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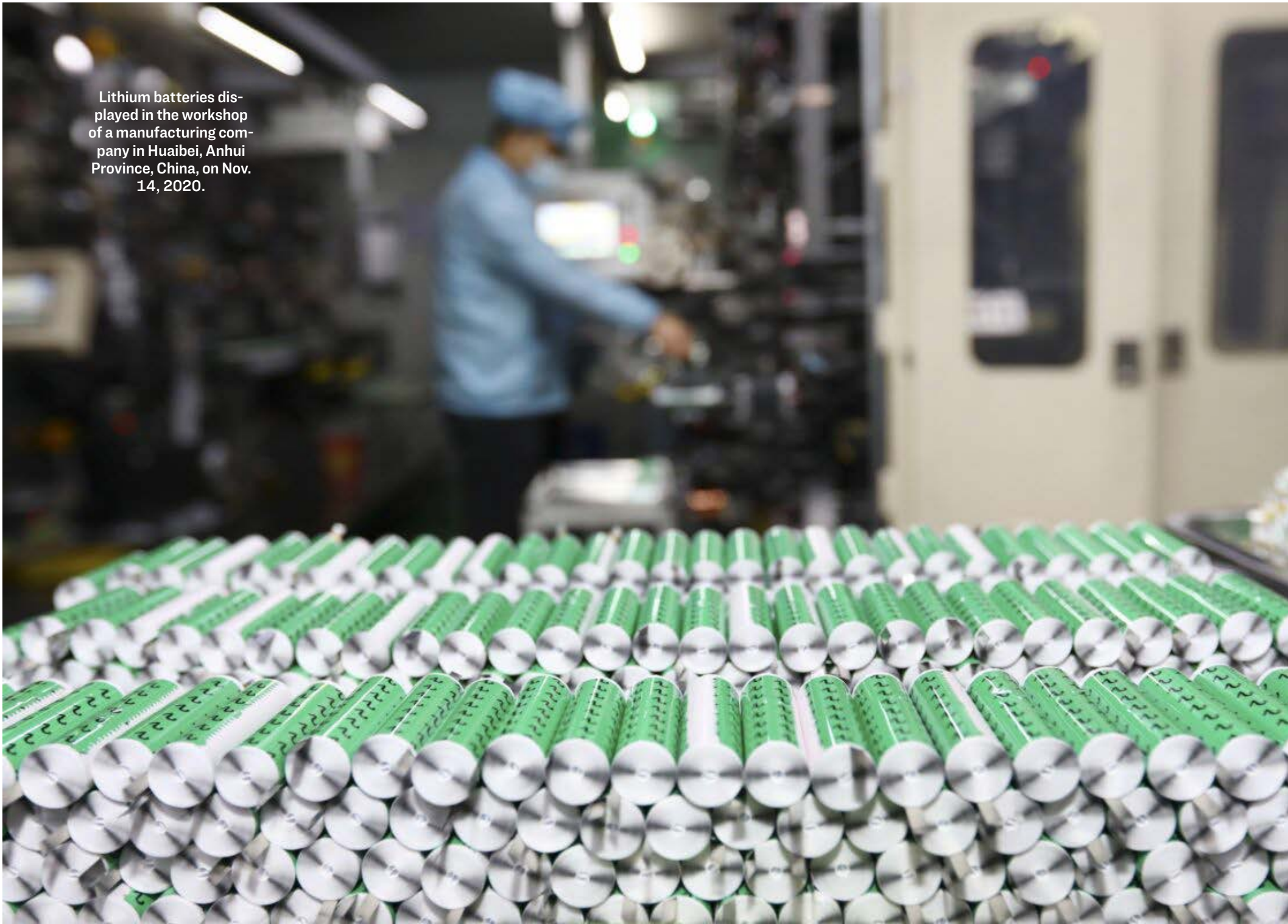
# CHINA INSIDER

## CAN THE US DECOUPLE FROM CHINA?

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An employee in the workshop of a lithium battery manufacturing company in Huaibei, Anhui Province, on Nov. 14, 2020.





OPINION

# Can the US Decouple From China?

By Christopher Balding



As the Beijing regime's actions clarify the thinking about its role in the world and expected behavior, we must reconsider what type of economic and financial relationship the United States and other countries should maintain with a hardened authoritarian state.

Can and should the United States decouple from China?

China hawks and doves cling to a misperception that the U.S. and Chinese economies maintain deep economic and financial interdependence. For example, many argue that China holds about \$1 trillion in U.S. government debt and could cause broad disruptions. In reality, China holds only about 4 percent of outstanding U.S. debt securities, with the Federal Reserve ready to step in should China attempt to weaponize its holdings.

In keeping its financial markets closed for so long to foreign investors, China limited the portfolio investment such as stocks and business entanglements such as banks in mainland China. In reality, the financial entanglements remain minimal and manageable.

Economically, a more complicated picture emerges. Imports to the United States from China equal 2 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), and exports from the United States to China represent 0.6 percent of the U.S. GDP—which now fall behind Mexico, as U.S. trade shifts closer to home. While small, the top-level numbers fail to capture the whole story. Most imports from China continue to fall into the basic manufacturing category, such as garments, machines, toys, and furniture, and a second category, basic electronics, such as iPhones and televisions. The type of trade matters for its ability to move around the world and the potential risk to the United States.

China sells itself as the workshop of the world, but, in reality, a lot of its exports can move to other countries for shipment to the United States with minimal disruption. For example, large amounts of garments, textiles,

and basic manufacturing can shift with little or no disruption. Even if not shifted to other countries, this type of trade presents no significant risk to the United States.

Trade in electronics presents a more complicated problem. Some types of electronics manufacturing, such as iPhone assembly, can be moved to other countries without major disruptions. However, other types of electronics manufacturing, such as televisions, require more specialized buildings, inputs, and labor that require lead time, a transfer of knowledge, and infrastructure.

One other trade category needs to be mentioned: Chinese monopolies in key products, such as certain metals, minerals, and electrical vehicle batteries. China has spent vast sums to corner global markets in certain raw materials and finished products.

This presents a conundrum for the United States: The Chinese imports are generally the least critical from a risk perspective, but the riskiest imports are generally more complicated to shift to other countries.

So how can the U.S. government encourage and assist in decoupling high-risk Chinese products?

Tariffs are inefficient and encourage uncompetitive behavior, so they should be avoided. But in the case of China, tariffs help global producers to shift production. As a price signal,

tariffs raise the price of goods from China, giving companies the time to move production and build new plants for those products. However, raising the price of products from China doesn't go far enough to help shift supply chains away from high-risk suppliers.

There are a number of steps that the United States should take to encourage responsible decoupling away from China. Washington should actively work with countries and companies that want to leave China and those countries

that wish to be the recipients of new investment. The primary fault of the United States—under both the Trump and Biden administrations—stems from the refusal to offer incentives to countries worried about China and companies working with China. The

biggest complaint of Southeast Asian countries is the United States' relative absence in the region or tangible offerings. At the same time that the United States works to help companies leave China, it can bring investment and jobs to other countries.

The United States should prioritize goods and industries that need decoupling and focus on how to achieve that objective. Decoupling shouldn't imply a total cessation of all trade between the United States and China. Instead, it means or should mean decoupling high-risk products and shifting concentrated high-risk sectors to a greater range of producers. China holds a near-global monopoly in basic drug manufacturing, key metals and minerals, and certain electronics, placing the United States at serious risk for anything, from COVID-19 drug manufacturing to electronics inputs. Raising the price of Chinese-made products from these sectors only imposes losses on U.S. consumers if no other companies worldwide manufacture those products.

The United States has valid national security concerns about being overly reliant on a single adversarial country holding a near monopoly on basic drug production and electronics input. By working with companies and other countries, the United States can work to diversify its key supply chains away from an adversarial state that shows a willingness to use its monopoly power to impose pain on others. The United States has taken the first step to decouple—it must go further.

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

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# Wuhan Institute of Virology's 'Batwoman' Shi Zhengli Says Another COVID-19 Outbreak 'Highly Likely'

By Alex Wu

Chinese top virologist Shi Zhengli, also known as "Batwoman" for her work on bat coronavirus research, warned that a future outbreak of coronavirus is "highly likely" in her recently published research article.

Ms. Shi is the director of the Emerging Infectious Diseases Research Center at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China. Her team has been conducting risky viral research on bat coronaviruses and cross-species infections, as well as gain of function research for years. The Wuhan Institute of Virology has been widely suspected of having a virus lab leak accident, which caused the first COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan in December 2019 and led to the global pandemic.

Ms. Shi stated in a research paper titled "Assessment and sero-diagnosis for coronaviruses with risk of human spillover" published in the journal *Emerging Microbes & Infections* in July that her team has found as many as 40 coronaviruses that can infect humans, half of which are "high risk" of causing human outbreaks. Six types of coronavirus have been found to be infective to humans and cause illness, and another three types of coronavirus can be transmitted to other animals after causing illness in humans.

"We conducted comprehensive analysis to all known alpha and beta coronavirus species and pinpointed a list of 20 CoV species with high risk of human spillover, which could be the causative agent of a future outbreak," wrote Ms. Shi et al.

Ms. Shi and her colleagues warned in the paper: "It is almost certain that there will be future disease emergence and it is highly likely a CoV disease again. Thus, the early preparation for the animal CoVs with risk of spillover is important for future disease preparedness, regarding the likely animal origin of SARS, MERS and COVID-19."

## At the Center of Controversy, Investigations

Shi and the Wuhan Institute of Virology are at the Center of the controversy and global investigations related to the origin of COVID-19 disease, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

On April 24, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic of the U.S. House of Representatives issued a letter to the Chinese Embassy in the United States. In the letter, in addition to asking the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to stop interfering with the COVID-19 virus origin tracing, they requested the Chinese regime to make five people "available for in-person, transcribed interviews related to the origins of COVID-19."

Ms. Shi, Director of the Research Center of Wuhan Institute of Virology, is one of the five.

On Aug. 31, Ms. Shi was officially selected for the list of candidates for the additional election of academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which caused controversy on media and social media, with people questioning her role in causing the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Sept. 17, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged the CCP to provide full access to a second group of WHO experts in Wuhan, China, to restart the virus origin tracing investigation. He once again urged Beijing to provide more information on the origin of the virus that caused COVID-19. The CCP has not responded.

## Concerns Over the Next Outbreak

Ms. Shi's warning of a future outbreak caused by coronaviruses like COVID-19 has attracted wide attention and sparked concerns in recent days, given the rising COVID-19 infection numbers worldwide and the continuing virus mutation.

On Sept. 20, the U.S. government announced that it would restart the free COVID-19 testing program and provide \$600 million in financial support to manufacturers of COVID-19 testing kits.

Li Longteng, former deputy director of Taiwan's Department of Health, told

## CCP VIRUS



▲ Chinese virologist Shi Zhengli inside the P4 laboratory in Wuhan, capital of China's Hubei Province, on Feb. 23, 2017.

The Epoch Times, "She (Shi Zhengli) knows it firsthand, of course she's able to predict that the outbreak will definitely occur again."

Current affairs commentator Qin Peng told The Epoch Times on Sept. 27: "I believe what she said is true. She is the world's top expert on coronavirus." He said, "We have seen some signs that the COVID-19 is actually re-surfing in mainland China. There are new outbreaks of it in some cities."

According to Chinese media reports and posts on Chinese social media, many hospitals in China have been overcrowded. Peng Jie, director of the Diagnostic and Treatment Center for Difficult Infections at Southern Medical University Nanfang Hospital, told the media that the vast majority of patients now are infected with COVID-19 or influenza A.

Regarding Ms. Shi's warning of another outbreak, Mr. Qin said that "the COVID-19 pandemic was caused by the leak of the CCP laboratory and the CCP's laissez-faire. Now (Shi Zhengli) is just issuing a warning, which is not a solution to the problem."

"To solve the problem, they need to open all virus libraries actually owned by Wuhan Institute of Virology to the World Health Organization experts for research, and they cannot continue to be the private property of the CCP," he said.

However, Mr. Qin believes that it is impossible for the CCP to open up further and allow the WHO to conduct further research or provide more information. In fact, the CCP has destroyed many precious materials, including some specimens.

Mr. Li said: "I just hope they won't release it [virus] again, otherwise it will get worse and worse. I think that scientists should have a conscience and not do things randomly. This is not good for the whole world."

## Creating Another Deadly Virus

On Aug. 21, Ms. Shi published another research article titled "Characterization of a mouse-adapted strain of bat severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus" in *Journal of Virology*.

Mr. Shi and other researchers obtained the mouse-adapted strain SMA1901 by serially passaged bat-derived coronavirus in mice.

Sean Lin, a microbiologist and former laboratory director at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, pointed out in "Health 1+1" on NTD on Sept. 22, that Ms. Shi has never stopped her research on bat coronaviruses and cross-species infections, and gain of function research. "Although the mouse adapted virus sounds harmless, in fact, Shi and her lab created another dangerous new virus strain through the gain of function."

"Shi's method through gain of function is more dangerous, because they created a new virus strain in the lab by manipulating and altering the genome of the virus, which is highly risky."

Mr. Lin said that Shi's experiments and research on bat viruses, cross-species infections, and gain of function, increased the risk of human infections, and made the new strain on mice more pathogenic.

*Huang Yun and Luo Ya contributed to this report.*



▲ Security personnel keep watch outside the Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization team tasked with investigating the origins of COVID-19, in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, on Feb. 3, 2021.



OPINION

# Communist China’s Orwellian ‘Global Community With a Shared Future’

By Stu Cvrk

It’s no secret that Chinese communist leader Xi Jinping has implemented grandiose initiatives aimed at China’s displacing the United States as the world’s only superpower.

From the beginning of his elevation to general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Mr. Xi has formulated ever more megalomaniacal initiatives aimed at elevating China over all other nations of the world, including the Belt and Road Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Development Initiative, and Global Civilization Initiative. The titles are an element of the ongoing psychological warfare being waged in pursuit of a new world order dominated by the CCP. Still, the underlying activities associated with each of those grand plans are both real and nefarious.

Tying them all together are periodic pronouncements by Mr. Xi, which are trumpeted in state-run Chinese media. For example, there’s the recent reprise of his vision for a “global community with a shared future.” What does it all mean? Let’s examine the topic.

### China Daily Parrots Xi

In conveying the supposed intentions of these initiatives in October 2022, state-run media outlet China Daily propagated the soothing notion that “economic, financial, infrastructure development and capacity-building cooperation, along with investment cooperation, are important components of the platforms established by China as frameworks for cooperation with various regional forums and programs such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the China-Arab Cooperation Forum and the China-Community of Latin American and Caribbean States Cooperation Plan.”

The communists seem to love the word “cooperation” (the word was used six times in the above quotation!), but the reality is that for all such hifalutin words used by Mr. Xi and his stenographers in Chinese media, communist definitions differ greatly from common understanding. The standard definition of “cooperation” is “working or acting together for a common purpose or benefit.” However, the CCP means “cooperate on our terms”: We will debt-trap you to obtain control over your natural resources and transportation infrastructure,

global security will bow to Chinese leadership, international development will come with inextricable Chinese strings, and global civilization will conform to the authoritarian model led by Beijing.

In April, China Daily repeated Mr. Xi’s claim of China’s supposed “commitment to peaceful development” in unspecified corners of the world through an undefined concept of “joint global action.” The Uyghurs and Tibetans know from direct experience what the communists mean by “peaceful development.” For them, “peaceful development” came at the point of People’s Liberation Army (PLA) bayonets and reeducation (concentration) camps as the CCP continues to commit genocide on these minority populations to this very day.

Filipinos are also learning about what Mr. Xi means by “peaceful development” as the PLA Navy continues to push the Chinese territorial envelope in the South China Sea with the aid of the Chinese Coast Guard.

As The New York Times reported on Sept. 26, “China claims 90 percent of the South China Sea, some of it thousands of miles from the mainland and in waters surrounding Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines.” The Chinese summarily placed a floating barrier near Scarborough Shoal to deny Filipino fishing boats access to an area where they had legal fishing rights.

The NY Times also reported that “Manila has been prevented [by the PLA Navy] from fully exploring oil and gas deposits within an area that an international tribunal in The Hague ruled in 2016 to be part of the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone.” This follows years of Chinese construction of military facilities on disputed islands in the South China Sea.

Apparently, the communists believe in the aphorism that “might makes right” and pursue their strategic objectives unless/until a sufficient opposing force is applied. The Philippines removed that sea barrier on the southeast side of Scarborough Shoal on Sept. 25.

### What About That ‘Shared Future’ Business?

Mr. Xi introduced the vision of a “global community with a shared future” in a speech to the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in

2013. Since then, he has made periodic references to it, including more “Xi Speak” at the opening of the 20th Party Congress last fall. The phrase itself is meaningless gobbledegook because, as inhabitants of Earth, all human beings share a future simply by existing.

On Sept. 26, China’s State Council Information Office issued a white paper that detailed what the communists mean, titled “A Global Community of Shared Future: China’s Proposals and Action.” This release was accompanied by usual puff pieces from state-run media, including this concurrent statement from Xinhua: “[The] vision aligns with the prevailing global trends, resonating with the call for international cooperation and contributing to a more just and equitable global order.”

The strategy is to expand Mr. Xi’s various initiatives to create Chinese-

led economic blocs among developing nations in the global south that conform to Beijing’s concept of a global community with a shared future. By expanding Beijing’s economic leverage in the global south and elsewhere via the Belt and Road and Global Development initiatives, China is far advanced in influencing policies favorable to the

CCP by member nations in existing international organizations, such as the U.N. General Assembly, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank and through Chinese-dominated trade-related organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

A perfect example of the insidious nature of CCP influence-peddling in international organizations was its founding of a U.N. forum in 2020 called the “Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative.” According to the Financial Times, that forum already has 70 members and has held its first “ministerial-level meeting.” A Chinese goal is very likely to gain an open endorsement by the U.N. General Assembly for the group.

China’s “shared future” vision is a self-licking ice cream cone. In deciphering Xinhua’s statement above, the “prevailing global trends” are advanced by China’s various initiatives, which are largely bought and paid for

by its continuing trade surpluses with other nations.

The “calls for international cooperation” in recent months are from two different quarters. Chinese officials routinely call for international cooperation in resolving contentious issues but never seem to adhere to decisions made by international bodies that go against their goals. The Scarborough Shoals agreement is a good example of Beijing’s ignoring an international tribunal ruling. The real groundswell of calls for international cooperation has been among China’s neighbors, who are alarmed at the belligerence being exhibited by the PLA in the South China Sea, the Taiwan Strait, along the India-China line of actual control, and elsewhere. That’s the “prevailing global trend that calls for international cooperation,” not what Xinhua claims.

The phrase “a more just and equitable global order” apparently doesn’t apply to indigenous minorities in China, as Tibetans, Uyghurs, Falun Gong adherents, and other persecuted peoples can attest. Who in their right mind looks forward to a world dominated by the CCP, which metes out arbitrary “justice” without any consideration for fairness, equitability, and what’s morally right?

### Concluding Thoughts

As usual, Beijing’s public statements can’t be trusted at face value. All of what they convey to be beneficial to others, in fact, masks the CCP’s efforts to gain control and achieve a hegemonic position in the world on its terms, not in friendly cooperation with other nations.

Regarding Mr. Xi’s grandiose statements about his visions (nightmares?), such as a “global community with a shared future,” let the buyer beware!

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

*Stu Cvrk retired as a captain after serving 30 years in the U.S. Navy in a variety of active and reserve capacities, with considerable operational experience in the Middle East and the Western Pacific. Through education and experience as an oceanographer and systems analyst, Cvrk is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he received a classical liberal education that serves as the key foundation for his political commentary.*

ECONOMY

# Japanese Companies Are Leaving China to De-risk

By Alex Wu

After Japanese air-conditioning giant Daikin and technology giant Sony left China, Japanese media has reported that Mitsubishi Motors may cease production in the country.

In recent years, Japanese companies have left China one after another. Experts believe that as geopolitical tensions intensify, the “political cold yet economic hot” relations between Japan and China will change. Japan’s key supply chains will gradually separate from China, de-risking in the short term and decoupling from China in the long term.

Mitsubishi Motors may end its car production in China and is discussing exiting with local joint-venture partner Guangzhou Automobile Group (GAC), according to reports. Mitsubishi Motors has responded that the company is “discussing future plans” with the shareholders of the joint venture and has stated that “no decision has been made yet.”

In April, Mitsubishi Motors said that weak sales had caused Mitsubishi to lose \$78 million. In 2022, GAC Mitsubishi sold fewer than 32,000 vehicles—about half of its 2021 sales—in China. In July, GAC Mitsubishi laid off employees to cut labor costs in order to boost business, and its Outlander SUV was discontinued in China because of poor sales.

GAC’s new car manufacturing plant in Changsha, Hunan Province, had already stopped production in March because of declining demand.

In 2022, China’s passenger car sales reached more than 20 million units, of which Chinese brand sales accounted for 50.7 percent—a 5.2 percent increase from the previous year, according to data from research company MarkLines. Japanese companies’ market share was 18.3 percent, a decrease of 2.8 percent.

If Mitsubishi ends production in China, it will be another major Japanese company that has withdrawn from China, following Sony and Daikin. Honda previously announced that it would consider building a supply chain outside of China to reduce its reliance on it. Mazda also has said that it was considering moving production out of China.

From 2020 to 2022, the number of Japanese companies in China dropped to 12,700 from 13,600, data released by Japanese research firm Teikoku Data-bank show. The total number hit a 10-year low, and it’s a roughly 7 percent decrease compared to the number prior to the COVID-19 epidemic. A total of 2,176 Japanese companies have left China, and 116 companies have gone bankrupt and ceased operations since the previous survey conducted in February 2020.



▲ A security worker walks past a Mitsubishi Motors Outlander PHEV sport-utility vehicle displayed at the company’s headquarters in Tokyo on April 20, 2016.

### De-risking

“There’s a severe lack of transparency in the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP’s) labor regulations and domestic policies or systems, making Japanese companies easily affected by politics and causing them operational problems and difficulties,” Li Shihui, chairman of the Japan Institute in Taiwan and professor at the School of International Affairs at National Chengchi University, told The Epoch Times.

Wang Xiuwen, an expert at Taiwan’s Institute of National Defense and Security, pointed out an important historical pattern: “When the Japanese government’s policies offend the political interests of the CCP, the CCP often resorts to stirring up ‘anti-Japanese’ nationalism and targets Japanese companies or Japanese civilians in China. There have been several lessons in the past decade.”

Mr. Li also emphasized that the Japanese found that the CCP didn’t comply with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership regulations, especially on intellectual property rights. Regarding international trade, Japan believes that the CCP isn’t a country that abides by rules.

Ms. Wang said that in addition to the effects of the yearslong U.S.-China trade war, China’s business environment has worsened.

This year, the CCP has tightened control, monitoring foreign companies and arresting foreign investors and some employees of Japanese companies in China.

“The CCP arbitrarily arrests foreigners [especially Japanese] on the grounds of

violating national security or the Anti-Espionage Act, which causes most Japanese companies and manufacturers to feel that their personal safety is not guaranteed, and they have to evacuate Japanese employees from China as soon as possible,” Ms. Wang said.

Amid the ongoing tensions between China and the United States, although Japan stands on the side of the United States, its economic relationship with China is closer than that of the United States.

“The current direction that Japan and Europe are heading toward is probably long-term decoupling and short-term de-risking [from China],” Mr. Li said.

De-risking means gradually moving some key supply chains from China that Japan considers to be sensitive, he said.

“For some lower-level daily necessity supply chains, Japan has not said that it will immediately move them out of China,” Mr. Li said.

“The Japanese government’s policy is to accelerate the evacuation of Japanese manufacturers from China,” Ms. Wang said.

“With fewer Japanese companies that could be held hostage by the CCP, the Japanese government may no longer be tolerant of the CCP. On the surface,

“Japan will maintain friendly diplomatic relations but assist the United States in East Asia and in geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific region. It will happen very soon.”

*Mu Qing and Yi Ru contributed to this report.*



▲ (From L to R) President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Chinese leader Xi Jinping, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, and Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov attend the 2023 BRICS Summit at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg on Aug. 24, 2023.

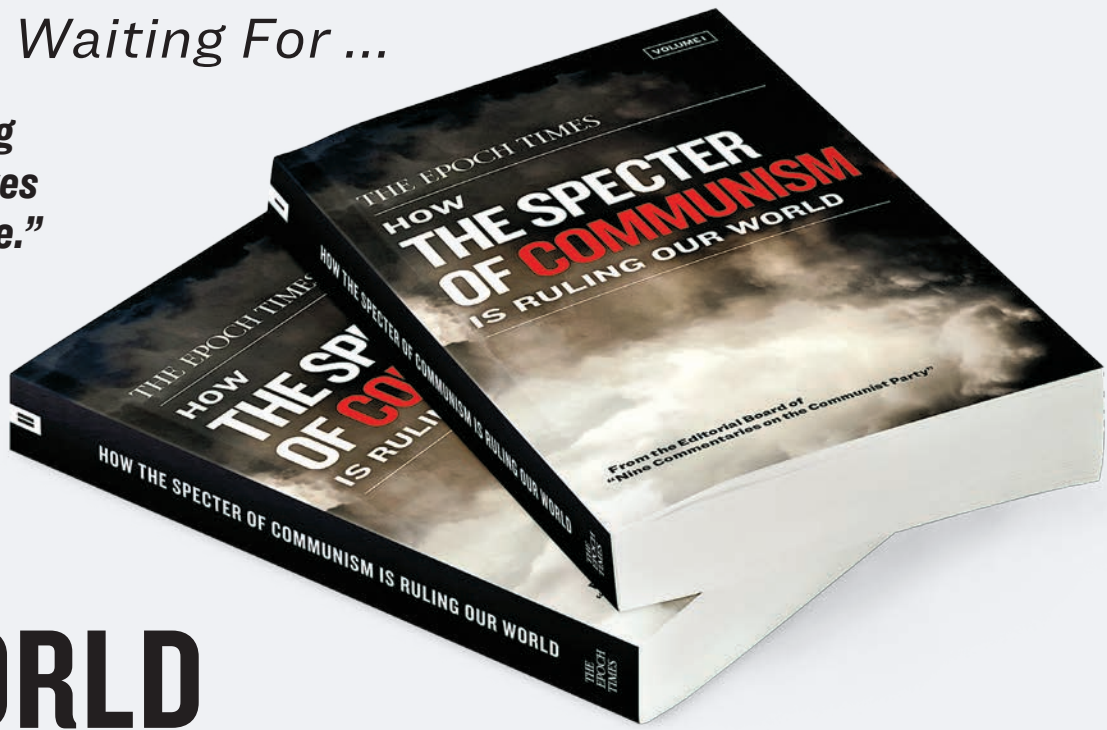
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▲ Falun Gong practitioners take part in a parade to commemorate the 24th anniversary of the persecution of the spiritual discipline in China, in New York's Chinatown on July 15, 2023.

ORGAN HARVESTING

# NGOs Raise Concerns Over South Korea’s ‘Complicity’ in Forced Organ Harvesting in China

By Dorothy Li & Eva Fu

Nongovernmental groups called on the United Nations to urge the South Korean government to end its complicity in forced organ harvesting in China.

“South Korea, known as a major consumer of transplant tourism to China, has not taken sufficient steps to monitor and discourage this practice, despite being aware of the circumstances surrounding forced organ harvesting—a grievous and arbitrary deprivation of human lives,” two nonprofits said in a statement on Sept. 13.

The two groups—the Korea Association for Ethical Organ Transplants (KAEOT) and Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH)—raised concerns about the Korean government’s involvement in the organ transplant abuse, in a report submitted to the U.N. Human Rights Committee. A session of the global body is scheduled to take place in Geneva next month.

Kim Hwangho, director of KAEOT, said the report not only impacts the Korean government, but also helps to address forced organ harvesting in China, given that the multibillion-dollar business has been fueled by transplant tourists worldwide.

“Collaboration among NGOs to engage the Human Rights Committee in monitoring other countries for complicity in forced organ harvesting in China can help address this heinous practice, which relies on demand from other nations,” Mr. Kim said in a written statement to The Epoch Times.

**Crimes Against Humanity**

The organ transplant industry in China has experienced exceptional growth since the early 2000s, despite the fact that voluntary organ donation is minimal in the country. Chinese hospitals have been documented as offering matching organs in just a few days, something unheard of in any country relying on a voluntary system.

The group’s report cited a 2017 program on South Korean cable network TV Chosun, which uncovered a phenomenon of Korean patients flocking to China for transplants.

The network’s reporters, posing as relatives of a patient with kidney disease,

inquired about transplant surgery at a hospital in Tianjin, a coastal Chinese city. With a hidden camera, they filmed conversations with the hospital’s staff, who informed them that the regular waiting time for a matching organ ranged from seven to 50 days. However, a nurse said the patient could get a kidney in two days if they wished to pay an extra \$10,000.

When asked about the average number of transplant surgeries performed by the hospital on a daily basis, the nurse replied that they had performed three kidney and four liver transplants the day before.

The reporters also interviewed Korean patients who had undergone transplant surgeries in that hospital. One woman said she waited eight weeks for a matched organ. Her son told reporters that the organ arrived at the hospital about two hours after the procurement.

In recent decades, the short wait times for organs in China have attracted thousands of patients from overseas. A 2016 study published in the American Journal of Transplantation showed China was the most popular “destination country” for overseas transplantation, while South Korea was the second-largest “departure country.”

Researchers reviewed papers published from 2000 to 2015 and identified 6,002 patients who traveled to foreign countries for organs from 1971 to 2013. Nearly 45

percent (2,700) of those patients went to China to seek life-saving operations.

Notably, there was no official organ donation and distribution system in China until 2015. Generally, Chinese people are reluctant to donate their organs because of traditional beliefs that hold that the body is a gift from one’s parents and that it should be left untouched after death.

It’s not too late to sever ties with the CCP’s crimes against humanity.

Dr. Torsten Trey, executive director, Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting

As late as 2003, the country’s organ donation figure remained at zero, according to Chinese state media. Most of the organs for transplant had come from executing prisoners, senior Chinese officials acknowledged for the first time in 2005.

However, the number of death row executions couldn’t explain the high number of transplants conducted in the country.

In 2019, an independent people’s tribunal concluded that the Chinese regime had been killing prisoners of conscience “on a significant scale” to supply its

transplant market. The main victims, the tribunal found, were imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners.

Falun Gong—a spiritual discipline and meditation practice with moral teachings based on the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance—has been brutally persecuted by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) since 1999. Adherents of the practice have been thrown into prisons, labor camps, and brainwashing centers, where many have been tortured in order to force them to renounce their faith.

The China Tribunal concluded that the regime had committed crimes against humanity and called on governments and international bodies to “do their duty” by responding to the finding.

**‘Passive Complicity’**

This year, Chinese officials renewed a call to strengthen “organ donation and transplant cooperation” through the Belt and Road Initiative, drawing criticism from human rights groups in Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea.

The local government in Busan, the second-largest city in South Korea, was involved in promoting the controversial scheme, according to the KAEOT-DAFOH report. In 2022, Busan authorities co-hosted the first Asian Organ Donation International Symposium, during which participants discussed cross-border organ delivery or patient transport through the sharing network.

“Such actions risk inadvertently assisting China’s Forced Organ Harvesting and putting South Koreans in danger of inadvertently participating in the heinous crime,” the report reads.

Dr. Torsten Trey, co-founder and executive director of DAFOH, said that the report illustrates the way in which “countries in the free world are complicit in China’s forced organ harvesting.”

“Not by willingly supporting it, but by passively allowing it to occur,” he told The Epoch Times.

If nations could commit to adhering to the existing law, Dr. Trey said, they could step out of the “passive complicity.”

“It’s not inevitable; it’s by choice. It’s not too late to sever ties with the CCP’s crimes against humanity,” he said.

“But if the choice is not made, then the complicity will increase.”



▲ Dr. Torsten Trey, co-founder and executive director of the nonprofit Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting, in Texas on Nov. 18, 2022.

OPINION

# The Chinese Communist Party’s God Delusion

By James Gorrie



Is the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) leadership adding its name to that list of would-be but ultimately failed emperors, or-turned-gods that have plagued human history? Apparently so.

**CCP Replaces God’s Laws**

Over the past couple of years, the CCP has forced churches to replace displays of the Ten Commandments with Chinese leader Xi Jinping’s own version of the moral commandments. That is, the Chinese leader is replacing God’s law with his own, which amounts to Mr. Xi attempting to replace God with himself.

It could be well-argued that such imitation confirms the CCP’s high regard for at least the religious format of Jehovah, if not the writing of His laws in stone. But the Party goes beyond that and also feels the need to rewrite the New Testament.

What’s going on inside the mind of China’s leadership? It’s hard to be certain, but we can certainly look at actions and history for guidance.

**Moving From Forgiveness to Execution**

For example, the CCP is applying its profound moral insights to the Gospel of John, where Jesus says to the priests who are about to stone a woman caught in the act of adultery, “Let he who is without sin cast the first stone.” As the parable goes, none of the woman’s accusers cast a stone, and she is spared and forgiven despite the law requiring her death by stoning.

The new CCP-approved version, however, has Jesus declaring Himself to be a sinner and then stoning the woman to death, saying, “If the law

Throughout history, various kings, emperors, and dictators have deigned to presume themselves to be gods.

could only be executed by men without blemish, the law would be dead.”

**History and the God Complex**

Why would Beijing feel the need to borrow or mimic Bible accounts that are, according to CCP doctrine, utterly false? That is hardly the behavior one would expect from devout atheists. Why not simply outlaw Christianity and be done with it?

The obvious answer is that the Party leadership realizes that it can’t; therefore, the next best thing would be to control and reshape Christianity in its own image. Surely, Mr. Xi can at least manage that. Nonetheless, the Party leader is neither original nor wise in his self-deification or his pursuit to extinguish the Word of God.

Throughout history, various kings, emperors, and dictators have deigned to presume themselves to be gods. Not always or often, but the exceptions are memorable and lethal on an industrial scale. Not only have such leaders had immense negative impacts on the world, but ultimately and without exception, they all failed to live up to their own claims of deity.

Obviously, all human pretensions of godhood are false. The question is, “How could anyone convince themselves that they are a god when they can see and feel themselves aging, as all humans do?” All of us die. That’s the lot of all life on Earth.

The answer may be simple and yet, at the same time, psychologically complex. At its most basic, what’s the downside of claiming to be a god-head? Once you’re dead, it doesn’t matter; one may as well make all the claims one can get away with.

**Psychology or Psychosis?**

On the other hand, some leaders come to believe that they have a messianic claim on their nation, history, and even on the entire world. The truth is, some leaders actually do. Washington

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.



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