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THE EPOCH TIMES

CHINA INSIDER

CONGRESS TURNS UP HEAT ON CCP

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NICOLAS ASFOURI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

HACKING

CCP ‘Serious’ About Breaking US Encryption With Quantum Tech: Expert

ANDREW THORNEBROOKE



Your passwords, your credit cards, your bank accounts, and your emails all belong to China's communist regime. It isn't a reality yet, but the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is working tirelessly to ensure it becomes so. To achieve that reality, the regime is increasingly turning to quantum computing to process previously unfathomable amounts of data. Its goal is to break the RSA encryption used to protect most of the information stored online.

Quantum computing's potential to wholly shatter the encryption that safeguards so much of the world's data has long been feared but most believed the threat was still a decade away at least.

A December 2022 paper co-written by 24 researchers from numerous academic bodies and state-owned laboratories in China, however, claims to have developed a method to do just that.

The paper, titled "Factoring integers with sublinear resources on a superconducting quantum processor," claims that researchers in China have developed a method to break the RSA algorithm used by most online encryption systems by using quantum computing to improve upon code-breaking algorithms.

Specifically, the paper claims that an algorithm developed by mathematician Claus-Peter Schnorr last year, which couldn't be scaled on classical computers, could effectively be implemented by offloading some of the most time-consuming processes to a quantum system.

The incident highlights not only that China has taken one more step towards total domination of the online ecosystem, but also the unique role that hybrid quantum-classical systems will have in ushering forward a new era of security uncertainty.

Hybrid Systems Are the Next Threat

Regardless of the success of Schnorr's algorithm, the episode presents new evidence that the CCP and its many state-owned research bodies are seeking to leverage the high-stakes field of quantum computing to undermine and displace the United States, according to Arthur Herman, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, a conservative think tank.

"What it establishes is that they are working very hard on two aspects of the quantum race with the United States," Herman said. "One is developing their own quantum computer technology including quantum computers that would be able to eventually decrypt systems both symmetric and asymmetric."

"On the other hand, they're very busy hardening their own sites and protecting themselves against that type of decryption effort on the part of the United States."

Herman, who also oversees Hudson's Quantum Alliance Initiative, said that hybrid quantum-classical machines would be an integral aspect of the quantum race between the liberal international order and authoritarian regimes the world over.

A quantum bit, or qubit, is a basic unit of quantum information used by quantum computers. Whereas traditional processors use regular bits, which can be turned on or off to create binary code, qubits can be turned on, off, or both on and off simultaneously in a phenomenon known as superposition.

The existence of this third state will allow quantum processors to achieve much quicker processing speeds than their traditional counterparts, but getting the two systems to work together is tricky.

By connecting a quantum system with a classical system, researchers can effectively leverage the raw power of one with the stability of the other.

To that end, Herman authored a report

The CCP had won a propaganda victory with the paper and could use its advances in quantum computing to inspire fear the world over, expert Arthur Herman says.

We don't really know what it is that they [CCP] are doing behind closed doors.

Arthur Herman, senior fellow, Hudson Institute

The Data Analysis Center during the 2017 China International Big Data Industry Expo at Guiyang International Eco-Conference Center in Guiyang, China, on May 27, 2017.

for the Hudson Institute late last year, which explored how the creation of hybrid systems using quantum and classical computers for various tasks could catapult the field forward into uncharted, and likely dangerous new territories.

"The true path to the quantum future is the combination of quantum and classical digital technology, especially in computing, which will powerfully accelerate access to the potential benefits of quantum information science," the report said.

"In short, 'hybrid' computation creates a collaboration in which users run different aspects of a problem through the quantum and classical components within the system. The division of labor depends on which system is best suited to solve a particular aspect of the problem."

The Chinese researchers who authored their paper on Schnorr's algorithm proposed just such a system, saying that "practical quantum advantage" could be obtained by delegating key complex tasks to a quantum machine while using a classical system for the rest of the processes.

Though the researchers themselves used only a small portion of the quantum power that would be needed to break RSA encryption outright, they report that their model could be sufficiently scaled and was likely to succeed "in the near future."

"What they've done is they've linked up their quantum components for their research ... with classical computing," Herman said. "In other words, it's a hybrid system that they're using."

"The idea that you have to wait until you have a big, monolithic quantum computing system [to break encryption] ... I think is becoming exposed as false," Herman said.

Propaganda Victory and the CCP's Research 'Behind Closed Doors'

Because CCP laws designate data as a national resource and enable the regime to collect any data in the possession of an entity within China for national security purposes, any research conducted, algorithms invented, or data gleaned by cracking RSA will ultimately belong to the regime.

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US-CHINA

Flurry of US Actions Strike Back at CCP’s Malign Influence

ANDREW THORNEBROOKE



A new bipartisan consensus in Congress on the threat posed by communist China has resulted in a barrage of proposals and hearings to strengthen the U.S. position against the regime in Beijing.

Salvoes of legislation focused on supplying arms to Taiwan, curbing illicit organ harvesting, banning the social media app TikTok, and uncovering the true origins of COVID-19 have all come to the fore since the House’s Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) held its first hearing on Feb. 28.

“We may call this a ‘strategic competition,’ but this is not a polite tennis match,” Select Committee Chair Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.) said. “This is an existential struggle over what life will look like in the 21st century, and the most fundamental freedoms are at stake.”

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Rep. Mike Gallagher, chair, House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party

Fortifying Taiwan

Leading the charge to counter the CCP’s malign influence are a number of efforts to further fortify democratic Taiwan against a CCP invasion. The CCP claims that Taiwan is part of its territory, although the regime has never controlled the self-ruled island. The United States, for its part, is legally required to furnish Taiwan with the weapons necessary to maintain its self-defense against the CCP.

To that end, the United States approved on March 3 the potential sale of \$619 million in new weapons to Taiwan, following continued intimidation efforts by the communist regime, which frequently sends military aircraft and ships near the island.

The deal includes 200 anti-aircraft air-to-air missiles and 100 air-to-surface missiles capable of taking out land-based radar stations, which would

help to give Taiwan an asymmetric advantage against the much larger CCP regime.

The United States is also working to overhaul its acquisition of certain high-end precision munitions, which experts are concerned might be depleted in the event of a war with China.

U.S. Army officials are in the process of ramping up production to overcome challenges associated with replenishing domestic stockpiles of munitions that were either sold to Ukraine or would be needed for a potential fight in the Indo-Pacific, according to Assistant Secretary of the Army Douglas Bush.

Members of Congress are also working to shore up ties between Taiwan and the United States.

While House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) is preparing to meet with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, that meeting now may take place in the United States rather than in Taipei to keep from provoking China.

Ending TikTok

An emerging bipartisan consensus also is forming about Chinese-owned social media giant TikTok, which has been repeatedly flagged by U.S. intelligence officials as a national security threat.

TikTok’s parent company, ByteDance, maintains close ties to the CCP; ByteDance employees previously used TikTok data to illicitly stalk American journalists who reported on the company’s relationship with the regime.

A bipartisan group of 12 U.S. senators, led by Sens. Mark Warner (D-Va.) and John Thune (R-S.D.), announced legislation on March 7 that would pave the way for the Commerce Department to “ban or prohibit” tech companies owned by hostile governments or rogue nations from doing business in the United States.

The move follows a Feb. 27 order from the White House to implement a new law banning TikTok from U.S. government devices.

Likewise, the House Foreign Affairs Committee voted on Feb. 28 to advance a proposal that would give President Joe Biden additional powers to ban TikTok from the United States completely.

Punishing Forced Organ Harvesters

Congress has also directed legislation toward the CCP’s state-sanctioned



A worker inside the P4 laboratory in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, on Feb. 23, 2017.

campaign of forced organ harvesting. The House Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously voted on Feb. 28 to advance the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of 2023.

The bill would bar entry to the United States by perpetrators of forced organ harvesting and also block financial transactions on U.S. soil by those known to be engaged in the practice.

“People are finally waking up to the brutality of the CCP,” lead sponsor Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) said in a Feb. 28 statement.

“We in the United States, in the medical field in particular, must examine our moral complicity in this most heinous of crimes.”

An independent people’s tribunal in 2019 found that the communist regime was forcibly harvesting organs from prisoners of conscience on a “significant scale,” with the prime targets being detained adherents of persecuted spiritual practice Falun Gong.

Congress Seeks Intel on Wuhan Lab Leak

Perhaps most notably, lawmakers are calling on Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines to turn over materials related to her office’s latest assessment of the origins of COVID-19.

The move comes after a contentious week in the intelligence community in which the FBI and Department of

Energy (DOE) both concluded that COVID-19 most likely leaked from a lab in Wuhan, China.

To that end, the U.S. Senate unanimously approved a bill on March 1 that would require the Biden administration to declassify intelligence related to the origins of COVID-19.

The legislation, known as the COVID-19 Origin Act of 2023, specifically seeks to investigate the possibility that the virus which causes COVID-19 emerged from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Sens. Mike Braun (R-Ind.) and Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) reintroduced the bill on Feb. 27 after the DOE provided a classified intelligence report to the White House and certain members of Congress on the matter.

“I will just make the observation that the Chinese government, it seems to me, has been doing its best to try to thwart and obfuscate the work here,” FBI Director Christopher Wray said in an interview with Fox News.

“You’re talking about a potential leak from a Chinese government-controlled lab that killed millions of Americans.”

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

ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Chairman Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.) speaks during the first hearing of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party in Washington on Feb. 28, 2023.



A U.S. Air Force fighter aircraft shoots down a Chinese spy balloon off the South Carolina coast on Feb. 4, 2023.

OPINION

The PLA’s Futuristic and Hybrid Warfare Unit

ANTONIO GRACEFFO



The Chinese spy balloon is just one small example of the threat posed to U.S. national security by the People’s Liberation Army (PLA)’s Strategic Support

Force (SSF) which specializes in new, innovative, high-tech, and hybrid warfare. In 2015, as part of his push for the modernization of the PLA, Chinese leader Xi Jinping commissioned the SSF, which centralizes space warfare, cyberwarfare, electronic warfare, information warfare, communications, and psychological warfare competencies.

The website of the Ministry of National Defense of the people’s Republic of China describes the SSF as “a new type of combat force” and “driver for growth of new combat capabilities” comprising “forces for battlefield environment, information, communications, information security, new technology testing.”

Officially, the cyberwarfare unit of the SSF defends CCP and PLA computer systems and networks against hacking, but it could also be used as an offensive weapon. The space warfare unit is responsible for spy satellites as well as China’s GPS alternative, BeiDou Navigation. The mission of the electronic warfare unit is to disrupt enemy radar systems and communications.

The unit is known to conduct warning and surveillance alongside information-gathering activities in the South China Sea tracking U.S. vessels on Freedom of Navigation tours. The SSF has a strong presence in Wenchang on Hainan Island near the launching point for Chinese satellites. According to a PLA SSF news report, SSF is responsible for “unmanned intelligent equipment.” Not surprisingly, the group is suspected to have been responsible for the recent spy balloon incident in the United States.

Balloons are used in these types of missions because they can fly at extremely high altitudes, above conventional fighter jets, where they will be undetected. Another advantage of balloons is that they remain in the gravitational field of the earth. Different from satellites that pass over periodically, balloons are capable of fixed-point surveillance.

The Ministry of National Defense says that the SSF is “in line with the strategic requirements of integrating existing systems and aligning civil and military endeavors,” a program that the CCP calls military-civil fusion. Consequently, the SSF is targeting recruits who would not normally have joined the military. The SSF has expanded its online presence and is recruiting college graduates and people with advanced education for skilled work while also tar-

Ancient Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu said, ‘Every battle is won before it is fought.’

getting vocational and high school graduates for low-level tech positions.

The spy balloon would be a classic example of military-civilian fusion as a civilian company operated the balloon despite being loaded with sophisticated antennas that may have been conducting military surveillance. The involvement of a civilian company provides the CCP with plausible deniability. Beijing claimed that the balloon was a piece of civilian hardware on a benign civilian mission.

The SSF was born from the concept of Unrestricted Warfare, which was the title of a 1999 book written by PLA colonels Qiao Liang and Wang Xiangsui. The book outlines strategies of asymmetric warfare: how a country at a military, political, and economic disadvantage could take on a superpower like the United States. The book proposes a number of alternatives to direct military engagement, mobilizing competencies from multiple government and private domains. The book essentially spells out how to defeat the United States. The concept is consistent with military-civil fusion in that it integrates all aspects of society. Everything from politics and economics to culture, ideology, and psychology can become weapons.

Another related concept is “three warfare,” meaning public opinion, psychological, and legal warfare. The two basic components of public opinion are propaganda and misinformation. Propaganda pushes a desired narrative like, “The CCP is great and has your best interests at heart,” whereas misinformation attempts to convince people that something is true, such as, “The U.S. also sent spy balloons over China in the past, but China did not complain.”

This form of irregular warfare, in addi-

tion to fusing military and civilian resources, would also combine the capabilities of multiple government agencies including the PLA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which deals with global security. It also involves CCP spy agencies the Ministry of State Security and the Ministry of Public Security. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology is responsible for controlling the flow of information. The United Front Work Department, which originally targeted Chinese diaspora, has evolved into a large intelligence and propaganda organ. Other organizations such as state and non-state hackers are also involved.

Ancient Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu said, “Every battle is won before it is fought.” And this is the SSF’s strategy, which could bring all of its competencies to bear, activating its cyber and public opinion warfare before a Chinese invasion of Taiwan. Right now, many Americans approve of U.S. support for Ukraine. If public opinion were to sour on Ukraine, voters would push lawmakers to stop sending money and weapons to Kyiv and the nation would fall. Similarly, the CCP could launch an unrestricted warfare campaign against Taipei in the hope of undermining U.S. support for the island nation. And this is true of any initiative that the CCP wishes to launch against the United States. They could use the SSF to soften the American people and weaken our resistance.

The spy balloon incident has Americans watching the skies, but the SSF could also be lurking in our computers, our telecommunications, our media, our schools and universities, or our political lobby groups.

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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JENNIFER ZENG/THE EPOCH TIMES



Brian Kennedy, chairman, Committee on the Present Danger: China, speaks at the event “China Threat Briefing: Unrestricted Warfare: The Chinese Communist Party’s War against America and the Free World” in Washington on May 2, 2019.



Chairman Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.) speaks during the first hearing on national security and Chinese threats to America held by the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party on Capitol Hill in Washington on Feb. 28, 2023.

OPINION

The China Committee Must Emphasize Political Warfare to Defeat the CCP

BRADLEY A. THAYER



The House Select Committee on Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party led by Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.) deserves great praise for describing the Sino-American rivalry as an existential threat. Given the size and scope of the threat, Gallagher has stated that the Committee will examine trade, national security, culture, and human rights issues. Importantly, it must devote the necessary time to analyze political warfare and, in particular, ideology as the main pillar of the Sino-American clash. Ideology is particularly important to the Chinese regime, the United States, and for providing a U.S. victory in the current Cold War. This is for three reasons. First, of all political parties the world has witnessed, the Chinese regime is at the forefront of understanding the role ideology plays in gaining and sustaining power, in grasping the relationship between ideology and material power, in legitimizing political power, and as a front in warfare: ideological warfare is to be waged against the enemy as surely as industry or the military are. The unholy trinity of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism has long been enshrined as the official guiding ideology for the CCP, one of the largest and most powerful political parties in the world with about 96 million members. For the Communist Party, ideology is significant for six reasons. First, ideology provides the formal rationalization of the Chinese regime. It is a totalitarian party, ruling in the name of a worker-peasant alliance, which provides it with self-justified authority to rule over 1.4 billion people. Second, the ideology of the Chinese regime provides the Party's justification for why the Chinese people are compelled to support the CCP—it mobilizes the masses, rules in their name—and so the Chinese people should sacrifice for it. Third, ideology explicates which states are allies and which are foes, and thus the ultimate reason for the struggle with other states: for the Chinese regime, communism is superior to democracy or other forms of government and must be defended against its inevitable class enemies at home and abroad. Thus, the

The Chinese regime has imposed a failed ideology, Marxism-Leninism, on the Chinese people for almost three-quarters of a century. The artificial nature of the ideology could only have been imposed by force, and sustained by brutal, dehumanizing coercive measures.

Chinese regime's ideology explains why it started the Cold War with the United States and its allies and why the regime seeks to defeat the United States. Fourth, ideology is the force that unifies and provides cohesion for the Party and like-minded people around the world. Fifth, ideology is also a weapon to be used to expand the influence of the Chinese regime as well as to challenge the legitimacy of liberal democracy and traditional imperial rule in the minds of the Chinese people, their allies, and worldwide. Sixth, Xi uses ideology as leverage to continue consolidating power within the Party and to ensure and legitimize his rule over the Chinese people. Under Xi Jinping (2012-), ideology has returned to prominence and with a bite not seen since Mao. Xi clearly intends to stay in power until he dies, is incapacitated, or is overthrown, as Mao and Deng did. Xi has moved the pendulum from the leadership's rules of the road of the last two decades to increasingly totalitarian rule by a great leader, using Mao's experience as a model. Second, for the United States, ideology is essential for how it defines and contrasts itself with the Chinese regime. The ideology of political liberalism has provided the principles of American governance, institutions, political culture, and inspired the American people and freedom-loving people around the world to create the best polity the world has known. Second, although the Chinese regime started the fight with the United States, liberalism explains why the United States must win it and defeat

the Chinese regime. Liberalism is superior to communism. Hands down. Everyone, in the United States or in the world, should say so and never be reticent about so doing. It is better for the American people, the Chinese people, and the world. The world it created is unmatched for freedom and stability, and the world it wants to sustain is far superior to the Chinese regime's vision. The 21st Century is already defined by the battle between the Chinese regime and the United States, and the century's dispositive question is which will be victorious. That is a point well worth emphasizing by the Committee, the whole of the U.S. government, and the American people and society. Third, when the Sino-American Cold War is seen through the lens of political warfare, the profound vulnerabilities of the Chinese regime are revealed. Xi has stated that ideology decides the party's future and existence, as well as long-term stability of the country and national cohesiveness. Thus, he has challenged the Party to be indefatigable and steadfast in its ideological focus. Upon coming to power, Xi immediately tightened his grip on the Party's ideology, which is a major pillar supporting his leadership. Providentially, that pillar is rotten. The Chinese regime has imposed a failed ideology, Marxism-Leninism, on the Chinese people for almost three-quarters of a century. The artificial nature of the ideology could only have been imposed by force, and sustained by brutal, dehumanizing coercive measures. The Chinese regime knows its ideology is illegitimate and perforces its rule. It is past time for U.S. decision-makers to refuse to accept this illegitimate regime and reject its abuse of the Chinese people. The responsibilities of the Committee are herculean, but providing the necessary emphasis on political warfare will contribute mightily to the CCP's defeat and provide avenues short of kinetic war for victory over the Chinese regime.

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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Youths at a rally during the height of the Red Guard upheaval waving copies of Mao's "Little Red Book" and carrying a poster of Karl Marx on Sept. 14, 1966.

OPINION

Beijing's 'Peace Plan' Reveals True Intentions

KEVIN ANDREWS



The history of armed conflict reveals at least one truism: wars are more easily started than concluded. Consider the bloodiest conflict of the 20th century, the Great War. The conflict was at a stalemate for years until the Australian Gen. John Monash engineered a breakthrough at Villers-Bretonneux and Le Hamel. For years, the frontlines had barely moved a few hundred meters. This truism is worth bearing in mind when considering the conflict in Ukraine. If put simply, the purpose of war is to defeat an adversary or command sufficient advantage to sue for peace, the prospects for peace in Ukraine are limited. Having commenced an invasion that he thought would be successful within days, President Vladimir Putin is bogged in a war that he seems unlikely to win, provided other nations continue to assist his adversary. Putin could end the war he initiated by withdrawing from Ukraine, but having invested so much in the conflict; this action seems unlikely. Facing an existential threat, Ukraine cannot readily agree to a peace settlement unless Russia completely withdraws from occupied territory. Just as occurred in the past, allowing the Russians to remain in Crimea would embolden them to prosecute the war again in the future. These observations are pertinent when considering the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) 12-point "peace plan" position paper. The document is replete with the usual CCP foreign policy statements about "abandon cold war mentality" and "stopping unilateral sanctions." But the shallowness of the document is revealed in the first point about "respecting the sovereignty of all countries." It states: "Universally recognized international law, including the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, must be strictly observed. The sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of all countries must be effectively upheld. All countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, are equal members of the international community. All parties should jointly uphold the basic norms governing international relations and defend international fairness and justice. Equal and uniform application of international law should be promoted, while double standards must be rejected." The logical consequence of this assertion is a Russian withdrawal from Ukraine. Ukraine is a sovereign nation that has been an independent member of the United Nations, as is Russia, since the dissolution of the Soviet Union. It has internationally accepted borders. If the CCP were genuine about its desire for peace, it would advise Russia to withdraw. Words and Actions Don't Match When asked at a press conference why China didn't call on Russia to withdraw its troops in the position document and why it did not identify an aggressor in the conflict, Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin didn't directly answer the questions.



China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin speaks during the daily briefing in Beijing on June 11, 2021.

If Russia becomes heavily indebted to the CCP, the prospect of China claiming its territory on the Pacific Ocean becomes a future possibility.

Instead, the CCP continues pursuing unlimited partnership with the Putin regime. It has benefitted economically from the conflict with growing bilateral trade between the two nations. Yet the plan also asserts that "the security of a region should not be achieved by strengthening or expanding military blocs." This underlies China's fear. Apart from Iran and China, no nation of any consequence supports Russia, yet many countries are assisting Ukraine. China wants to narrow the conflict to one between Russia and Ukraine, thus weighing the odds in favour of Putin. China and Russia share a common enemy, namely the United States. China is also playing a long game. If Russia becomes heavily indebted to the CCP, the prospect of China claiming its territory on the Pacific Ocean becomes a future possibility. The true intent of the Chinese regime's statement is revealed in point 10, which insists that only sanctions authorized by the United Nations are appropriate. Yet Russia exercises a veto at the U.N., meaning such sanctions will never be approved!

It is impossible to conclude that China's document is a serious peace plan. The document is also written with Taiwan in mind. The Chinese regime would use a similarly worded document if it invaded the self-governing country. It demonstrates that the CCP is concerned about sanctions being used against antagonists and the growing international response to its naked aggression in the Indo-Pacific. Chinese and Russian officials continue to meet, and Vladimir Putin has announced that Chinese leader Xi Jinping will visit Moscow. Reports in the last week also suggest that China is considering the sale of military equipment to Russia, not the action of a nation genuinely interested in peace. Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

The Hon. Kevin Andrews served in the Australian Parliament from 1991 to 2022 and held various cabinet posts, including minister for defense.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) gestures while speaking to Chinese leader Xi Jinping during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on Sept. 16, 2022.

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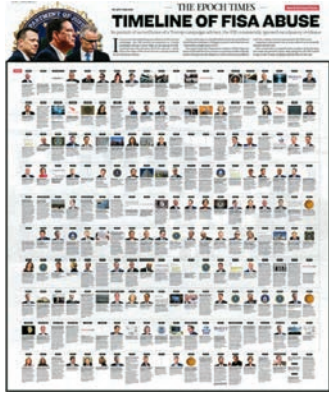
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