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CHINA INSIDER

Canada

CHINA'S SPIES

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China's Many Spies in Canada

By Omid Ghoreishi

For China watchers, the arrest of a retired RCMP officer for allegedly helping China with its interference efforts in Canada is not surprising, given Beijing's extensive network of spies and agents in Canada and its ambitions for global domination.

Scott McGregor, a former Canadian Armed Forces intelligence operator and intelligence adviser to the RCMP, says Canada is particularly infested with a proportionally higher number of CCP agents compared to other countries.

This is due to a number of factors, including "ease of entering, the massive support network and depth of infiltration, abundance of natural resources, and lack of enforcement," he said.

China's operations, he told The Epoch Times, "are all part of a much larger strategy, undermining the West and rising up to world domination by 2049."

The 2049 mark is a reference to the Chinese Communist Party's program to surpass the United States as the global superpower on the 100th anniversary of the CCP's takeover of China in 1949.

Mr. McGregor describes the plan as "a concerted and intentional effort that seeks to control all aspects of Western society."

Arrest

William Majcher, who had been living in Hong Kong, was arrested by the RCMP in British Columbia on July 20 on charges that he allegedly used his knowledge and network of Canadian contacts to obtain intelligence or services to benefit the People's Republic of China. He was granted bail on July 25, with his lawyer saying he plans to plead not guilty. His charges have not yet been tested in court.

A second former Mountie is listed in court documents as one of the individuals Mr. Majcher allegedly conspired with, though the second person hasn't been charged.

Mr. McGregor says that since Hong Kong is a former British colony, it serves as an "excellent conduit for illicit activity," which has been exploited by the CCP.

"Leveraging their connections and infiltration in the West, they [the CCP] have been able to wage hybrid warfare by using lawfare and political influence to meet objectives," he said.

CCP's lawfare efforts include its extension of security law outside China's borders to capture targets overseas. Among these efforts are Operation Fox Hunt and Operation SkyNet, which aim to bring targeted individuals back to China to face prosecution.

The latest development comes as recently leaked intelligence documents continue



The Peace Tower on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Sept. 8, 2022.

to show that China has been extensively attempting to interfere in Canada's electoral system, to the extent of funding candidates. As well, recent revelations of covert Chinese police stations operating on Canadian soil, and increased instances of CCP harassing and intimidating Chinese and Hong Kong diaspora groups, have added to mounting calls by opposition parties and Chinese dissident groups for the government to curb Beijing's operations in Canada.

Chinese Agents

Back in 2005, Chinese defectors Chen Yonglin, a former Chinese diplomat, and Hao Fengjing, a former officer with China's security apparatus, said China is running 1,000 spies and informants in Canada. The two, who had defected to Australia, said the spies were primarily engaged in harassing Falun Gong adherents and stealing commercial secrets.

Mr. McGregor says he believes the number to be much higher, depending on what definition is used for who is a CCP agent.

"Not only are there actual MSS [China's Ministry of State Security] spies, PLA [China's People's Liberation Army] agents, criminals such as triads, and Chinese police intelligence operatives, but also those working for China in the diaspora as required by China's National Security Law," he said.

He thinks the number has increased substantially since 2005, particularly because of the expansion of the operations of the CCP's United Front Work Department. The organization is the Chinese regime's primary foreign interference tool, according to studies cited by Public Safety Canada.

The 2019 book "Chinese Spies" by French journalist Roger Falgot, based on docu-

ments and extensive interviews with intelligence officials and analysts, says that according to the FBI, in the year 2000 there were nearly 2,000 Chinese regime officials, diplomats, and journalists based in Canada and the United States giving cover to the top layer of Chinese intelligence operators.

The book adds that the great number of Chinese international students, "even if only a minority were professional secret agents—offered considerable opportunities for targeting laboratories and research centres."

"This figure does not include the large numbers of tourists, touring circuses, and Beijing opera companies, all naturally accompanied by many agents, who keep their eye on more than the visiting performers during such visits," the book says.

In an interview with The Epoch Times, former diplomat Mr. Chen also said the number of Chinese agents in Canada has increased substantially since the early 2000s.

Canada a Target

Mr. Chen says countries like Canada and Australia are always targets of the CCP because they are developed nations, but also because of their close relations with the United States.

"America is always the biggest enemy of the Chinese regime," he said. As a close ally, Canada has access to many sensitive American assets and intelligence, such as weapons research, that are sought by the CCP, Mr. Chen said.

But for the CCP, the issue is that the United States has far stricter security protocols and checks, whereas Canada is a lot more lax in its security measures, he notes.

"The governments [in Canada and Australia] have even signed research coop-

eration agreements with China," he says. "They are the weak part of the alliance."

Opposition parties were in an uproar after it was revealed that Canada's highest-security infectious-disease laboratory in Winnipeg collaborated with Chinese military researchers between 2016 and 2020, and one Chinese military scientist was even granted access to the lab.

Canada was also planning to hold joint military training with China on Canadian soil, with the event being cancelled only after the United States raised concerns about the decision in 2019, documents released a year later show.

Hidden Safe Houses

Mr. Chen says that while the CCP maintains high priority on the operations of the MSS, PLA, and public security agents, and runs spying operations out of its consulates, it is also increasingly leveraging its United Front assets in host countries because they provide a base for agents and informants to operate under cover.

As well, some companies embedded in the Chinese community along with overseas branches of Chinese state-owned enterprises get used by Beijing to provide operation bases for Chinese agents, he says.

"It's easier to hide a safe house on their property," Mr. Chen said. He noted that these bases get used especially when the CCP has concern that an operation run by a consulate may garner more visibility and arouse suspicion, he said.

Operations

Mr. Chen says approximately half of Beijing's assets are sent from China using Canada's immigration system, which he says is very easy to use, while the rest are recruited directly in the host country.

"Locals cost less, and they can also use them on a casual basis, as part of an operation, and then abandon them once the operation is done," he says.

Among those spies coming to Canada using the immigration system, some could be coming using technical credentials or using sponsored marriage routes, he says. They then end up working in technology companies and institutions, and even in the government, where they'll have access to information that the CCP can take advantage of, he adds.

Besides sensitive government documents, the operatives could get access to preliminary academic documents, which get sent back to China, where a new piece of technology can go to production before it's even patented in Canada or the United States.

"The problem is that China has a lot of civil-military fusion plans, and most of this information will be used in weapon research. That's why China has made great achievements in the past 30 years, and they can compete in some weapon systems," he says.

China's infiltration of the academic community includes efforts such as the Thousand Talents Plan, academic partnerships between governments and institutions, and agents sent as students and scholars to universities abroad, he notes.

Mr. Chen says that while the overseas assets usually function independently, sometimes they cooperate on some important issues, such as cases involving influential dissidents.

Among the United Front network entities in countries like Canada are many groups in the Chinese community that visibly have close relations to the Chinese consulates. Chinese student associations set up in all major universities are another component of the network.

"These Chinese non-governmental organizations, like trade promotion associations and organizations like that, they could be nests of Chinese spies," he says, adding that this also includes many Chinese state-owned media and their overseas staff.

Generational Planning

In their book "Nest of Spies," journalist Fabrice de Pierrebou and former Canadian Intelligence Security Service senior manager Michel Juneau-Katsuya say that China's intelligence agencies plan their operations in "generational rather than calendar-year intervals."

"This kind of long-term planning, all by itself and without further cleverness, is enough to baffle the fast-food mentality of western intelligence agencies," the book says. "When the other side drops his guard, that's the moment to activate one's sources. Also, if you flood the enemy with an overwhelming number of agents, some

might be caught but several will succeed." Many agents are recruited at a young age while still at university and are sent to Western countries while in their 20s, the book says.

"Ten, fifteen, twenty years pass. During this time the sleeper agent has not had a single contact with the home base. Then, one day, he or she receives the signal that means 'activate.'"

While Western intelligence agencies prefer to train professionals for the task, the Chinese "are happy to make use of anybody who has a round-trip airline ticket to a foreign country."

"The Chinese national who goes abroad is pressured into returning home with whatever information he or she can find," the authors write. They add that the CCP of course looks out for those who can more professionally carry out the task as well, with "talent spotters" looking for people who may be recruitable.

China's espionage activities cover a wide range, the book notes, including economic espionage, supervision and control of dissidents abroad, as well as political and military spying.

"Looking at the number of Chinese diplomats posted to Canada is useful. It's much more extensive than we see in embassies of similar size," the book says, referring to espionage activities run out of Chinese diplomatic missions.

Leverage

Mr. Chen, the former diplomat, says that while some of China's assets may be motivated by money, many are coerced into helping the regime because of the CCP's threats toward their families or business operations back in China.

He adds that, to aid in its various operations and ways in which it can use different people, the CCP has been collecting data on its citizens at home and abroad.

"They collect data for overseas individual Chinese people, if they have connections, if they're prominent," he says. "They want to see if they can use that information in the future, and further infiltrate the West."

A phenomenon that is seen increasingly more nowadays is the prevalence of non-Chinese people acting on behalf of the CCP, Mr. Chen adds.

"They are recruited by money, as the Western economy is declining," he says.

Exploiting Western Democracy

Mr. Chen says the CCP has become proficient at exploiting loopholes in democratic countries and spends huge sums of money to indirectly use different entities to lobby the Canadian government for policies that favour Beijing.

"China knows the weaknesses of the democratic system, and they use that to influence Australia and Canada and other Western countries," he says.

He says the CCP also exploits the progressive movement, attempting to gain the upper hand when it comes to human rights by blaming the history of the treatment of the indigenous people in countries like Canada and Australia, while it continues to brutally suppress human rights inside China's borders.

It also exploits racism labelling, he says, by fuelling the movement that deflects criticism of the CCP as racism against Chinese people, thus stifling those who call out Beijing's abuses.

"They use this for [CCP's] purpose, to hide their network," Mr. Chen says.

'Disconnect'

In their book, Mr. de Pierrebou and Mr. Juneau-Katsuya question why there are no Chinese agents getting charged with economic or industrial espionage in Canada, whereas in "the United States, Great Britain, and Australia there is an average of one trial per month."

In the case of the United States in more recent years—"Nest of Spies" was published in 2010—sometimes U.S. prosecutors announce new China-related espionage cases almost every week.

The RCMP did charge an individual employed with Hydro-Québec in November 2022 with economic espionage under the Security of Information Act. This was the first time such a charge was laid in Canada, and there have been no other such arrests since then.

"There really is a dramatic disconnect between Canada's indifference and our allies' active concern," write Mr. de Pierrebou and Mr. Juneau-Katsuya.

The Canadian Press contributed to this report.

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▲ Police patrol outside the Canadian embassy in Beijing on Jan. 15, 2019.

ECONOMY

Trump's Trade Chief Lays Out Plan to Beat China at Its Own Game

Robert Lighthizer's new book calls for strategic decoupling from China

By Jan Jekielek and Terri Wu

Former U.S. trade representative Ambassador Robert Lighthizer views the decades of U.S. trade deficit with China as a "wealth transfer." In his recent interview with EpochTV's "American Thought Leaders" program, he outlined a playbook to beat China at its own game through strategic decoupling, very much the same thing China has been doing to the United States, he said.

In his new book "No Trade Is Free: Changing Course, Taking on China, and Helping America's Workers," he recalled a meeting he attended in Beijing in November 2017, during which he told Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), that the U.S.-China trade relationship was unbalanced. And from there, Mr. Lighthizer said he changed the tone of the trade talks that used to be rounds of vague commitments with no follow-ups on actions, which reset with each new U.S. administration.

"I was never interested in one of these things where the status quo favors the other side by definition," he told The Epoch Times. "And as long as they can kick the can down the road, they'll maintain that benefit, that preference, in many cases, that transfer of wealth."

'Net Transfer of Wealth'
To Mr. Lighthizer, it's not a problem when a country runs a trade deficit with another over short-term periods. However, decades

of deficit in the amount of hundreds of billions of dollars—as is the case of U.S. trade with China—is essentially a "net transfer of wealth," he said.

The U.S. trade deficit with China has nearly quadrupled since December 2001, when China joined the World Trade Organization, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The total trade deficit from 2002 to 2022 totals over \$5 trillion—one-fifth of the U.S. GDP in 2022.

During the same period, the U.S. net investment position—how much Americans own all over the world versus how much the rest of the world owns in the United States—grew nearly six times to a negative \$16 trillion in 2022.

Nobody practices free trade.

Robert Lighthizer, former U.S. Trade Representative

"We are getting these T-shirts and our third and fourth televisions cheaper, but we're paying for it by transferring assets of our country overseas," he said in the interview.

He called it a "fool's bargain": "That's a bad deal; that's not a good deal. In many cases, it's current consumption for a long-term loss of value."

His essay "The Free Trade Folly" summarized the same problem earlier this year: "We are literally trading the future control of our country, the wealth of our children and grandchildren, for current consumption—cheaper TV sets and sneakers. This is madness."

The Myth of Free Trade

Mr. Lighthizer thinks of free trade as a "false religion."

"Nobody practices free trade. For sure, if you look at the great countries that run big surpluses, they don't have free trade. In China, it's not remotely close. It's not even capitalism. Germany doesn't have free



▲ U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer participates at a discussion at the 9th China Business Conference at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington on May 1, 2018.

trade. Europe doesn't have free trade. It's all just a false God, and it literally doesn't exist," he added.

According to him, China has plans for achieving global dominance and has capitalized on foreigners hungry to make money in the country.

"It's China deciding, 'I'm going to make you rich because it's going to help me.' Those people then become advocates for China. That's more or less the trade-off," he said.

"The notion of using Americans to help a foreign power and having individuals make money is certainly not a new thing," said Mr. Lighthizer. "It's certainly not something that the Chinese have invented."

Strategic Decoupling Playbook

The United States needs to strategically decouple with China, "very much like the Chinese have towards us," Mr. Lighthizer said.

He said that "de-risking," a strategy adopted by G7 countries to diversify their supply chains away from China, was "a tiny step in the right direction," calling the move "strategic decoupling-lite."

"I think it's a way of trying to do what is right, but still make all the very rich American companies who import from China happy. They are trying to kind of have it both ways," the former trade official said.

Mr. Lighthizer's strategic decoupling playbook includes the following elements: achieving balanced trade, cutting off the

flow of U.S. technology to China, and managing inbound and outbound investments.

To balance U.S.-China trade, Mr. Lighthizer said President Donald Trump's tariffs worked. Since the first tariffs were slapped in July 2018, the U.S. trade deficit with China decreased until 2020. His explanation for the trade deficit bounceback in 2021 was that the combination of demand stimulated by the U.S. government's pandemic relief packages and the shutdown of domestic manufacturing drove purchases from overseas.

Another tool that would potentially work to reduce the trade deficit, according to Mr. Lighthizer, is Warren Buffett's idea of import-export certificates. In a 2003 article, Mr. Buffett illustrated a proposal that companies would get import certificates on a dollar-to-dollar value based on their export amounts. Therefore a company that does more imports than exports would have to purchase import certificates on the market. That was his idea of letting the market figure out how to balance trade.

While all countries do what's in their best interest in international trade, China's trade has a "sinister overlay" of technology theft, said Mr. Lighthizer. Combatting this, according to him, requires stopping the regime's forced technology transfer and managing the investment from and going to China, and would put an end to America's facilitation of the CCP's ambition of global dominance with technology or funds.

SAMIRA BOUADU/THE EPOCH TIMES

JOHN FREDRICKS/THE EPOCH TIMES



▲ Pro-China supporters protest the arrival of Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif., on April 5, 2023.

CCP INFLUENCE

China-Linked Influence Operation May Have Manufactured Protests in US: Report

By Andrew Thornebrooke

A China-linked influence operation may have contributed to real-world protests in Washington, according to the findings of a new report.

The ongoing influence campaign has largely focused on disseminating pro-China stories on Western social media but may also have organized and funded two in-person protests in 2022, according to a new report published this week by cybersecurity firm Mandiant.

Both protests, which weren't covered by other media outlets, were made the subject of multiple stories created and distributed as part of an influence operation known in the national security community as "HaiEnergy."

"Both protests, which occurred around June and September [of] 2022, were documented via video and subsequently used as source material to support campaign-promoted narratives published by assets and infrastructure leveraged by HaiEnergy," the report states.

The fact that the apparent protests weren't covered by any other media suggests that they may have been a part of the HaiEnergy operation, which has links to China's communist regime.

"Notably, we were unable to identify any outside sources referencing these protests other than those we either attribute directly to HaiEnergy or have identified as being tangential to the campaign by virtue of paid promotion services," the report states

Campaign Linked to Chinese PR Firm HaiEnergy was first identified as a pro-China influence operation in another report published by Mandiant in 2022.

That report found that the campaign "leveraged a network of at least 72 inauthentic news sites," all of which presented themselves as independent news outlets based across various parts of the world, including in the United States.

These "news" sites and associated wire services were then used to launder the pro-China stories into mainstream U.S. media outlets and give them an air of legitimacy.

Following this, a number of suspected inauthentic social media accounts would be used to amplify the content, along with other assets strategically aligned to promote the political interests of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which rules China as a single-party state.

At first, according to the new report, Mandiant was unsure if the news sites and other infrastructure were directly related to China or just sought to promote CCP interests. That has changed.

According to the report, Mandiant has confirmed that Chinese public relations

firm Shanghai HaiXun Technology (HaiXun) was directly engaged in the campaign, after finding that the company directly solicited freelancers and social media influencers to promote the content that was being created and distributed by HaiEnergy.

"In recent months, however, we have identified additional evidence suggesting HaiXun is not only aware of the campaign but is actively supporting it through the solicitation of for-hire freelancers via Fiverr to promote campaign content," the report states.

Using these newswire services and paid-for influencers, HaiEnergy was able to distribute its content to the subdomains of legitimate U.S.-based news outlets as "press releases," effectively using the U.S. media landscape to promote pro-China propaganda.

Those newswires included websites TimesNewswire.com and WdWire.com, as well as at least "32 subdomains of legitimate U.S.-based news outlets resolving to third-party infrastructure associated with a U.S.-based company named 'FinancialContent Inc.," the report states.

Such content was often published to the subdomains without approval or review, suggesting that the U.S. companies weren't themselves compromised but rather engaged in sloppy security practices, according to the report.

On other occasions, according to the report, the HaiEnergy newswires would lift anti-U.S. stories wholesale from overseas news sites, remove all of the links from them, and replace them with links to inauthentic pro-China accounts.

"In numerous instances, we have observed identical pro-[China] articles published to both World Newswire and Times Newswire, which were also published to suspected inauthentic news sites we have previously attributed to HaiEnergy," the report states.

Likewise, the campaign engaged in further "information laundering" by cross-referencing its own websites, effectively having two websites publish the same story while citing the other website as the primary source of information when, in fact, there was no legitimate source.

China-Based Firm Linked to US Protests

The report outlines how the HaiEnergy campaign may have directly financed, or even manufactured wholesale, two pro-China protests in 2022 in Washington.

The first alleged protest was made in response to the 2022 International Religious Freedom Summit, an annual event held in Washington that aims to raise awareness of restrictions on religious freedom of the

type so present in communist China.

The second alleged protest was made in response to a June 2022 decision by the U.S. government to ban goods produced in China's Xinjiang region, where the regime is engaged in genocide and slave labor targeting the predominantly Muslim Uyghur population.

In videos of both events shared by HaiEnergy-affiliated media, two small groups of protesters can be observed demonstrating in Washington, holding placards and chanting slogans intended to highlight, and possibly exacerbate, U.S. domestic issues such as racial discrimination and abortion, as well as to criticize U.S. policy impacting China's export of solar energy-related goods.

"In both instances, we observed articles referencing these protests published by the aforementioned press release service, Times Newswire," the report states.

"Additionally, verbatim articles referencing the protests were subsequently distributed to the subdomains of legitimate U.S.-based news outlets leveraged by HaiEnergy."

It was then that freelancers were commissioned by China-based HaiXun to amplify the content.

The Mandiant report states that there isn't currently evidence that HaiXun directly paid the protesters themselves, though "... it was at least plausible the protests were orchestrated on behalf of a third party."

To date, pro-CCP influence campaigns such as the one tracked by Mandiant have failed to generate substantial engagement from American social media users, the report states. Most of the engagement earned by the campaign appears to be "operating within the confines of their own echo chambers despite campaign operators' use of multiple platforms and dissemination vectors to reach target audiences."

To that end, according to the report, the influence operation appears to be evolving, seeking new, more effective means of promoting division in the United States and cultivating support for the CCP.

"Based on our most recent observations associated with HaiEnergy, it is plausible that operators behind this campaign have recognized the ineffectiveness of past tactics and now look to expand the campaign's overall reach by outsourcing certain aspects of its operation," the report states.

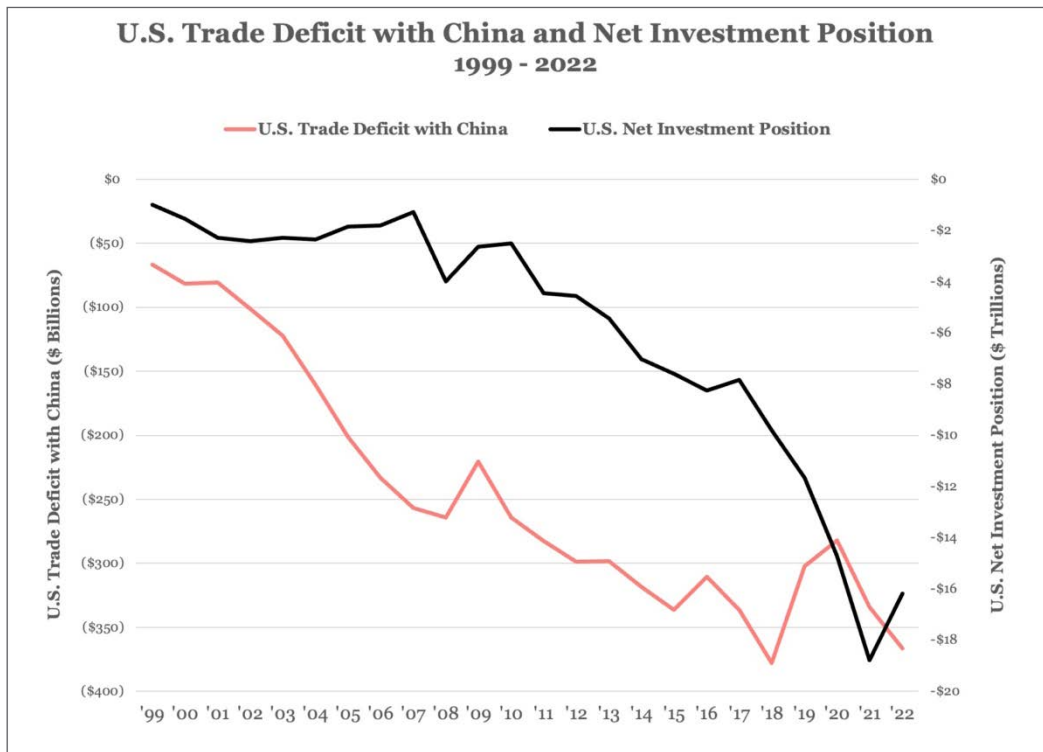
"The possible financing of at least two staged in-person protests for use as source material in HaiEnergy-linked information operations is, in particular, a significant escalation in [tactics] employed by this campaign, and further evidence suggesting the campaign is expanding its tactics to maximize potential impact."

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS



▲ The U.S. trade deficit with China has nearly quadrupled since December 2001, when China joined the World Trade Organization.

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS



▲ The trend of U.S. net investment position—how much Americans own all over the world versus how much the rest of the world owns in the United States—mirrors the trend of U.S. deficit with China between 1999 and 2022.

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Asians for Liberty Sounds Alarm on Rising 'American Maoism'

The group's founders warn that today's 'cancel culture' and 'wokeism' are reminiscent of tactics used at the start of China's brutal Cultural Revolution

By T.J. Muscaro

CLEARWATER, Fla.—The Asians for Liberty organization made its public debut recently when co-founder Cathy Kiang stepped up to the podium.

On the first day of the With Liberty and Justice for All conference organized by Sovereign Nations, Ms. Kiang shared how her great-grandparents escaped Communist China and made it to America.

It's important to tell about that history so that it's never repeated, she said.

"I will never truly understand the struggles that they went through and the sacrifices that they made," she said at the July 20 conference.

"But it's my mission to never forget and to always strive to preserve freedoms and liberties."

Ms. Kiang founded Asians for Liberty in 2022 with her aunt, Sau O'Fallon, host of the podcast "The Asian American."

The organization's goal, they said, is to educate both the young and old about the horrors of Mao Zedong's cultural revolution in China.

They also want people to see the parallels between what happened then and what is happening now in the United States, they said.

'The Communists Won'

After the 2020 election, Mrs. O'Fallon's mother said to her daughter, "The communists won."

"I think that was probably a shock to her," Mrs. O'Fallon said. "Like, she never thought she would be saying that here" in the United States.

The new organization is a family affair kicked into action by the death of Mrs. O'Fallon's mother.

She was the last of Ms. Kiang's grandparents. Her passing triggered a painful realization:

"They're gone. There's no one in our family left to share their stories. It's up to us."

Her aunt embraced the mission, too. "We got to wake people up," Mrs. O'Fallon said. "We need more people—you know, soldiers—on our side to combat the communist forces that come in different disguises."

Ms. Kiang told conference attendees: "Students are being taught America was not a great country built on principles of freedom and liberty, [where] regardless of your background, your skin color, that anyone can prosper, anyone can succeed."

"These dangerous ideologies have infiltrated every facet of our society, including our churches, our workplaces, government, communities—even our military. Many of us have awakened to this."

But others have not, she said.

Families Escaping Communism

Mrs. O'Fallon told conference attendees that her parents would never talk about communism directly with her and her siblings, but they would talk about it with the other adults.

She would overhear enough to know that communism and communists were bad.

"Even the name Mao...gave me chills in a bad way," she recalled. To her, the name meant "bad man" and "killer."

The family came to America after first escaping mainland China and going to Hong Kong, then a territory of the United Kingdom.

Mrs. O'Fallon and Ms. Kiang's mother were two of six children who made the journey across the Pacific in 1968.

When their mother stepped onto American soil, it was "the happiest moment of her life," she later told her family.

They were poor, so it was easier to not be noticed, Mrs. O'Fallon explained.

Things were different for the family of Ms. Kiang's father.

His grandfather was mayor of a province in China, she said. His family was blessed with wealth and land. But that also meant he was watched by communist officials.

He escaped to Taiwan by disguising himself as a poor fisherman. But his wife was caught and thrown in prison, enduring intense suffering before committing suicide, Ms. Kiang said.

The family didn't talk much about the tragedy, and when she was younger, the stories didn't interest her much anyway, she said.

People stand in front of images of Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the Museum of the Communist Party of China in Beijing on Sept. 4, 2022.



I was so brainwashed. Sometimes, I'd see Mao's face in the sky behind the clouds, and I would see him smiling in the fire.

Lily Tang Williams, Cultural Revolution survivor

But within the last decade, she had a sudden realization and became alarmed, asking herself, "Wow, what's going on around us?"

Sharing Survivors' Stories

Ms. Kiang and Mrs. O'Fallon spoke at the conference alongside living survivors of Mao's cultural revolution, Xi Van Fleet and Lily Tang Williams.

They were eager to share their stories and their warning.

"My parents, they chose communism. They joined the revolution," Ms. Van Fleet said. "And then they helped to take over China."

"I did not make the choice. 'And many of the young people today in America—they choose communism over capitalism.'"

Her earliest memory is of the Cultural Revolution, led by Mao Zedong. It began when she was in the first grade and lasted ten of her school years.

After high school, she was sent to the countryside like so many of her people to do "primitive work" and "be re-educated by the peasants."

The revolution terrorized China from 1966 to 1976. Radical youth, known as The Red Guards, enforced Mao's objective to rid the nation of what he called The Four Olds: Old Ideas, Old Culture, Old Customs, and Old Habits.

In the societal upheaval, traditional ideas such as family bonds, femininity, criminal justice, and meritocracy were tossed aside, Ms. Van Fleet said.

"They were replaced with a 'new culture' of justified rebellion, class struggle, political correctness, snitch culture, and what became known as a 'cult of personality'—Mao's personality, she said.

She and Ms. Williams both came from Sichuan Province, where an estimated eight million people died in those 10 years of the revolution.

Spot the Signs

More than 30 years later, Ms. Williams is a wife, mother of three, entrepreneur, and Republican candidate, making her second bid for Congress in New Hampshire.

She's begun to see "the Chinese Communist Playbook" show itself on American soil during the past four years, she said.

"I never thought I would come to my

"I was so brainwashed," Ms. Williams told attendees at the conference. "Sometimes, I'd see Mao's face in the sky behind the clouds, and I would see him smiling in the fire."

Students turned on their teachers, she said. All religions were labeled cults. And 95 percent of criminal justice personnel were exiled.

Children were encouraged to "educate" their parents and turn them in if they failed to adapt.

"I would go home, and my mom would sometimes pray, and [I'd say] 'Mom! Don't do that! That's how capitalism holds your lifestyle. You need to believe [in] the Party, come on!'" Ms. Williams recalled.

"I would lecture my mom because I was so red. I was a red child."

Both women came to the United States on student visas in the later 1980s.

"I gave up on China when I became a faculty member in law school," Ms. Williams said.

"I was told, 'Law is not for justice or equal protection for the regular people. Law is the communist party's tool to govern the masses. And you are just one of the masses.'"

Then an American college student told her about "the Declaration of Independence and that individuals have rights not given by the government but given by my Creator," she said.

"My lightbulb came on, and it never turned off."



Sau O'Fallon, vice president of Asians for Liberty, on July 20, 2023.



Cathy Kiang, president of Asians for Liberty, on July 20, 2023.



James Lindsay (3rd R) speaks during a panel on the American Cultural Revolution in Clearwater, Fla., on July 20, 2023.



Red Guard members wave copies of Chairman Mao's "Little Red Book" during a parade in Beijing in June 1966.

promised land—a great country—to see the sitting president get censored," she said. "A presidential candidate today—RFK—also being censored, interviews taken down."

The Chinese women warned of the parallels between Mao's infamous Red Guards and today's "cancel culture" and "woke" movement. Those ideologies have been promoted to children in public schools for years, the women said, forming what they called a modern "Blue Guard."

"Many of the tactics that were used during his cultural revolution in China are now being used in our very own country," Ms. Kiang said.

Instead of being put through physically intensive "struggle sessions" in the public square, today's "enemies of the people," the women said, are outed and punished in more passive ways.

These include "Facebook jail," attention from "Twitter mobs," and the possibility of unemployment if one speaks out against progressive social policies involving Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) or Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

"And with my line of business in the travel events industry," Ms. Kiang said, "our conservative organizations are being declined access into certain venues because of their conservative values."

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how easily Americans' freedom of movement could be taken away and how each person could be labeled "an enemy of the people" if they refused to comply with vaccine mandates and lockdowns, the women said.

"In 2020, when the BLMers and Antifa took over our cities and terrorized our communities, many Americans were shocked," Ms. Van Fleet told conference attendees. "They've never seen anything like this. But for people like me and Lily, we know right away."

Ms. Williams warned: "Remember, the

communists got to use identity politics to achieve their power. They want absolute power, but they cannot use the classic struggles theory anymore. So they are using race.

"They are using transgenderism and whatever offensive words that might come next. Just get prepared. It's always—like Mao—every 2, 3, 5 years. A new campaign and new fancy terms. And the state media lies every day until that [new campaign] becomes a truth accepted by the public."

Just Getting Started

Ms. Kiang and Mrs. O'Fallon hope to call attention to these issues enough to make a difference quickly.

"That would be a dream," Mrs. O'Fallon said. "But if we can just do slow baby steps—and they're all these baby steps going different directions—that would be very, very excellent."

They hope to add chapters in Asian-American communities in Florida, and then add more affiliates across the country. They also are setting up a scholarship to promote the ideas of entrepreneurship and capitalism.

They see challenges ahead in spreading their message.

History is barely taught in schools, especially the history of communism, they said.

Older generations who've experienced communism don't talk about it because they either want to forget about it, or believe such a revolution could not happen here, they said. And some may hold some admiration for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), they said.

But they have hope, they said.

"It's about lighting that fire and letting the people in the community know that anything done to get the message out can make a difference," Ms. Kiang said.

"But my heart really goes out to those who have fallen for the lies. Just like the Red Guard, they are being used to do evil,

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