, something I promptly reported to U.N. security and the French police.

It's a good thing for the CCP that nobody will remember its promises by 2030, because virtually every analyst who has looked at the regime's coal-fired power plant construction binge has acknowledged there's no way its emissions will “peak” by 2030. Communist promises have never been worth the paper they're printed on anyway, as history has shown.

The CCP wasn't kidding about increasing its emissions, though: Beijing is currently bringing more coal-fired power plants online just between now and 2025 than the United States has in total.

According to Global Energy Monitor's February 2021 briefing, the CCP built up more than three times as much coal-power capacity as the rest of the world combined in 2020. And it already has about half of the world's coal power capacity, according to Global Energy Monitor's “Boom and Bust 2020: Tracking the Global Coal Plant Pipeline.”

China already emits more than twice as much CO₂ as the United States, according to data from the Global Carbon Project. Its emissions are rising meteorically even as U.S. emissions and emissions from other Western nations continue to plunge.

In 2021, Americans released about 5 billion tons of CO₂, while China released about 11.5 billion. If current trends continue, the CCP may release more CO₂

than the rest of the world combined in the not-too-distant future.

Think about this. If one was truly concerned about CO₂ emissions producing “climate hell,” as world leaders claimed at the latest U.N. “climate” summit in Egypt, they'd be panicking, not celebrating.

Moving Production

Again, all of the production being moved out of the West and into China will result in vastly more CO₂ entering the atmosphere than if that production had remained in the United States, Canada, or Europe.

And yet, Western governments, tax-funded climate activists, U.N. leaders, and their media allies all celebrated and continue to celebrate the Paris Agreement and subsequent follow-ups as a huge success in saving the climate.

Perhaps Donald Trump was on to something, in 2012 when he wrote on Twitter, “The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.”

That's exactly what happened, of course, as electricity rates got pushed higher and higher over time. In 1975, electricity was averaging around 3 cents per kilowatt hour, helping U.S. industry remain competitive globally. By 2010, thanks in part to Obama's policies, it had tripled. And by 2021, it was approaching 15 cents.

For perspective, electricity prices in China are about half that.

There are many reasons for the shifting of production from the United States to China—many of them directly related to U.S. policy—but one key factor has been the cost of energy.

Yet, higher energy prices were openly touted as a policy objective by Obama. As he made clear in a 2008 interview with

the San Francisco Chronicle, “under my plan ... electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket.”

Later that year, he expressed similar sentiments as gas prices soared to around \$4, saying only that he would’ve “preferred” a “gradual adjustment” instead.

Faced with higher labor costs and a tougher regulatory environment, American companies and entrepreneurs were already struggling to keep production in the United States amid a rigged global trading regime benefiting the CCP at America's expense.

Soaring energy costs in many cases pushed firms over the edge, forcing them to shift production to China or shut down in the face of Chinese competition.

Again, if you truly believe CO₂ is pollution, the worst possible outcome of “climate” negotiations would be to transfer even more production to China, where CO₂ emissions per unit of economic production are massively higher.

But this is precisely the result of the much-celebrated U.N. “climate” process. The shift into so-called “renewable energy” being engineered by the Biden administration and federal policymakers has been and will continue to be a huge boon to the CCP, too, and not just because it will force prices higher while making the U.S. energy grid more unstable.

Almost 80 percent of solar cells produced in 2019 were made in China, according to Bloomberg data. The CCP dominates production in the wind sector and battery industries as well. It also controls the supply chain for rare-earth materials needed to produce all of these “green energy” products.

The U.S. government, for its part, is offering massive subsidies to these CCP-dominated industrial sectors while

forcing U.S. citizens into dependence on them through regulations, mandates, subsidies, and other policies. How this is supposed to help the environment is never made clear.

For some perspective on the economic carnage inflicted on the United States by Obama's Paris scheme, which he claimed was an “executive agreement” and thus not subject to Senate ratification as required by the Constitution, take a look at the Heritage Foundation's 2016 study “Consequences of Paris Protocol: Devastating Economic Costs, Essentially Zero Environmental Benefits.”

Among other findings, the conservative-leaning think tank said Obama's Paris pledges would increase electricity costs for a family of four between 13 and 20 percent annually while vaporizing almost half a million jobs, including around 200,000 in manufacturing.

That damage translates to about \$20,000 in lost income for American families by 2035 and a reduction in GDP of over \$2.5 trillion.

Who Benefits?

Who benefits from all this? Certainly not the “climate.” Again, shipping U.S. industry to China will result in more CO₂ in the atmosphere, not less. And in any case, based on the U.N.'s own debunked “models,” complete elimination of all U.S. CO₂ emissions would result in virtually no reduction in global temperatures.

According to a peer-reviewed paper by Dr. Bjorn Lomborg published in the *Global Policy* journal, even if all the significant pledges made in Paris were fulfilled, global temperatures would be just 0.05 degrees C (0.086 degrees F) cooler by 2100—a statistically insignificant rounding error.

The big winner, of course, was the CCP, which has been laughing all the way to the bank as it absorbs the factories, jobs, and wealth production that the U.S. and other Western authorities are shutting down to “save the climate.”

This appears to be deliberate, as statements by leading officials in the Obama administration and the U.N. have made clear.

Obama's “Science Czar” John Holdren openly advocated a de-industrialization of the United States in his 1973 book “Human Ecology.”

“A massive campaign must be launched to restore a high-quality environment in North America and to develop the United States,” Holdren and his co-authors wrote. “De-development means bringing our economic system (especially patterns of consumption) into line with the realities of ecology.”

Then consider the seemingly bizarre comments made by then-Executive Secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change Christiana Figueres.

Speaking to Bloomberg a few months after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed his unsettling admiration for the CCP, Figueres claimed that the regime in Beijing—overseeing about one-third of global CO₂ output—was “doing it right” on climate policy.

In separate comments, while pushing for major climate policies, Figueres also suggested the goal of “climate policy” was really economic transformation.

“This is the first time in the history of mankind that we are setting ourselves the task of intentionally, within a defined period of time, to change the economic development model that has been reigning for at least 150 years, since the Industrial Revolution,” she said on Feb. 4, 2015.

Five years before those comments, one of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's top officials, Ottmar Edenhofer, revealed a similar agenda in comments to Germany's NZZ Online.

“One must say clearly that we redistribute de facto the world's wealth by climate policy,” he said. “One has to free oneself

from the illusion that international climate policy is environmental policy. This has almost nothing to do with environmental policy anymore.”

Wealth redistribution? Changing the economic model of the world? De-developing the United States? And here Americans are being told this is about “saving the climate.”

Remember, too, that when Trump withdrew from the Paris agreement, climate alarmists from around the world declared that Beijing was the new global “leader” of the effort to save the climate—the same regime that's over-seeing the most CO₂ emissions, building coal plants faster than can be counted, and promising to keep increasing its CO₂ emissions until 2030.

If this is really about saving the climate from CO₂, how can the CCP be the new leader? It's beyond absurd.

Despite all this, the Biden administration continues to intensify “cooperation” on “climate action” and the Paris Agreement with Beijing, no doubt causing amusement and joy among members of the CCP's Politburo.

It's not just China that benefits. In fact, congressional researchers discovered that state-backed Russian energy interests were funding U.S. “green” groups opposed to U.S. energy via a shell company in Bermuda called Klein Ltd.

The regime in Venezuela, too, is laughing all the way to the bank as the Biden administration sabotages U.S. energy and begs the Maduro dictatorship to send oil to America.

To be clear, I don't begrudge the CO₂ emissions of China or anyone else. In fact, many scientists have told me that more of this “gas of life” would be enormously beneficial for the planet and humanity.

Retired Princeton physics professor Dr. William Happer, who served as Trump's climate adviser, told me years ago at a climate conference we both spoke at that the planet needed more CO₂ and that plants were designed to live in an atmosphere with quite a bit more CO₂ than the planet currently has.

Plus, human emissions of CO₂ make up a fraction of 1 percent of all the so-called “greenhouse gases” present naturally in the atmosphere.

To summarize, if one truly believes that CO₂ is bad for the climate, shipping U.S. production and industry to China is the worst possible way to deal with it. Logically, then, the policymakers behind this must have an ulterior motive.

Of course, the CCP loves the Paris deal: They do nothing but build more coal plants to power the industries and factories fleeing America for China as the U.S. government forces the United States to commit economic suicide.

This isn't just an economic or “climate” issue, either. As the United States is “de-developed,” the economic destruction produces a major threat to national security. A strong military can't be funded without a strong economy, obviously.

It's time for lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives to shut down the administration's “climate” policies that do nothing but expand CCP CO₂ emissions and harm the United States.

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

Alex Newman is a freelance contributor. Newman is an award-winning international journalist, educator, author, and consultant who co-wrote the book “Crimes of the Educators: How Utopians Are Using Government Schools to Destroy America's Children.” He is the executive director of Public School Exit, serves as CEO of Liberty Sentinel Media, and writes for diverse publications in the United States and abroad.

JEFF MITCHELL/GETTY IMAGES



China's special climate envoy, Xie Zhenhua, speaks during a joint China and US statement on a declaration enhancing climate action in the 2020s on Nov. 10, 2021, in Glasgow, Scotland.

OPINION

US Diplomatic Strength Is Needed to Confront Communist China

Diplomatic misstatements can lead to miscalculations and disasters

STU CVRK

U.S. secretaries of state are known for making mistakes. Whether through flawed policies, faulty logic, slips of the tongue, or the simple failings of human nature, some of their utterances and related policies have led to less-than-desirable results that have cost thousands of human lives.

There have been plenty of mistakes made by U.S. secretaries of state over the last 50 years. Let us do a quick review before comparing Antony Blinken and Dean Acheson.

Henry Kissinger (1973-77)

Henry Kissinger (as national security adviser) and former President Richard Nixon "opened China" through secret negotiations in 1971 that led to a state visit to China by Nixon at the height of the Vietnam War in 1972. This began the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) manipulation of the U.S. political class that continues to this day.

The U.S. political class was convinced that communist China could be peacefully brought into the global system through open trade policies and access to world markets and Western technology. Modernizing China included the implementation of "free trade" policies and the off-shoring of U.S. manufacturing facilities to mainland China.

The results over time have been disastrous for most Americans. These policies created the "Rust Belt" in the Upper Midwest of the United States and the subsequent loss of manufacturing jobs, massive annual trade imbalances in favor of China, supply chain dependencies on China that risk U.S. national security, and the rapid growth of the capabilities of the People's Liberation Army.

Descendants of Kissinger's "China engagement school" continue to dominate the U.S. State Department and Biden administration.

Madeleine Albright (1997-2001)

Madeleine Albright had a direct hand in the Kosovo War (1998-99) by facilitating a de facto alliance with the Kosovo Liberation Army (previously designated



The U.S. State Department in Washington on Sept. 12, 2012.

as a terrorist organization) that led to the unprovoked NATO bombing of innocent Serbs "in the name of human rights, justice, and ethnic tolerance," as reported by The Libertarian Institute. The principle she helped theorize and invoke in the Serbian bombing was "humanitarian warring," which was subsequently used by other presidents to justify future arbitrary military actions on behalf of "oppressed minorities."

She also continued former President Bill Clinton's 1994 Agreed Framework, which supposedly banned North Korea from churning out nukes in return for billions worth of U.S. aid. Even The Washington Post rebuked Albright after she met Kim Jong Il in 2000: "We were amazed that the secretary of state would allow herself to be photographed, smiling, as 100,000 essentially enslaved laborers performed for her and one of the world's most repressive dictators."

Her failed diplomatic efforts gifted North Korea with the nuclear capability with which Kim Jong Un has been threatening South Korea and Japan for years.

It is axiomatic that failing to show strength in the face of adversity leads to more aggression by a strong-willed belligerent.

Hillary Clinton (2009-13)

In a very public stunt, Hillary Clinton presented the infamous "reset button" to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in 2009 to signify a reshuffling of U.S. foreign policy regarding Russia.

As noted by the American Thinker, Lavrov was not amused: "He pointed out that she hadn't found the right Russian word for 'reset' (it translated to 'over-charge'), and the button was not even in Cyrillic characters."

How does Obama-Clinton "reset" with Russia look in retrospect today?

Clinton was also a proponent of former President Barack Obama's "Arab Spring" that led to turmoil in several nations in the Middle East. The capstone of her career as secretary of state came when Libyan terrorists attacked the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi and murdered the U.S. ambassador to Libya and several others. This was a direct result of her policy of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood-supported revolution in Libya carried out by terrorist organizations, such as the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group.

Clinton's failure in Libya was summarized by The National Interest: "Her bad judgment and failed policy resulted in the arming of terrorists, months of war and tens of thousands of casualties, the murder of the American ambassador and the deaths of three other brave Americans, continued civil war and the collapse of the Libyan economy, and a failed nation-state contributing to a tragic European migrant crisis."

John Kerry (2013-17)

John Kerry was directly involved in negotiating the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear deal between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany in 2015. The deal was supposed to have resulted in Iran eliminating its stockpile of medium-enriched uranium and cutting its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by 98 percent, as well as reducing the number of its gas centrifuges for 13 years and limiting its uranium enrichment over the next 15 years while implementing an inspec-

tion regime that would ensure Iranian compliance.

The reality has been quite different, as Iran has been enriching uranium sufficient to make bombs, is not subjected to the "anytime anywhere" inspections trumpeted by Obama-Kerry to help sell the deal, and will have the nuclear infrastructure in place to produce bombs at the end of the agreement. This U.S.-Iran policy change facilitated by Kerry amounted to the acceptance of Iran as a threshold nuclear state, likely resulting in a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

Antony Blinken (2021-present)

President Joe Biden's secretary of state, Antony Blinken, made this public statement on Dec. 27, 2022, that was captured on video: "When it comes to Russia's war against Ukraine, if we were still in Afghanistan, it would have, I think, made it much more complicated the support we've been able to give—and that others have been able to give—to Ukraine to resist and push back against the Russian aggression."

What Blinken implied is that he believes that the United States cannot simultaneously provide full support to two allies in different theaters of operation, which is contrary to long-standing U.S. military policy and planning. Certainly, that was how some careful observers interpreted that statement.

Was Blinken signaling to Beijing that, because the United States is supporting Ukraine with an open checkbook (\$100 billion and counting) and is otherwise engaged, the Chinese military would have the freedom to maneuver in a cross-strait invasion of Taiwan?

Was that the greenlight that Chinese leader Xi Jinping has been looking for from the United States that would lead to his dream of "reunification" with Taiwan? Even without a subsequent clarification or correction by Blinken, the cat is now out of the bag.

The nature of Blinken's mistake is not unprecedented. On Jan. 12, 1950, then-Secretary of State Dean Acheson (1949-1953) gave a speech that excluded South Korea and Taiwan from a U.S. "defense perimeter" running from Japan's Ryukyu Islands to the Philippines. The omission of Taiwan was a welcome gift to former Chinese leader Mao Zedong, while omitting South Korea gave the USSR-backed North Koreans the green light for an invasion that initiated the Korean War just five months later, on June 25, 1950. The result was three years of bitter fighting, over 2.5 million dead, and a stalemate on the peninsula that continues to this day. All connected to a strategic misstatement by a U.S. secretary of state.

The parallel between Acheson's and Blinken's statements is clear. What will Xi do?

Concluding Thoughts

Blinken's slate as U.S. secretary of state is still being written. His first meeting with Chinese diplomats in March 2021 in Alaska was widely reported as a U.S. foreign policy disaster, as China's top diplomat, Yang Jiechi, publicly "lambasted the Americans" without a strong response, as reported by Asia Times. From the article: "Team Biden's response to Yang's (and by definition Chairman Xi Jinping's) insults of American democracy, human rights and national character was unimpressive. And that's being kind."

In May 2021, Blinken made this statement: "Our purpose is not to contain China, to hold it back, to keep it down. It is to uphold this rules-based order that China is posing a challenge to."

Is he unaware that the Chinese regime has been conducting hybrid warfare against the United States for over a decade (as noted here and here)? Blinken continues to support engagement with the regime in Beijing through his three-pronged "invest, align, compete" strategy despite the results as noted above. Navy a word was spoken about the need for a U.S. military buildup to counter the Chinese military's modernization and growth over the past 20 years.

Meanwhile, China has been making inroads in the South China Sea (construction of artificial islands and

military bases) and in the South Pacific/Oceania (Kiribati, the Solomons, Palau, etc.). The response from Blinken's State Department includes a focus on global warming-related mitigation strategies!

It is axiomatic that failing to show strength in the face of adversity leads to more aggression by a strong-willed belligerent. That was certainly the lesson learned in 1938-39 in Europe before Adolf Hitler's Wehrmacht invaded Poland. Because Xi and his wolf warriors were certainly listening carefully, will Blinken's mistake precipitate communist China's "reunification" with Taiwan and a potential bloodbath that could rival the Korean War? The ghosts of the Korean War dead are whispering their concerns.

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.



Then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testifies before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya, during a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington on Jan. 23, 2013.



Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks about Afghanistan during a media briefing at the State Department in Washington on Aug. 25, 2021.

OPINION

New China Committee in Congress Challenges Regime in Beijing

It's not anti-Asian as some on the far left claim

ANDERS CORR

There's a new sheriff in town, and his name is Mike Gallagher. The congressman from Wisconsin will chair the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party.

The committee was established by a largely bipartisan vote on Jan. 10, and none too soon. Given the CCP's increasingly militaristic and genocidal policies, it's time to stop mincing words. The war that the CCP threatens against Taiwan, for example, would be devastating not only for Taiwan and China, but likely for the U.S. military.

The committee is being cheered as a

much-needed bipartisan effort to correct deficiencies in the U.S. strategy against the CCP, including by showcasing the need to increase U.S. military defenses, strengthen our economy, diversify supply chains, and decrease Beijing's ability to profit off U.S. largesse.

"I think a large part of what we need to do is explain to the American people, explain to our colleagues and by extension the American people, why this matters," Gallagher told the Voice of America. He wants to make clear that communist China isn't just a "distant" territorial threat over "claims in the South and East China Sea, or some obscure discussion about microelectronics."

Gallagher said he wants to connect those broader geopolitical concerns to the "day-to-day reality for Americans and explain why this is ... the biggest



U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.) delivers remarks in the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington on Jan. 4, 2023.

challenge of our time."

The vote in favor of the committee, which included all House Republicans and more than two-thirds of House Democrats, promises a more energetic Congress on the China issue.

On Jan. 12, the House voted for a bill that would ban the sale of U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve oil to China or Chinese companies.

The bipartisanship on China is even splitting the far-left "Squad" in the House. One of its members, Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), voted for the committee. She has taken a strong stand supporting the Uyghurs, which may explain

why she broke with other Squadistas.

Two from the far left who voted against the committee "expressed positions in line with those of controversial think tanks and advocacy groups in Washington, which often carry water for foreign authoritarian regimes, such as Code Pink and the Quincy Institute," wrote Jimmy Quinn in the National Review.

Both groups praised Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.) for his vote against the committee.

According to Quinn, the two groups "played a leading role in 2021 advocacy campaigns that sought to pressure lawmakers to vote against legislation sold as necessary to counter China."

Some on the far left cited concerns that the committee could foster anti-Asian hate, which is an increasingly tone-deaf argument that self-servingly conflates Asian Americans and the CCP in a manner that is itself arguably racist. By hyping the threat of anti-Asian hate, the far left has found yet another excuse to delay addressing racist threats from the CCP.

As shown through frequent revelations about the more than 100 Chinese police stations abroad—including in the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, and Italy—the true threat to Asians in North America and Europe is the CCP, not an anti-CCP committee that would attempt to restrain Beijing from prejudicially targeting and coercing ethnic Chinese on democratic soil.

Gallagher recognized as much in his floor

speech about the committee. "It is here at home that the party's extraterritorial totalitarianism terrorizes Chinese students studying at our universities and targets Americans of Chinese descent," he said.

The far left's conflation of the CCP with Chinese Americans is likely not the only reason that significant segments of the Asian American population are starting to abandon Democrats. Many Asian Americans in New York, for example, are leaving the party for its failure to effectively address crime.

But let's also admit that members of both parties have kicked the can down the road for so long that Americans, and Asians in Asia, face a relatively unfettered and increasingly militaristic and abusive regime in Beijing. The worst anti-Asian hate comes from the CCP itself, in genocidal form against Uyghurs and practitioners of Falun Gong.

If we really want to stop the world's worst hate crimes against Asians, we should start with the CCP, which targets an ethnicity and religion for total eradication, even if primarily through coercion rather than killing. That fits the U.N. definition of genocide, a definition that's purposefully broad to nip genocide in the bud rather than wait until its bloody end.

What should be called the new anti-CCP committee is an important bipartisan step in defending ourselves and others, before the CCP's genocides and militarism get any worse.

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).



An aerial view of the Bryan Mound Strategic Petroleum Reserve, an oil storage facility, in Freeport, Texas, on April 27, 2020.

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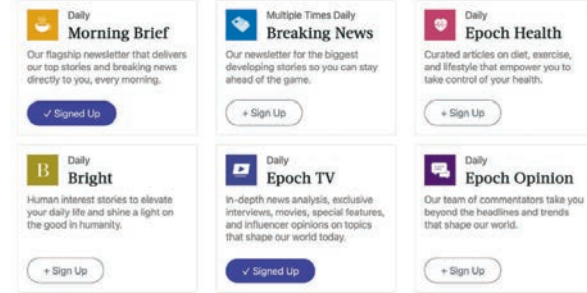
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