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CHINA INSIDER

BACKLASH OVER FORD'S DEAL WITH CHINESE EV BATTERY MAKER

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CCP INFILTRATION

'We Have Been Blind': Rep. Gallagher Warns of Chinese Police Outposts in US

EVA FU

NEW YORK—Members of the House Select Committee on China are pledging to redouble their efforts to counter Beijing's ongoing threats to its targets on U.S. soil.

Standing in front of a now-shuttered overseas Chinese police outpost in downtown Manhattan on Feb. 25, and surrounded by dozens of pro-democracy activists, Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.), the chairman of the House Select Committee on China, likened the threats from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to those of a mafia.

"They buy off politicians, multinational organizations, companies, and in some cases, law enforcement. They use muscle and threats, instead of persuasion. And like the mafia, they [aren't] afraid to make people disappear," he told the listeners at the press event.

Having spoken to dozens of Chinese dissidents, he said, it was "rare to find anyone who hasn't experienced some low-level forms of digital harassment from the CCP"—one Chinese American citizen was detained against her will in China for eight months while she was pregnant.

"We have been blind while the CCP has been very cunning," said Gallagher, who was joined by Reps. Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.) and Neal Dunn (R-Fla.), both members of the China committee. "Now, they want to export that repression around the world, and the only thing standing in their way is our will to defend our values."

He noted the spy balloon spotted traversing the United States that turned out to be part of a state-run Chinese surveillance program worldwide. Both the overseas police stations and the spy balloon program are an affront to U.S. sovereignty, he said.

"It sent the message of 'look what we can do and get away with and you won't push back,'" Gallagher told The Epoch Times about the balloon incident. "So that's why we need to push back and make sure that we're not allowing stuff like this to happen."

The New York overseas Chinese police office, which closed after an FBI raid, is one of more than 100 that the Chinese regime has set up in 53 nations around the world, according to data analyzed by the human rights group Safeguard Defenders. At least two other such facilities exist in America—in New York and Los Angeles.

"These facilities have been linked to the regime's United Front Work Department, part of Beijing's overseas arm to conduct foreign influence operations, gather intelligence, amplify party narratives, and suppress dissenting voices."

The Manhattan Chinese police division is located inside the headquarters of the

(Right-Below) Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.) speaks at a press conference and rally in front of the America ChangLe Association highlighting Beijing's transnational repression, in New York on Feb. 25, 2023. Until recently, an overseas Chinese police station was located inside the association building.

How can we, the United States of America, claim to be a defender of freedom if we fail to defend freedom fighters within our own borders or on U.S. soil?

Ritchie Torres, Congressman (D-N.Y.)

A balloon held by a protester at a rally highlighting Beijing's transnational repression, in front of the America ChangLe Association in New York on Feb. 25, 2023.



Chinese dissident Wang Yonghong at a press conference and rally in front of the America ChangLe Association highlighting Beijing's transnational repression, in New York on Feb. 25, 2023.

American ChangLe Association, a non-profit closely affiliated with the Chinese regime that also is one of the most influential communities for immigrants from China's southeastern Fujian Province. Its website features a certificate of appreciation from the New York consulate for its support for CCP leaders in 2015.

Zhou Fengsuo, a former student leader during the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, thanked the lawmakers for giving victims of Beijing's overseas repression a platform.

"This police station here is such a tip of the iceberg of the CCP's control of America,"

he told The Epoch Times, noting the regime's extensive influence in Wall Street, academia, and research institutions.

"In the past, the United States was misguided by these beliefs that trade and technology will change China, but in reality, it's the other way: China is changing America."

At the rally, Chinese dissidents from various backgrounds shared stories of abuses they and their friends suffered despite having escaped China.

Henry Yue, an adherent of the spiritual group Falun Gong, which has been heavily suppressed in China since 1999, is a volunteer at an informational booth in New York's Flushing neighborhood striving to shed light on the 23-year-long persecution campaign of the practice.

His friend David Fang was just assaulted last week by a pro-CCP man while at the same stand, which resulted in multiple scrapes around his neck, hand, and knee. That incident is one of a string of attacks targeting these booths over the past two decades. The assailant, who has a dialect from Fujian Province's capital Fuzhou, attempted to bite Fang and beat him with a walking stick. He also verbally abused other Falun Gong adherents for years when they tried to speak about the abuses taking place in communist China.

Wang Yonghong, a former senior accountant at a Chinese state firm who underwent over a year of jail time in China for his human rights advocacy work, was hit by the regime's supporters near Grand Central Station in July 2019 at a rally to welcome Taiwan's president, Tsai Ing-wen.

The suspected Beijing agents attacked them with flag poles and speakers, causing five to be sent to the hospital. Wang, who was among them, sustained light injuries on his head, arm, and leg.

"The Communist Party is simply out of control," he told The Epoch Times. "Not only has it enslaved the Chinese people,



A Russian soldier patrols a street in Mariupol, Ukraine, on April 12, 2022.

UKRAINE WAR

China Empowers Russia in Ukraine, Risks Nuclear War With US, Former General Says

ANDREW THORNEBROOKE

The growing alliance between Russia and communist China carries significant implications for the war in Ukraine and the future of U.S. nuclear deterrence more broadly, according to one former general.

Retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert Spalding says it's likely that the intensity of Russian military actions in Ukraine and potentially elsewhere will increase as Beijing and Moscow grow closer and that there's a real risk that nuclear war could erupt.

Without economic, diplomatic, and, potentially military aid from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Russian leader Vladimir Putin wouldn't have been able to sustain the significant losses incurred by the Russian military, Spalding told The Epoch Times.

for example, it also targeted Chinese entities accused of backfilling Russia's defense industry, effectively helping the regime skirt sanctions.

Likewise, China previously falsified shipping documents in order to disguise military aviation equipment bound for Russia as civil in nature and used intermediaries in the UAE to deliver dual-use drones to Russia, according to a report by Der Spiegel.

"That same report alleges that the CCP is currently preparing a shipment of suicide drones to Russia for use in Ukraine."

"There is plenty of justification for leveling sanctions on China right now for the support they've given to Russia," Spalding said.

US Nuclear Deterrence Unprepared for Multipolar World

With the warming of the relationship between the CCP and the Kremlin and tensions with the United States at historic highs, Spalding warned that the United States was entering uncharted territory in terms of nuclear strategy.

"The United States has never before had to simultaneously deter two major nuclear powers, he noted, and its ability to prevent the war in Ukraine from spiraling into a nuclear holocaust is waning by the day."

"We have to be very careful that this doesn't turn into World War III," Spalding said.

"You can't say that the United States is not constrained in terms of how it looks at the conflict and the potential that it could escalate beyond its current bounds. That's something that could be very dangerous for the United States and for NATO."

Spalding warned that a widening of the war in Ukraine could threaten the world with a situation similar to that of the Korean War in the 1950s, when combat between the democratic West and Communist Eurasian powers nearly erupted into nuclear war.

A key part of the problem is that the United States lacks the type of nuclear capabilities required to deter both China and Russia from initiating a nuclear war, he said.

Essentially, Spalding said, Chinese and Russian forces are investing heavily in expanding their nuclear arsenals, including so-called first-use weapons. Such weapons are designed to eliminate an adversary's nuclear arsenal up front, thereby eliminating the ability of that adversary to strike back against a nuclear aggressor.

Unless the United States enhances its own arsenal, it risks becoming the victim in a nuclear war, he said.

"It's all part of the calculation of how much do we need to ensure that it's not a good idea for Russia and China to combine on a preemptive strike of U.S. nuclear forces," Spalding said.

"If China and Russia have sufficient forces that they can basically destroy the American capacity to have a credible second-strike capability that would deter the Russian and Chinese from launching a preemptive attack, then we risk them launching a preemptive attack."

We have to be very careful that this doesn't turn into World War III.

Robert Spalding, retired U.S. Air Force brigadier general

"I think it's going to embolden Putin the more support he gets from China, clearly," Spalding said. "He's been emboldened this entire time by China's support."

"Without China's backing, Russia would be nowhere close to able to mount an offensive this spring."

Russia Dependent on CCP Support for War in Ukraine

The CCP has consistently blamed the United States and its NATO allies for Russia's invasion of Ukraine and has parroted the Kremlin's propaganda by describing the war as a "special military operation" and censoring condemnations of the conflict on Chinese social media.

Now, U.S. leaders fear that the CCP may be preparing to provide lethal aid to Russia's military, although the regime's support for Russia has been consistent throughout the war in Ukraine.

However, Spalding believes that the CCP started delivering such aid long ago.

"I'm of the opinion that they're helping them with lethal aid, but it's likely either American or other Western equipment that Chinese companies help them procure by bypassing sanctions," he said.

"It's not likely that the Chinese right now would be having their own equipment sent, so that if it was captured on the battlefield, you could see that it had come from China. But, if it's coming from some Western country, then you're not going to know how, necessarily, the Russians procured it."

Interestingly enough, the White House has acknowledged that Chinese companies have directly supported Russia's war in Ukraine but have stopped short of saying that such support amounts to lethal aid.

When the White House issued sanctions on numerous international bodies related to Russia's war on Feb. 24,

its evil claws are reaching us after we fled to America."

Shining a light on incidents like these is the most important task for the China committee, Gallagher told reporters when asked about the Flushing attack and vandalism to newspaper boxes belonging to the Chinese language edition of The Epoch Times—one of the only remaining sources of Chinese news independent of the CCP.

"That's the discussion we're starting today. It's the early part of the discussion, but we're hoping to prevent crimes like this from happening in the future," he said.

Gallagher, who sent a letter to FBI director Christopher Wray a day before regarding the police stations, said he wants to start a

dialogue with the agency to address such targeted harassment and attacks. One possible solution, he told The Epoch Times, is to increase penalties for such acts if they are on behalf of a foreign adversary.

The lawmakers at the rally expressed hope that the work will be a bipartisan collaboration.

"We're here because we're Americans who believe in the rule of law, and human rights and freedom for every single person, including the Chinese dissidents here in the United States," said Torres. "How can we, the United States of America, claim to be a defender of freedom if we fail to defend freedom fighters within our own borders or on U.S. soil?"

JEFF KOWALSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Ford's electric F-150 Lightning in the production line at the company's Rouge Electric Vehicle Center in Dearborn, Mich., on Sept. 8, 2022.

BUSINESS

Ford's Deal With Chinese EV Battery Maker Sparks Security Concerns

TERRI WU

Ford's new deal with a Chinese electric vehicle (EV) battery manufacturer has triggered bipartisan concern over economic and national security risks.

The iconic American automaker on Feb. 13 announced that a new \$3.5 billion plant will be built in Marshall, Michigan, 100 miles west of Detroit, to produce lithium-iron-phosphate batteries, better known as LFP, a type of battery cheaper but less energy-dense than the nickel-cobalt-manganese chemistry that currently dominates the market.

A wholly-owned subsidiary will own the factory and employ the workers, Ford said, while China's Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Ltd. (CATL), under a licensing agreement, will provide the EV battery technology, some equipment, and workers. CATL is the world's largest manufacturer of EV batteries, known for its dominance in LFP batteries.

The deal came amid heightened concern across the political spectrum over the Chinese regime's efforts to subvert the United States to overtake it both economically and militarily. The deal was announced not long after the United States shot down a Chinese spy balloon that had hovered over sensitive military sites across the country, drawing widespread outrage.

While Ford and Michigan officials have touted the deal as an economic boon for the state, with Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, saying the expected creation of 2,500 jobs will "build on Michigan's economic momentum," others have expressed alarm over the U.S. automaker's

The biggest national security concern is that we are becoming dependent on China for an important element of our transportation.

Diana Furchtgott-Roth, director of the Center for Energy, Climate, and Environment, Heritage Foundation

collaboration with a Chinese firm, given the communist regime's ultimate ambitions to supplant American industries in the global market.

That's the reason Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, a Republican, late last year pulled the commonwealth out of the bid for housing the factory.

Youngkin called Ford's battery plant a "trojan horse" for the Chinese Communist Party to undermine U.S. efforts to strengthen the American auto industry.

"While Ford is an iconic American company, it became clear that this proposal would serve as a front for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which could compromise our economic security and Virginians' personal privacy," Youngkin's spokesperson previously told The Epoch Times in an email.

Tax Credits

Ford expects production to begin in 2026 with the plant estimated to produce enough batteries for 400,000 EVs each year. Ford will introduce LFP batteries on Mustang Mach-E this year and on the F-150 Lightning in 2024, using CATL batteries from China, before the plant opens in Michigan in three years' time.

The automaker expects that the deal will be able to take advantage of federal tax credits for EVs under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Under the new law, customers of EV vehicles can receive up to \$7,500 in "clean vehicle credit," with the amount dependent on whether the vehicle, batteries, and battery components are made and sourced from the United States.

This credit won't be available for vehicles with components manufactured or assembled by a "foreign entity of concern," generally a reference to China, Iran, Russia, and North Korea.

Ford expects that buyers would initially be eligible for half of the \$7,500 in tax credits, with the possibility of getting the full amount over time based on where the firm sources battery minerals. The Treasury Department has said it would release the proposed guidance on "foreign entity of concern" and other terms in March.

A more lucrative tax credit, however, is the new advanced manufacturing tax credit for manufacturers at \$45 per kilowatt-hour tied to EV battery cells and modules. Ford confirmed to The Epoch Times that it expected the new battery plant to qualify for the production tax credit, although the amount has yet to be determined. Unlike the credit for consumers, the IRA's production tax credit doesn't have a "foreign entity

of concern" exclusion clause.

According to Nick Iacovella, a spokesperson for the Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA), the production tax credit amount for the battery plant could reach \$1 billion, depending on the exact terms of the licensing agreement, given the factory's annual capacity of 35 gigawatt-hours, or 35 million kilowatt-hours. CPA is an advocacy organization representing exclusively manufacturers that have productions in the United States. Ford is not a member of the CPA.

A partner at a global law firm in Washington who specializes in national security litigation said that the underlying viability of the deal rested on access to the IRA tax credit. Therefore, Ford would have structured the arrangement in a way to ensure eligibility but also pay CATL with other pots of money that would not have been available without the tax credit.

In this way, the lawyer believes that the arrangement is in effect a joint venture.

"At the end of the day, [CATL] is a Chinese company with Chinese nationals and ties to the Chinese Communist Party. And they are going to be working here in the United States under the cover of Ford, one of the most iconic U.S. brands in the world, even though the behavior, the technology transfer, and the financial incentives are all the same as if it were Ford and CATL working side by side in a 50-50 joint venture," the attorney source told The Epoch Times on condition of anonymity, as his firm has business in China.

Diana Furchtgott-Roth, director of the Center for Energy, Climate, and Environment at the Washington think tank Heritage Foundation, said that regardless of the tax credit amount, "it is still a misuse of American taxpayer funds" because "these credits were intended to go to United States operations, not Chinese operations."

"The biggest national security concern is that we are becoming dependent on China for an important element of our transportation," Furchtgott-Roth told The Epoch Times.

"President Biden and the state of California and other states have aspirational goals of 100 percent sales of electric vehicles in 2035. And if China continues to dominate the electric battery market, then we are going to be dependent on China for an important component of our transportation."

Aided by the CCP

Under Beijing's national industrial plan, known as "Made in China 2025," the communist regime aims to dominate global

high-tech manufacturing, and EV battery technology is one such strategic industry.

China's cabinet-like State Council currently has a 15-year development plan for the new energy automobile industry until 2035, after executing an initial 8-year plan from 2012 to 2020. Deep integration into the global supply chain is mentioned in the plan's "fundamental principles" section.

CATL currently supplies automakers such as General Motors, Ford, and Tesla. The Chinese battery giant is an offshoot of another tech company, Amperex Technology Limited (ATL), founded by CATL's chairman Zeng Yuqun in 1999.

ATL made batteries for laptops and MP3 players using technology licensed from U.S. companies, according to a Quartz report. After being acquired by a Japanese company, TDK, in 2005, ATL pivoted toward smartphone batteries. Zeng continued managing ATL post-acquisition.

In 2006, ATL began to look at EV batteries. And again, the company acquired technology licenses from the United States for a jumpstart, according to Quartz. The company was thrust onto the national stage in China as a battery supplier for the electric buses showcased during the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

After that, Zeng decided to focus on car batteries and launched CATL in 2011. CATL is completely independent from ATL, which remains in the TDK group.

Without foreign competition, CATL rose to dominance in China, where most of the world's electric cars have been sold since 2015. No foreign providers had access to the Chinese EV battery market before June 2019.

In 2015, when the Chinese regime introduced a list of government-recommended automobile battery suppliers, CATL was at the top position.

In 2017, CATL took the world's top spot in global EV battery market share at 18 percent, having risen from below 7 percent in 2015, according to Seoul-based market research firm SNE Research. It has been the top leader since, occupying 37 percent of the global market share in 2022.

During the same years of enjoying a shielded competitive environment, CATL also received generous capital injections through the Chinese regime's subsidy programs. When CATL went public on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange in 2018, it disclosed in its prospectus that it had received a total of 1 billion yuan (\$155 million) from 2015 to 2017 in subsidies from central and local authorities.

These subsidies are a drop in the ocean in the regime's overall financial assistance to the domestic EV industry. According to a July 2018 report by a Chinese state-run publication The Time Weekly, Beijing provided the industry with subsidies of at least 59 billion yuan (\$8.6 billion) in 2015 and 83 billion yuan (\$12.1 billion) in 2016, based on incomplete central government data and the publication's estimates.

Since 2018, Zeng has served as a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), a political advisory body to the communist regime. Earlier this year, Zeng's committee membership was extended for another five years, until 2028.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) calls the CPPCC a "patriot united front organization," a reference to the regime's "United Front" system that involves a network of bodies that seek to expand the Party's influence both inside and outside of China.

In 2016, Zeng was awarded the lifetime title of "State Council Expert with Special Allowance," one of the CCP's highest-level recognitions for technical expertise.

Ford Deal Boosts CATL

With Ford's adoption of LFP batteries, the technology, monopolized by Chinese producers, is one step closer to dominating the global market.

Batteries with nickel-cobalt-manganese chemistry, better known as NCM, are currently used by most EVs outside of China. While cheaper, LFP batteries' energy density is about 70 percent of NCM batteries, meaning fewer miles traveled with one full charge. NCM batteries also perform better in cold temperatures and when carrying heavier loads. However, LFP batteries have a longer lifespan, allowing more than 2,000 charge cycles, compared with NCMs' 1,000 to 2,000 cycles.

For LFP batteries to dominate the global market, Chinese automakers and Tesla, which use LFP, would need to start exporting en masse, or Western carmakers, such as Ford, would need to introduce LFP in their entry-level EV models, according to a December report by Adamas Intelligence, a critical minerals market research firm.

Before its agreement with CATL, Ford had been relying on NCM technology for its EVs.

The Ford-CATL deal happened at a time when access to cheaper EV batteries was essential to revamping the 120-year-old

CATL's chairman Zeng Yuqun has served as a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference since 2018 and is due to serve until 2028.

37 PERCENT

CATL occupies 37 percent of the global EV battery market share in 2022, and has taken the world's top spot since 2017.

\$1 BILLION

Under the new advanced manufacturing tax credit, production tax credit amount for the battery plant could reach \$1 billion, according to a CPA spokesperson.

brand.

Last week, Ford halted the production and shipment of its F-150 Lightning electric pickup after it confirmed that a defective battery caused one of the vehicles to catch fire earlier this month. The company said it believed it had identified the root cause of the problem and would need to adjust the truck's battery production process. A South Korean company supplied the battery at issue.

"Ford is trying desperately to get ahead in the EV space. So for them having issues already coming off the [F-150 Lightning] line as we're talking about integrating the Chinese Communist Party technology into their upcoming lines, it's kind of a rocky foundation to start on," said a U.S. state official who has investigated the Ford-CATL deal. The official spoke to The Epoch Times on the condition of anonymity because the person wasn't authorized to speak publicly on the issue.

The production halt came a day after Ford announced its partnership with CATL and two weeks after its disappointing fourth-quarter earnings release. At the earnings call, Ford CEO Jim Farley told analysts that the company's \$2 billion loss in 2022 was due to "cost and especially continued supply chain issues." "These are the simple facts, and to say I'm frustrated is an understatement because the year could have been so much more for us at Ford," he added.

At a conference last week, Ford chief financial officer John Lawler said that the company's annual cost is about \$7 to \$8 billion higher than its traditional competitors'. Hence, having access to cheaper EV batteries is critical to Ford's transformation, and LFP is the cheaper choice.

The state official, like others, raised concerns that CATL might lead Ford down a path that would mean more supply chain dependence on China and loss of global competitiveness in the long run.

"This [LFP battery chemistry] isn't really the direction that we're going in other parts of the American market. And so, the question is, why is Ford partnering in this manner on something that isn't the direction that others are taking?"

Bipartisan Concerns

While the CCP's media outlets hailed the Ford deal as an "international marriage" announced on Valentine's Day local time, American lawmakers worry about the implications of the new partnership.

"These autonomous vehicles and electric vehicles are at the very heart of China 2025, which is Beijing's economic policy to dominate the world in tech," former national security advisor Robert O'Brien told The Epoch Times. "Not just compete but to dominate the world in tech and become a sole supplier of leading tech, robotics, EVs in the world."

"Ford is now becoming a partner in China 2025," he added.

On the same day as Ford's announcement of the deal, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) called for an immediate review of the licensing agreement by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, a federal panel tasked with scrutinizing foreign acquisitions for national security risks.

In a letter to the secretaries of the Treasury, Energy, and Transportation departments, Rubio sought pledges from the Biden administration not to funnel federal dollars to CATL, a state-supported entity that he called a "CCP national champion." He also asked the administration to provide answers on whether CATL has obtained U.S. technology illicitly, the company's potential ties to the CCP military, and any involvement with forced labor.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, also expressed concerns.

"Senator Manchin has been clear about his grave concerns about vehicle supply chain reliance on China," a spokesperson told Politico last week. "Ford has serious questions to answer before Senator Manchin can fully evaluate the business partnership."

On Feb. 16, Bloomberg reported that Beijing intended to scrutinize the Ford-CATL agreement, wary that Ford might somehow obtain CATL's battery technology. In response, Senate Intelligence Chairman Mark Warner (D-Va.) called Beijing's move "ironic," demonstrating the regime's "hypocrisy" given the CCP's own extensive track record of economic espionage.

"I have huge concerns about the Chinese Communist Party's influence on many of the companies that come from China," Warner said in a January interview with the Richmond Times-Dispatch. "[The] CCP has the ability to override any company in China, and those companies in China have to be responsible to the Communist Party, not their shareholders, not their customers."

Iacovella, of the Coalition for a Prosperous America, echoed this sentiment.

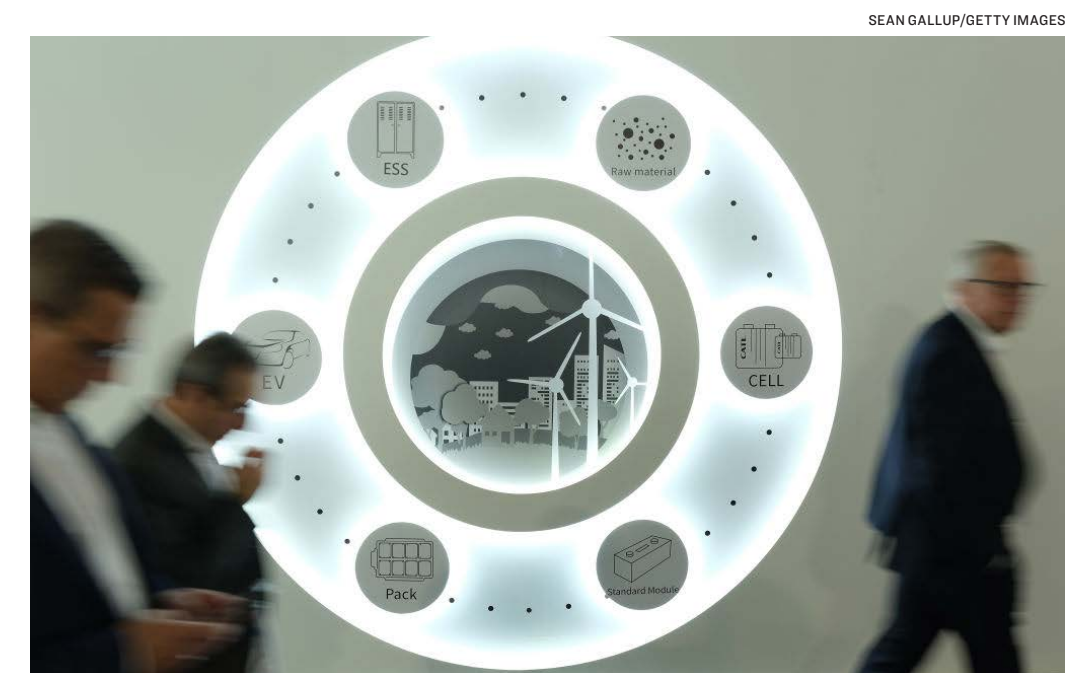
"Basically, any Chinese company can be weaponized against the United States by the Chinese government," Iacovella said.

Iacovella said the CCP has strategically selected industries—battery technology being one of them—critical to the 21st-century economy and "developed a very complex and quite successful plan to dominate the global supply chain for those industries."

"China is trying to control and monopolize all of those industries to the detriment of the United States so that we become wholly dependent on them. In a sense, this is economic warfare," he added.

"So this brings us back to the taxpayer question, why would we have taxpayers subsidizing those efforts through tax credits? And that's the key issue here."

CATL didn't respond to a request for comment.



A Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Ltd. (CATL) display illustrating battery cells, modules, and packs, at an Auto Show in Frankfurt, Germany, on Sept. 11, 2019. CATL is the world's largest manufacturer of EV batteries.



A worker check car batteries at a factory that makes lithium batteries for electric cars and other uses, in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China, on March 12, 2021. No foreign providers had access to the Chinese EV battery market before June 2019.

These [tax] credits were intended to go to United States operations, not Chinese operations.

Diana Furchtgott-Roth, director of the Center for Energy, Climate, and Environment, Heritage Foundation



Ford CEO Jim Farley announces that the company will be partnering with CATL to create a multi-billion dollar electric-vehicle battery plant, in Romulus, Mich., on Feb. 13.



The sun sets over the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 5, 2023.

OPINION

Owning America

The CCP's security and intelligence agents have had access to the highest levels of the US government for decades

JAMES GORRIE



Who would've imagined that a Chinese military surveillance balloon could cross the North American continent from Alaska to beyond the Atlantic coast of South Carolina unmolested by a U.S. military response? But that's exactly what happened under the Biden administration. Given the Biden family's alleged extensive business ties to China, it shouldn't surprise anyone. One can't help but wonder, if that balloon had been of Russian origin rather than Chinese, would it have gotten the Nord Stream 2 pipeline treatment as soon as it crossed into Alaskan airspace?

CCP Deeply Embedded in America

By all appearances, China can do what it wants with minimal, if any, U.S. response. The inescapable fact is that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its intelligence arm, the Ministry of State Security, are deeply embedded in our media, political, and military establishments.

Why wouldn't they be?

The United States has been the primary target of the CCP for a long time. Contrary to what the Council on Foreign Relations would have us believe, that "Beijing's heightened efforts in the United States are relatively new," it just isn't so. The CCP has been running freely in the United States for decades, successfully targeting the highest levels of the U.S. government.

That may be old news, but given current events, it bears repeating.

Clinton Administration and China

The Clinton administration is allegedly responsible for much of the technological advancements the Chinese have made over the past 25 years. In exchange for millions of dollars in alleged illegal campaign funding provided to the 1996 Clinton campaign by China's military and intelligence services, then-President Bill Clinton gave Beijing access to technologies that enabled China's rapid ascent into a nuclear-armed adversary of the United States.

Clinton allegedly relaxed security measures that allowed Chinese agents access to multiple militarily significant technologies. According to *The Wall Street Journal* in 1998, "Beijing has stolen U.S. design data for nearly all elements needed for a major nuclear attack on the U.S., such as advanced warheads, missiles, and guidance systems."

But wait, there's more.

Clinton also allegedly gave China a 20-year quantum leap in technological

The United States has been the primary target of the CCP for a long time.

advancement by waiving export bans on supercomputers that are crucial for nuclear weapons development and missile guidance systems. A Washington Post editorial noted that "in the first three quarters of 1998, nine times as many [supercomputers] were exported [to China] as during the previous seven years."

Get the picture?

Chinese influence, if not outright control, over many of our top political leaders was in full swing by 1996. The regime's efforts went on from there by targeting other members of Congress for influence and control in 1998.

But today, not only does the Ministry of State Security have a long record of penetrating U.S. intelligence agencies, such as the CIA and the FBI, but Beijing has also successfully hollowed out U.S. spy activities in China.

How that happened is a question that's worth pursuing on its own.

Influencing American Public Opinion and Elections

In the meantime, the CCP also enjoys unprecedented influence over information in the United States. It dominates all Chinese-language media in the United States. It has regular "reports" published in major news outlets such as USA Today, CNN, Time magazine, the Los Angeles Times, and Foreign Policy.

Furthermore, the CCP has focused on local elections in the United States over the past several years to gain influence at the grassroots level of American life. According to a 2022 report by the U.S. National Counterintelligence and Security Center, the CCP's focus includes governors, state legislators, and even mayors and city councils.

In short, your last local mayoral election may have been decided for you in Beijing,

not in your hometown.

The implications of this kind of power are staggering.

Too Little, Too Late?

In April 2021, Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas) introduced H.R. 2329, the Countering Chinese Communist Party Malign Influence Act. The specific purpose of the act authorizes "activities to counter globally the malign influence of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), including CCP attempts to undermine the free and open international order or the sovereignty of the United States or other countries."

In other words, McCaul introduced the bill because such a bill is needed. But will it be enough?

It doesn't look like it.

Recall that as president, Donald Trump withdrew U.S. funding and membership from the World Health Organization (WHO) over its deep connections to the CCP and its misguided COVID-19 policies.

But upon taking office in 2021, Biden reversed Trump's decision, and the United States rejoined and re-funded the WHO. As of Feb. 18 this year, the Biden administration is getting ready to sign an agreement with the WHO that could effectively eliminate American sovereignty.

The reality is that the CCP's influence over America's leaders, institutions, and culture isn't as bad as it seems.

It's much worse.

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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U.S. President Bill Clinton signs the U.S.-China Trade Relations Act of 2000 during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington on Oct. 10, 2000. With him are (left to right): Sen. William Roth (R-Del.), U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, U.S. Trade Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky, Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, and Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.).

OPINION

Amazon Censors Criticism of China

ANDERS CORR



Amazon is concerning a group of authors and publishers highly critical of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The company, headquartered in Seattle and Arlington, does extensive business with China, from which it sells vast quantities of imported products in its core markets of the United States, Europe, and Japan. According to EcomCrew, over 63 percent of all third-party Amazon sellers are from China (including Hong Kong). Amazon obscures this crucial fact by not automatically listing the country of origin on the products it sells.

Given its supply dependence on China, Amazon's recent censorship of a book review critical of Chinese leader Xi Jinping and the CCP raises questions about bias.

Paul Kenchington, a reviewer from Britain, attempted to publish his review of Benedict Rogers' "China Nexus: Thirty Years In and Around the Chinese Communist Party's Tyranny" on Feb. 6, and was informed by Amazon on Feb. 9 that it was rejected due to "inappropriate content."

The reviewer resubmitted it without his name at the bottom—which he thought could have been the problem—and the review was again rejected, this time with a threat to remove his community privileges.

Neither communication to Kenchington, the second of which he thought was "rather rude," specified what exactly Amazon considered inappropriate about the review.

Amazon did not respond to requests for additional information from either Kenchington or The Epoch Times.

The censored review stated, "Xi Jinping's return towards Mao-type violent oppression and Stalinist authoritarian control is truly something that the world should sit up and take note of."

Does Amazon consider this an "attack on people you disagree with," which is banned under its community guidelines?

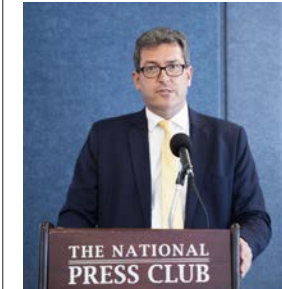
Amazon did not remove criticism of U.S. presidents Donald Trump or Joe Biden. Why the double standard when it comes to Xi?

Is the review rejection, therefore, a biased infringement of free speech, especially given the near monopoly power of Amazon over e-commerce in its core markets? Would it require Congress to haul Amazon's founder and executive chairman, Jeff Bezos, before a committee to get a decent answer to a simple question?

Kenchington wrote in the review, "The chapters on 'Hong Kong,' 'Christianity Under Fire,' 'Tibet,' 'Uyghur Genocide' and Chinese involvement in mass-harvesting of body parts were for me a shocking revelation which made me so

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LYNN LIN/THE EPOCH TIMES



Benedict Rogers, co-founder and chief executive of the UK-based human rights group Hong Kong Watch, speaks at the National Press Club in Washington on July 15, 2019.



More than a dozen Hong Kong people are holding LED luminaires and electronic candles to display the words "Free HK political prisoners" atop Lion Rock in Hong Kong on Dec. 31, 2022.

angry with Chinese policies and the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) political system."

Was the censorship because the author said genocide made him "angry"?

What is an appropriate emotion in response to genocide? Sadness? Fear? Neither alone would have helped Jewish people, for example, defend themselves from the Holocaust.

Britain's prime minister during World War II, Winston Churchill, attempted to maintain an even temper and once noted that "a man is about as big as the things that make him angry."

But anger arguably has a place in defense of one's country and human rights more broadly. Churchill was angry at Adolf Hitler, for example, calling him "evil" and comparing him to the "devil."

Apparently, Amazon's community guidelines would have censored Churchill at the time.

Yet Churchill used his anger in that case to good effect, explaining that we must be "fierce" in opposing the Nazis.

One shudders to imagine how history would have changed for the worse had Hitler not made Churchill sufficiently angry to respond with a fierce defense of not only Britain, but all of Europe.

Rogers framed Amazon's censorship in the context of the CCP's broad-ranging influence operations around the world.

"If Amazon's decision to reject this endorsement of my book was no accident, it would illustrate that this is another arena where the CCP has instilled fear and gained influence," he wrote.

"It is a sad day when censorship, for fear of upsetting Beijing, stretches as far as denying a person in Britain the right to post a review of a book about China."

The Canadian publisher of the book, Dean Baxendale, noted that "this is not the first time book reviews and or descriptions for books have been censored by Amazon in order to not offend the

sensibilities of those who run China."

He mentioned another of his books, "Wilful Blindness: How a Network of Narcos, Tycoons and CCP Agents Infiltrated the West" by Sam Cooper, whose description he said Amazon also censored. "Wilful Blindness" covers links between the CCP, illegal drug dealing, gambling, money laundering, and Canadian politicians.

Full disclosure: My latest book is also published by Baxendale's Optimium Publishing International.

"At some point Bezos and Amazon will need to choose between [m]aking more profit through supporting slave labour in Xinjiang or finding the courage to stand up for freedom and democracy by realigning supply chains to companies and nations that stand by a solid ESG framework," Baxendale continued.

In contrast to Amazon, Waterstones, an online book vendor, allowed Kenchington's review to stand. He ended it with a thought about Rogers' "China Nexus" that Bezos should take to heart.

"This book is not easy to read; indeed it is a tough task but a MUST for anyone who wants to understand the real threat that China poses."

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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