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CHINA'S BIG PLANS TO RULE THE WORLD

The communist regime strengthens
its power through high-tech
totalitarianism: See Page **2**

OPINION

CHINA’S BIG PLANS TO RULE THE WORLD

THE COMMUNIST REGIME’S ADVERSARIAL APPROACH TO DOMINATING THE INTERNET, TECHNOLOGY, AND GLOBAL TRADE

JAMES GORRIE

Knowledge, as the maxim goes, is power. In the digital age, knowledge is stored as data on the web and in the cloud and transferred via network infrastructure. As a world leader in digital technology and digital technology theft, China’s goal is to be the world’s gatekeeper of all data and the ruler of cyberspace. In short, China’s goal is to rule the world.

Controlling data and where it lives is a big part of that picture. And every day, they’re getting closer to reaching that goal.

Cyber Sovereignty Via a National Internet

Regarding attaining global control over cyberspace, a key part of that plan can be found in their near-term goal of “cyber sovereignty.” Cyber sovereignty is essentially a “national internet.” China’s national internet is one where all information is maintained and controlled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). This is accomplished through the Cyber-space Administration of China, a government agency founded in 2014.

The purpose is to have strict control over what information comes into China over the internet. Websites hosting content deemed a threat to the party’s control are deleted, or subject to more stringent punishment.

In order to enforce their national internet, China dictates that foreign companies block virtual private networks that can be used to get around official censorship. Encryption and other forms of

privacy protection are forbidden. This includes the biggest tech and internet companies in the world, up to and including Google and Apple.

Furthermore, all private companies operating in China must store their data in China and make it accessible to the authorities. Companies or individuals within China that violate those policies are punished in a variety of ways, from fines to imprisonment.

Eliminating Reliance on Foreign Technology

China’s plan to rule cyberspace in the near future depends heavily on eliminating their reliance on foreign technology companies. That’s a big reason for their “Made In China 2025” (MIC2025) program. At the moment, China still depends upon foreign firms for critical needs such as microchips, network equipment, processing innovations and other strategic technologies. As such, China is highly vulnerable to supply interruptions.

The recent near-shutdown of Chinese tech giant ZTE for violating U.S. sanctions with Iran is a prime example.

This, of course, has made Chinese leaders keenly aware of their vulnerabilities, as if they weren’t already. With the stroke of a pen, the United States was able to effectively shut down one of their largest tech companies by withholding U.S.-made parts and nearly eliminating 75,000 jobs.

That vulnerability is exactly what MIC2025 is designed to fix. That’s why China is targeting its own microchip industry with \$150 billion investment for quick expansion and advanced capabilities. The

As the world embraces more digital technology in everyday life, China seeks to gain dominance in tech sectors for its national interest goals.

goal is for 40 percent of microchips used in China to be made in China by 2020 and 60 percent by 2025.

The Dark Side of ‘Made In China 2025’

But China’s plans don’t begin and end there. The long-term objectives go much further than what the MIC2025 program proscribes. In addition to its goal of not relying on or even using foreign technology, there’s a much darker side of the MIC2025 plan.

The Chinese not only seek to replace foreign technology and especially data and network infrastructure with Chinese made and owned technology, but their plan is also to put foreign competitors out of business completely. In other words, they want to have the power to disrupt and heavily influence the economies of those nations that today have power over China. For China, trade is viewed as a zero-sum game that involves destroying competitors.

They are well on their way to achieving the first part of the plan. Becoming a cyber superpower is part of China’s long-term goal of completing the second part, which would also involve China dominating both the digital and the physical worlds.

China Becoming a Cyber Superpower

One of the main reasons that China is positioned for digital domination is because the United States has allowed it to happen. America has ceded cyber leadership to China simply by refusing to commit the money and resources to it. Adding fuel to that fire, the Obama administration failed to keep control of the internet infrastructure in American hands. Over 40 years of technological leadership was simply handed over to the Chinese by President Barack Obama.

Meanwhile, China has steered national policy toward a digital first position. And as noted, Chinese leader Xi Jinping plans to make China the undisputed leader in digital technology and cybersecurity. It’s actually part of a multitrack approach of waging war against the United States and other nations in cyberspace with real-world consequences.

A New Geopolitical Strategy – Cyberwar

Cyberwar is economic, political, and technological war all at once on one battlefield—the digital one—that affects all other battlefields. It is a highly efficient way to gain the advantage over your

adversaries. So far, China is the only nation waging this war in a deliberate and strategic fashion. They’ve realized massive victories in data and theft of advanced technology from private companies, partners and even the U.S. defense networks.

But these victories are only the beginning. China’s technologically targeted state-owned enterprises have found homes in tech hubs around the world, including Silicon Valley, to gain access to the information technology, remote vehicle, artificial intelligence, and cloud computing they need to meet their long-term goals.

Xi’s ‘Network Great Power Strategy’

Meanwhile, Chinese-made servers, smartphones, and other technological hardware are often designed to effortlessly gather and steal data from the users by simply sending all data home to China over a Chinese-made network. The very idea of such a possibility is staggering. And yet Xi’s big idea is to combine all these systems together in a great power strategy.

This grand strategy is simply for China—that is, the CCP—to become the world’s biggest source of data and transactions in order to control the rest of the world. President Donald Trump’s tariffs have made the Chinese think twice, and complaints from Europe have certainly been heard in Beijing, but will they really delay certain aspects of the MIC2025 in response to the U.S. trade war? Or will they just alter how much they publicize what they’re doing?

Given their past behavior, going all the way back to their broken promise to open their market to the West in 2000, it’s likely that China’s promise to delay or scale back their ambitions will be mostly minor adjustments around the edges. That means the world must act to reign in China. The free nations of the world must each decide what kind of future they want.

Will they fight to keep the free and open international order, or will they surrender to a China-centric world based on the oppression and brutality of the CCP?

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

CHINESE INFLUENCE

ITALY’S INTENTION TO JOIN CHINA’S ‘BELT AND ROAD’ SPARKS CONCERNS

FRANK FANG

The Italian government appears to be divided over whether to participate in China’s “One Belt, One Road” initiative, as concerns are being raised within Italy and by its ally, the United States.

Italian’s intention to join China’s project for growing geopolitical clout was first announced by Michele Geraci, undersecretary of the Italian economic development ministry. In an interview with the Financial Times on March 6, Geraci said negotiations were under-way and Italy could formally sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China when the country’s leader Xi Jinping visits Italy sometime in March.

Geraci’s comment was affirmed two days later when Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said he may sign an accord on One Belt, One Road initiative (OBOR, also known as Belt and Road) when Xi visits, according to Reuters. Xi is scheduled to travel to Italy for three days beginning March 22.

Italy’s geographical location is critical to OBOR. First announced by Beijing in 2013, it seeks to build Beijing-centered land and maritime trade networks by financing infrastructure projects throughout Southeast Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America.

Italian transportation networks, including railways and seaports, are considered by Beijing to be important for its maritime economic corridor under OBOR, linking southern Europe with ports in Southeast Asia and eastern Africa—eventually reaching China.

However, Beijing’s initiative has been criticized for burdening developing countries with massive loans they can’t pay off. This “debt trap” has already occurred in Sri Lanka and the Maldives due to OBOR projects.

Immediately, U.S. officials voiced concern. On March 9, the U.S. National Security Council (NSC), wrote on its Twitter page: “Italy is a major global economy and a great investment destination. Endorsing BRI (Belt and Road initiative) lends legitimacy to China’s predatory approach to investment and will bring no benefits to the Italian people.”

If signed, Italy would be the first G7 country to join OBOR—and only the second major western European state after Portugal. The Group of Seven (G7) are the seven most advanced economies in the world: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the United States.

Garrett Marquis, spokesperson for NSC, also wrote in a tweet March 9: “No need for Italian government to lend legitimacy to China’s infrastructure vanity project.”

There are also voices within the Italian government who oppose China’s OBOR. Italian Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Guglielmo Picchi responded to the NSC tweet through his Twitter account: “I share the concerns, not to please our allies but because a deeper scrutiny is necessary.”

Outside of the Italian government, there are also concerns. “The risk I see is that people are not discerning between the need to increase our trade versus the Chinese growing hegemonic position,” Luigi Merlo, president of the transportation union Federlogistica Contrasporto, said in an interview with Italian daily newspaper Il Giornale.

Merlo added that he’s worried that ports, highways, and infrastructure projects would soon come under Chinese control. “Leaving, in the end, the

levers of command to another government.”

European media platform EURACTIV, citing a source it didn’t identify, said that Italy’s ministry of foreign affairs was surprised by the decision of Italy’s economic development ministry to go public with the intended MoU, despite that the foreign ministry is in charge of negotiating any international cooperation agreements.

Leaked MoU

EURACTIV, which is headquartered in London, published an article March 8, claiming to have obtained a leaked copy of the MoU.

According to the leaked memo, China would also provide new investment at the Italian port of Trieste. According to EURACTIV, Trieste is one of the biggest seaports in the Mediterranean Sea, and contains a railway connecting to cities in central and northern Europe.

Under the leaked memo, the two countries would also increase collaboration between unnamed Chinese companies and Italy’s state-controlled aerospace, defense, and security company Leonardo.

The two countries would also increase collaboration between unnamed Chinese companies and Italy’s state-controlled aerospace, defense, and security company Leonardo. The firm manufactures fighter jets, helicopters, and ammunition, and often partners with the Italian air force.

China’s state-run electric utility company State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC) would also further collaborate with Italian utility company Terna.

EURACTIV reported that the planned business partnership leaked in the MoU were all initiated by the Chinese side.

Michele Geraci

Meanwhile, Italian media have scrutinized the economic development ministry undersecretary for his close ties with China.

Italian daily newspaper Il Foglio, in an editorial published March 7, highlighted Geraci’s background from when he began living in China in 2008. From 2009 to 2018, he was an adjunct professor of finance at the New York University in Shanghai. From 2012 to 2018, he was an assistant professor at the Nottingham University Business School (UNNC) in Ningbo, a city in eastern China’s Zhejiang Province, and from 2016 to 2018, he taught finance at the Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, the capital city of Zhejiang.

Aside from being active in Chinese academic circles, Geraci also appeared

as a commentator on China’s state-run broadcaster CCTV, offering analysis on business-related topics, and was a columnist for the state-run China Daily and Caixin, a business magazine, according to the UNNC website.

Il Foglio’s editorial also pointed out several incidents involving China, in which Geraci played a prominent role. In November 2018, as the European Union was finalizing a framework for screening foreign investment deals with national security risks, Geraci publicly argued against a provision that required EU countries to share foreign investment information with the European Commission should the governing body request it, according to Reuters.

The investment screening—proposed in the first place with Chinese investment in mind—was ultimately passed in February with that provision intact.

Chinese Investment

While it remains to be seen if Italy will actually sign the OBOR MoU, the business relationship between the two countries began in 2004, when a joint communique was signed announcing their strategic partnerships, following a trip by then-Chinese premier Wen Jiabao to Italy.

In June 2014, while the former Italian prime minister visited Beijing, Italy and China signed a three-year action plan (2014–2016) promising cooperation in fields such as agriculture, aviation, and medicine.

A new action plan was signed in May 2017 (2017–2020), in which the two countries agreed to the importance of seeing an interaction between China’s OBOR and Italy’s transportation system, especially Italian ports located on the Adriatic Sea and the Tyrrhenian Sea, such as Trieste and Venice.

Chinese investment in Italy has increased dramatically since 2014, according to a December 2017 report by the European think tank Network on China, a consortium of research institutes in different European countries.

As of 2016, more than 260 Chinese companies have invested in about 450 Italian businesses. Foreign direct investment from China increased dramatically to 1.1 billion euros (roughly \$1.25 billion) in 2016, from 26 million euros in 2010.

In 2015, China National Tire & Rubber Company, a subsidiary of state-owned ChemChina, spent 7 billion euros (\$7.8 billion) to buy a 16.89 percent stake in Pirelli, a Milan-based tire maker.

In 2016, APM Terminals, a container terminal operating company headquartered in the Netherlands, sold a 40 percent stake and 9.9 percent stake to Chinese firms to operate two terminals at the Italian port of Vado; COSCO Shipping Ports, a subsidiary of the state-owned China Ocean Shipping (COSCO) and Qingdao Port International Development, a subsidiary of the state-owned Qingdao Port Group.



The Colombo Port City project under construction in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Nov. 8, 2018.

NEWS ANALYSIS

TIDE RECEDING FROM THE CHINESE STOCK MARKET

SENTIMENTS SOURING AS TRUMP HOLDS CARDS TO CHINA’S ECONOMIC RELIEF

FAN YU

“Only when the tide goes out do you discover who’s been swimming naked,” investor Warren Buffett once said. And it appears that the tide is ebbing quickly on the Chinese equities market.

China’s domestic stock market was among the best performing in the world thus far in 2019. But, on March 8, it logged its biggest drop in more than five months.

The benchmark Shanghai Composite plummeted 4.4 percent, while the broader CSI 300 Index, which includes shares listed in Shenzhen, fell 4.0 percent on March 8. On the year, the CSI is up 21 percent, while the Shanghai Composite is still 19 percent in the black.

Chinese A-shares have rallied this year due to inflows of foreign money,

an anticipated resolution to the ongoing trade war with the United States, and continued stimulus support from Beijing.

Astute investors know that China’s economic fundamentals are weak and getting weaker. Some had hoped the “greater fool theory” would sustain market appreciation a while longer, but a confluence of recent events has finally awakened investor skepticism.

Acknowledging Macro Issues

Over the past few days, a perfect storm of negative data and worse-than-expected developments on the trade front has suddenly stopped the rally party.

On a macro level, February trade data was a massive disappointment. Official customs data showed Chinese dollar-denominated exports

declined 21 percent year-on-year, the biggest monthly drop in three years. By comparison, economists expected about a 5 percent drop.

Dollar-denominated imports also fell by 5.2 percent in February year-on-year. China’s trade surplus with the United States—one of the focal points in the ongoing trade discussions—fell sharply. China’s export-dependent economy is clearly struggling without a trade accord.

Economic uncertainty also is increasing within the highest levels of the Chinese communist regime’s leadership.

Premier Li Keqiang delivered his annual government work report last week during the opening session of the regime’s rubber-stamp legislature, the National People’s Congress. Li’s outlook was grim, citing “graver and more complex” risks to the



Investors look at screens showing stock market movements at a securities company in Beijing on Jan. 13, 2016.

country’s economy and predictions of having to fight “tough economic battles” ahead.

Part of the messaging was around the 2019 state-dictated GDP forecast, which Beijing forecast at a range of 6.0 to 6.5 percent to give itself breathing room given heightened uncertainty in 2019. Last year’s government-stated growth was 6.5 percent.

It was important psychologically for Beijing to include the 6.5 percent

figure, as the lower edge of that range (6.0 percent) would result in China’s slowest GDP growth in three decades.

Beijing was prepared to trade a balanced budget for growth just to get to the lower side of that range. In addition to GDP guidance, Li also revealed previously expected tax cuts to reduce burden on manufacturers. Value-added tax (VAT) for manufacturers was cut by 3 percentage points to 13 percent, while the VAT rate for construction and transportation companies was cut by 1 percentage point to 9 percent to spur economic activity. Other incentives announced include reducing highway tolls, utility prices in certain jurisdictions, and lowering requirements for employer pensions.

Almost concurrent to China announcing 2019 GDP targets, the Brookings Institution published research shedding new light on longstanding doubts about China’s official economic growth figures.

The March 7 report titled “A Forensic Examination of China’s National Accounts” suggests that China’s total economy is more than 12 percent smaller than what official data

presents. “Since local governments are rewarded for meeting growth and investment targets, they have an incentive to skew local statistics,” the authors state, corroborating a long-held belief that China’s method of GDP compilation is susceptible to both intentional and unintentional falsification.

The report also suggests that the recent reduction of economic growth is worse than officials publicly acknowledged. It’s nothing groundbreaking, but the think-tank research reaffirmed to global investors that positive data out of Beijing should be discounted while negative data should be further penalized.

Negative Sentiments on Trade, Market Valuation

Investors in Chinese equities were also spooked by news that a summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida at the end of the month has been removed from the agenda.

The meeting was always tentative in the eyes of astute China watchers. The trade war was never close to res-

Positive data out of Beijing should be discounted while negative data should be further penalized.

olution, despite public statements of progress made by both sides, largely to assuage the financial markets.

U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad confirmed March 8 that no date has been set for the summit, but the two sides are still negotiating. By most accounts, the United States and China still aren’t close to an agreement. Significant hurdles around forced technology transfer and corporate espionage, specifically about how to ensure that Chinese authorities enforce rules and hold companies accountable, remain. These items shouldn’t be compromised if the Trump administration is serious about correcting decades of wrongdoing by Beijing on international trade.

Trump demonstrated in Vietnam—at the summit with North Korea—that he is not afraid of walking away from a bad deal. It served as a warning to Beijing leadership that certain trade provisions shouldn’t be compromised.

Consequences of a full-blown trade war are heavier than the absence of a North Korea pact, but it’s nevertheless a shrewd move by Trump. Without trade war relief, it will be

near impossible to achieve China’s 2019 GDP targets.

Selling pressure on Chinese stocks was further augmented by a few rare “sell” ratings issued by Chinese domestic brokerage firms, suggesting that stock valuations of onshore stocks may be reaching uncomfortable levels even for domestic brokers.

The People’s Insurance Co. was downgraded to a “sell” rating on March 7 by Citic Securities, which believes the company is overvalued after more than doubling this year. The next day, China Securities Co. also received a “sell” rating issued by brokerage Huatai Securities. Shares of both financial firms were down more than 10 percent on the day they received “sell” ratings.

Despite an economic slowdown, China stocks have rallied on news of the MSCI index increasing China exposure in its emerging-market indices and a possible resolution to the trade war. But those now look more like “sell the news” events.

Investors still swimming in the Chinese markets may find themselves increasingly exposed going forward.

JEAN VINCENT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SILENT CRY IN THE DARKNESS: THE STORY OF A LIFE CUT SHORT BY THE CHINESE COMMUNIST REGIME

Former actress learns the painful truth of how her landowning uncle became a prisoner of the state after the communists took control of China in 1949

KECHUN LI

In this narrative story, Kechun Li, a former actress from China, shares below a story about her uncle who suffered and died under the communist regime after its rise to power in 1949. Li was inspired to share her uncle's story because she believes the world should know the truth about the evils of communism and the crimes committed by the Chinese communist regime against millions of innocent people in China. Her writing has been edited for clarity.

During my trip to China in 2013, I discovered some shocking truths about my uncle, who passed away four decades ago during the Cultural Revolution. Sadly, I never had the chance to meet this remarkable man, and I didn't know much about him throughout my childhood.

But during the last three weeks of my trip, I met my uncle's daughter, who told me more about her father. Listening to the stories of my uncle's tragic life has been an overwhelming and heart-wrenching experience. I am saddened by how he suffered and died as a political prisoner—it was an injustice to him and to his family. The ugly truth is that my uncle was targeted by the communist regime because he was born into a privileged family, was well-educated, and had a promising future—before his life was cut short.

His name was Zhang Deji. My uncle passed away in a labor camp where he was detained after he served 20 years in prison. All that was left of him—a shirt and a blanket—was sent to his older sister in Chengdu City in southwestern China, instead of his ex-wife and daughter in Beijing. My aunt had a nervous breakdown when she received the package from the labor camp. Without opening the package, she held it against her chest and huddled in a dark corner at home, trembling and repeating to herself and her children: "Your uncle is in it... your uncle is in it."

This was not the first time that my aunt had lost a loved one. She went through a traumatic experience when she lost her husband, who was arrested and sentenced to a labor camp in 1957. No one in the family ever saw or heard from him again. He was accused of being a counterrevolutionary and died in the camp in 1962.

I had a chance to meet my uncle's daughter—my cousin, Kaiyu—while I was visiting Beijing at a Hilton hotel. Kaiyu and I chatted for four hours in the hotel's dining hall and she cried for most of the time. She was only a toddler when her father was arrested and sentenced to prison. Kaiyu remembered visiting her father in jail—it was the only place where she could spend time with him. Her mother would take her there, and they were only allowed to see him for a very short time each week, 15 minutes in total.

Kaiyu showed me an old black-and-white photo of my uncle when he was still a free man. He looked healthy and handsome. He was thin and tall, had big clear eyes and full lips, a broad forehead that is considered in Chinese physiognomy a sign of intelligence, and large ears that are a sign of being blessed with good fortune. He was dressed in plain Chinese clothing. After the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) took over China in 1949, people were not allowed to wear Western-style suits because those who did were criticized as being Western sympathizers and harassed by those who claimed they were the real revolutionaries. Before the communist takeover, Western fashion represented success, progress, and sophistication.

My uncle and my mother went to school together at the University of West China in Chengdu, Sichuan Province. The school was founded in 1910 by five Christian organizations after the Boxer Rebellion, and one of a hand-

SHANGHAI FILM STUDIO/IMDB.COM



Kechun Li in the 1984 Chinese film "Duo cai de chen guang."

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My uncle's death will never be justified. His life was cut short. He never gave up hope for his own freedom and to be reunited with his daughter.

Kechun Li

PROVIDED BY KECHUN LI



An undated photo of Zhang Deji. In 1954, Zhang was imprisoned as a result of his status as a landlord during a period when land owners and other "counterrevolutionaries" were persecuted by the communist party after it seized power. Zhang died 20 years later at a labor camp.

ful of Catholic universities in China. Classes at school were taught in English—mostly by American professors and some Chinese scholars who were educated in the United States. My uncle was charming, wealthy, and popular among the girls in school. He inherited his fortune from his share of my grandfather's estate. He was the third-eldest son of 12 boys in the family.

My uncle was only 15 years old when his father passed away in 1938. My grandfather was a lieutenant general and a warlord in Sichuan. Before he passed away at the age of 46 from a heart attack, he had divided his estate between all his sons and daughters—unusual because, traditionally, family assets were usually passed on to sons only. A portion of my uncle's inheritance was agricultural land, but I don't know how much land he inherited. My grandfather and his army were recruited to join forces with the Kuomintang to fight against the Communist Party's Red Army in 1933 (during China's civil war), and later the Japanese in the Sino-Japanese War.

My uncle graduated from the university in 1948. In 1950, he continued

his education in Beijing and majored in economics. He spoke fluent English. After graduation, he worked for the Ministry of Commerce in the early 1950s. He had a promising future.

Trouble with the authorities began when my uncle was accused of a crime he did not commit. His wife told me the story during one of our phone calls. Fortunately, I was able to talk with my aunt several times before she passed away in 2015. My husband and I returned to China for Chinese New Year in 2015 and attempted to meet my aunt but she had already passed away one week before our trip. My aunt said my uncle was accused of causing the death of one of the peasants who leased land from my uncle, and that this incident occurred when my grandfather was still alive. One summer, my grandfather's right-hand man (hired by my grandfather to manage his property and land) went to the countryside to collect a percentage of harvested crops from a peasant—an old man—who was supposed to pay back a loan. My uncle, who was 13 years old at the time, was invited to come along. The old man died later of unknown causes.

In 1954, 18 years after the old man died, my uncle was accused of causing his death even though there was no evidence. There was no trial, but my uncle was convicted and accused of being an "evil landlord" by causing the old man's death. He was sentenced to life in prison. The accuser was the old man's grandson, who had joined the People's Liberation Army (PLA, China's military) and turned my uncle over to the marshal court. Communist China does not have true courts of law.

Shortly after the People's Republic of China (PRC) was founded (after the CCP won the civil war), the CCP began confiscating properties and executing people who were landlords and Kuomintang military officers. The movement was called "clean up the bandits and counter-strike on landlords." The marshal court acted as enforcers and handled all the "criminal" cases. All high-ranking Kuomintang officers—above the rank of captain—were executed. Those below the rank of captain—such as lieutenants, sergeants, and common soldiers—ended up in Chinese prisons, sentenced to forced labor camps, or placed under house arrest.

Those who escaped China were able to avoid torture, humiliation, persecution, and death. My mother once told me there were executions every night in Chengdu, where I was born. And one night, 300 hundred people were executed. Anyone who owned land, property, or a business was persecuted and their assets confiscated. Individuals and their family members could be labeled as "class enemies" as well. In the early 1950s, my father's side of the family immediately lost everything because my grandfather's wealth and reputation were so prominent. My mother's side of the family also lost all their assets at the beginning of the Cultural Revolution in 1966.

My uncle had managed to survive 20 years in prison. He could not claim his innocence while he was in prison or in the labor camp, but had to "confess" his "sins" to display a good attitude and show remorse that it was a "vice" to inherit land and assets from his father. The Chinese law for prosecution states: "Leniency is granted for those who confess. Severity is applied to those who resist." He had long denied that he was falsely convicted for causing the death of the old peasant, so his sentence was reduced to 20 years. Under Chinese law, prisoners were forced to work at labor camps after their imprisonment to "reform" their thoughts and behavior to conform with orders from the new leaders and to be accepted by the revolutionary society.

Kaiyu never saw her father again after he was transferred from Beijing to another prison in Sichuan in 1966. She was only 14 years old. She could

not visit him at the new location because she needed a special permit to travel across the country. At that time, people had to get permission from authorities to travel within China. Kaiyu was bullied by children in school and in the neighborhood. For more than two decades, young people were encouraged to cut off relationships with family members who were considered "class enemies," so it was difficult for Kaiyu to keep in contact with her father. I would have asked more questions, but when I looked at my cousin's sad face, I choked up and could not bring myself to speak.

While in the labor camp, my uncle developed a lung disease. He might have survived if he had received proper medical care. The conditions are unimaginable in Chinese labor camps: an intolerable physical and psychological atmosphere, poor nutrition, and contaminated living conditions. Despite being treated inhumanely, my uncle worked hard in the labor camp. He was recognized for his work in breeding healthy rabbits. As a reward for his hard work, the labor camp was going to release my uncle. However, the disease took his life. My uncle was known as a truly good man; one of my uncle's former inmates told this to my uncle's older sister and her family in Chengdu. When my uncle passed away in 1975, my cousin Kaiyu had to undergo "re-education" in the countryside in Inner Mongolia.

My uncle never lost hope while he was still alive. He believed that he would one

day be reunited with his only daughter. He wanted to be a devoted father and to pass on traditional values that had been eradicated under the communist regime to Kaiyu. However, he knew that he would not have a home to return to in Beijing if he were released from prison. It was a beautiful home, a sprawling Chinese-style mansion with 19 rooms and a courtyard, located in the most prestigious area near the Forbidden City, the home of imperial family members and high government officials during the Qing Dynasty. My uncle also understood that his wife had to file for divorce because their situation brought humiliation and pressure from society—from her employer, colleagues, neighbors, and the authorities.

Kaiyu found on a map the town where her father was sentenced to hard labor in Sichuan. It was located on a mountain ridge on the border between Sichuan and Yunnan provinces. My cousin doesn't know where her father was buried. My other cousins made a trip to an unmarked graveyard years later where my uncle was supposedly buried, but they couldn't identify his grave site. Kaiyu has never attempted to find her father's grave. She said revisiting the past would have been too painful for her and she would rather move on with her life. And now she has a son to care for.

My uncle's death has remained hidden and without closure. No one has fought for his rights or against his unjust persecution. I couldn't put the pic-

▲ A propaganda poster featuring how to deal with so-called "enemy of the people" on the streets of Beijing in the late 1966, during the Cultural Revolution.

es of the puzzle together for a long time even though I had heard of this uncle whom I had never met. This is the most devastating fact that I have ever faced since I lost my parents. I went through an extremely painful grieving process. My parents had barely survived the persecution during the Cultural Revolution, but my uncle didn't make it.

My maternal grandfather died within a month from a stroke after he was beaten by the Red Guards, and his family members were also beaten. He committed no crime but only spoke against the communists, saying that people had been better off under the Kuomintang and starved under the communists. This occurred during and after the Great Leap Forward in the early 1960s when China went through a famine. My grandfather was sentenced to house arrest for the rest of his life. In 1979, he was given an official pardon—13 years after his death.

I know that there are more relatives of mine who died either in labor camps after being tortured, or of starvation. During the Cultural Revolution, my father's eldest sister was beaten and forced to kneel down on sharp broken glass in public, and half the hair on her head was shaved off to mark her as a counterrevolutionary. Her son, my first cousin and a college professor, was interrogated and tortured to death. My mother was a target and humiliated in front of many people because she attended the University of West China, a school founded by Christians from the

West. Chinese people had been told for a long time that Americans were the "number one" enemies of China. All my family members who lived during my grandparents' and parents' generations could not escape political persecution from the 1950s through the Cultural Revolution. Who knows how many millions of people died under Communist persecution during that time?

These were crimes against humanity that no one has been held accountable for. Most Communist revolutionaries are dead now. However, their descendants have reaped most of the benefits and privileges and have become one of the wealthiest people in the world. All that was left of my uncle's life was a shirt and a blanket. His death was unjust. But he had been loved and missed dearly. He is not forgotten.

My uncle's death will never be justified. His life was cut short. He never gave up hope for his own freedom and to be reunited with his daughter. The 21 years of his life in prison and in labor camp took everything away from him and his family, including his human rights. His life was totally destroyed. I still wonder why my parents never told my brother and I about my uncle. Perhaps they tried to protect their innocent children from the shocking truths about the evils of communism and what it did to my uncle as a political prisoner.

My uncle's soul has not rested in peace and I want to ask, "Why did this injustice happen to him?" My heart cries out for justice, for an official pardon for my

uncle—because my aunt and cousin were unable to recover from the losses, unable to live the promising life that they deserved. My uncle was innocent and he was accused of a crime he didn't commit. His suffering and death reflected the political system and regime that purposely targeted innocent people who represented capitalism and freedom—they were despised by the Communist revolutionary society. There were people who were buried alive with emperors during the Shang and Zhou Dynasties when China was a warrior state (1555–256 BC). Similarly, my uncle and the millions of political prisoners were sacrificed to worship the founder of the People's Republic of China, Mao Zedong. Sadly, my uncle's tragic life and death is not unique. History repeats itself.

I decided to write down my uncle's story because the world should know the Chinese Communist regime has committed crimes against humanity and killed millions of innocent people in China. My uncle was one of the them. I want others to learn the truth. The financial success of modern China is built on the bloodshed of millions of innocent Chinese people like my uncle—this is the price of communism.

Kechun Li was born on Nov. 28, 1958, in China. She is an actress, known for appearing in "Dam Street" (2005), "The Last Aristocrats" (1989), "Zhao Qian Sun Li" (1982), and "Duo cai de chen guang" (1984). Currently, she resides in California.



NEWS ANALYSIS

HUAWEI AND THE CHINESE REGIME’S COUNTERATTACKS: 5 KEY REVELATIONS

TANG HAO

While the U.S.-China trade war seems to be cooling down, the United States’ war on Chinese telecom giant Huawei is just getting started. How Huawei and the Chinese communist regime respond to the crackdown reveals key inner workings between the regime and Huawei and what is at stake for the regime.

Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou, who was arrested on a U.S. extradition request at the Vancouver airport in December 2018, headed back to the courts as part of her extradition proceedings on March 6.

A few days before, on March 1, Canada’s Department of Justice announced it is allowing judicial proceedings in her extradition case to go ahead. The Chinese Embassy in Ottawa issued a swift response, calling it a “political persecution” against Huawei.

Also on the same day, a number of American journalists disclosed that Huawei has invited them to all-expenses-paid trips to China.

Buying Public Opinion

Washington Post journalist Josh Rogin posted an invitation letter from Huawei on Twitter, inviting him to “join a select group of U.S. journalists” to visit the company’s facilities in Shenzhen and “meet with various Huawei executives, tour their various product lines, and hold off-record discussions on the various challenges the company is facing in the U.S.”

The letter also asked Rogin not to talk about the invitation with others due to the “limited number of spots” available for the trip.

While taking such trips are a common

Beijing’s use of media, legal, and psychological warfare to protect Huawei show that Huawei and the Chinese Communist Party are working as a team to target the United States and Canada.

occurrence in the Chinese news industry, accepting free junkets for journalists is a major line not to be crossed in the West, as it could impact the objectivity of the journalist.

Declaring his rejection of the offer on Twitter, Rogin said, “Any American journalist who takes Huawei money should be ashamed and shamed.”

Other journalists, including Jonathan Landay from Reuters and Ana Swanson from The New York Times and others, also received the same invitation, but they said their letters were sent by the Chinese Embassy.

Launching a Legal War

In addition to launching a media war, Huawei has also launched a legal war.

On March 3, Meng filed a civil case to sue the government of Canada, the border agency, and the RCMP, saying she was detained, searched, and interrogated before being told that she was under arrest.

On March 7, Huawei launched a lawsuit against the U.S. government for prohibiting federal agencies from using the company’s products.

Psychological War

Days after Canada gave the green light for Meng’s extradition hearings to proceed, China accused the Canadian citizens it had detained, Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, of stealing state secrets.

The detention of the two Canadians, along with the escalation of the sentence of another Canadian charged with drug smuggling to the death sentence, are widely seen as China’s retaliation of Meng’s arrest in Canada.

Most recently, China blocked canal shipments from a Winnipeg-based company.



Meng Wanzhou at conference in Milan, Italy, in May 2018.

Revelations

Beijing’s use of media, legal, and psychological warfare to protect Huawei show that Huawei and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) are working as a team to target the United States and Canada.

A lot can be observed from the collective action of the CCP and Huawei and their inner workings as they try to launch a counterattack against the West.

Observation 1: The Close Relationship Between the CCP and Huawei

Although both Huawei and the CCP have repeatedly claimed that Huawei is a private company and there is no formal link between the two, the actions the CCP has taken have uncovered the thin veil between them. After Meng was arrested, the Party’s diplomatic and propaganda apparatus began to constantly attack the Canadian government, Canadian citizens were detained, and the Chinese Embassy in the United States sent out an invitation to media in the name of Huawei.

Founded by former People’s Liberation Army (PLA) officer Ren Zhengfei, Huawei is said to have links to the military, the Chinese public security apparatus, and former Chinese regime leader Jiang Zemin. These strong connections mean that

many Party elites have a lot at stake with Huawei. What’s more, having occupied an executive position in the company for a long time, Meng must have a lot of confidential information that the Chinese regime doesn’t want to get into the hands of U.S. prosecutors.

Observation 2: The Strategic Dependence of CCP and Huawei

China’s PLA first launched a media, legal, and psychological warfare strategy in 2003, employing it as a core tactic toward Taiwan. The state strategy is now being applied to Huawei’s battle against the United States and Canada.

The fact that the strategy is being used by the CCP for Huawei shows the level of importance the Party places on the company.

The company is part of many of the regime’s monitoring and surveillance projects, including the Golden Shield Project, the Skynet Project, and the Xueliang Project. It is also a key asset in Beijing’s ambition of dominance in the emerging 5G technology.

Observation 3: The Chinese Regime Wants to Showcase Its Authority Domestically

China’s economy is deteriorating and the

regime is aware that many in the Party are not satisfied with how the U.S.-China trade issues are being handled.

The authorities, therefore, want to use their propping up of Huawei as a sign of strength domestically.

Observation 4: CCP Wants the Issue to Be Part of Trump-Xi Trade Negotiations

According to media reports, U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping could meet by the end of this month to reach a trade deal. By making a lot of noise about Huawei, the CCP wants the company and the case of Meng to be part of the discussions in the trade negotiations.

Observation 5: Creating a Wedge Between Canada and the United States

Even though Meng was arrested at the request of the United States, it was Canadian citizens and industries that China targeted, trying to put psychological pressure on Canada to raise objections to the United States that Canada has been caught in the middle.

This goal is in line with the CCP’s strategy of creating a wedge between Western alliances in order to divide and conquer.

HUMAN RIGHTS

US AMBASSADOR CALLS ON BEIJING TO STOP ITS WAR ON FAITH

NICOLE HAO

While visiting Hong Kong, U.S. ambassador for religious freedom Sam Brownback delivered a speech at the Foreign Correspondents’ Club calling on Beijing to end all forms of religious persecution in China.

“Chinese government is at war with faith. It is a war they will not win,” Brownback said on March 8. He told the audience that people in China are not allowed to go to church, worship their gods, buy a Bible, nor name their children with religious-style names, risking detention in internment camps or prison.

“Since 1999, the United States has designated China as a country of particular concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998,” Sam Brownback added, referring to an annual assessment of religious freedom conducted by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. China is continually ranked as “of particular concern,” which is the most serious category for violators of religious freedom.

Persecuted faiths include Catholics, Muslims, Tibetans, and practitioners of the banned spiritual group Falun Gong.

Brownback especially highlighted the plight of Falun Gong adherents, who continue to be arrested, tortured, and killed for their beliefs.

“The Chinese government detained and reportedly tortured Falun Gong practitioners with credible estimates putting the number of Falun Gong practitioners in prison in the thousands,” Brownback said.

Citing estimates by Falun Gong, Brownback noted that in 2018 alone, at least 69 Falun Gong practitioners died in Chinese custody or due to injuries sustained while in custody.

Falun Gong was introduced to the public in 1992 by Li Hongzhi. Based on the moral principles of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance, the traditional Chinese spiritual discipline incorporates Buddhist and Daoist teachings and includes slow, meditative exercises.

Spreading by word of mouth, the practice counted more than 100 million adherents by the spring of 1999, according to official estimates. Fearing that the popularity would threaten the Chinese Communist Party’s rule, then-Party leader Jiang Zemin launched a nationwide persecution in July 1999.

Since then, hundreds of thousands are estimated to have been arrested and detained within prisons, labor camps, brainwashing centers, and other detention facilities.

In recent years, allegations have emerged that the Chinese regime oversees an organ transplant industry whereby organs are forcibly harvested from prisoners of conscience, including Falun Gong practitioners and Uyghur ethnic minorities, most of whom practice Islam.

Brownback highlighted this issue in his speech. “Data from brave persistent researchers raise concerning questions regarding the organ transplantation system in China, with voluntary donations unable to meet the demand. This is a truly horrifying prospect.”

“[The] Chinese government is at war with faith. It is a war they will not win.”

Sam Brownback, U.S. ambassador for religious freedom

Brownback asked the Beijing government to listen to its people. “[It] must address the whereabouts of missing [Falun Gong] practitioners.”

Brownback promised to push Beijing to end the abuse and mistreatment of Falun Gong practitioners.

He believes that one day, Chinese people will gain the freedom of faith.

“The gates of religious freedom will fly open in China and the iron curtain of religious persecution will come down,” Brownback said. “[The] Chinese government is currently on the wrong side of history.”

Sam Brownback, 62, is an American attorney, politician, and diplomat. He was governor of Kansas from 2011 to 2018, and a U.S. senator from 1996 to 2011.

In February 2018, Brownback was named the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom. In that role, he heads the Office of International Religious Freedom in the U.S. Department of State, and is the highest-ranking U.S. diplomat on international religious freedom dedicated to bring greater religious freedom to the world.

Brownback visited Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates, before his trip to Hong Kong. He said he would like to visit an internment camp in Xinjiang, the northwestern region of China where authorities have detained up to a million Uyghur and other Muslim minority groups. Survivors of the camps describe torture methods and political indoctrination in an attempt to force them into giving up their faith.



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HUMAN RIGHTS

UYGHUR DIASPORA RECEIVE PHONE CALLS FROM XINJIANG RELATIVES DISSUADING THEM FROM ADVOCACY

ISABEL VAN BRUGEN

Family members of Uyghurs who have been “disappeared”—most likely detained in China’s vast network of “vocational re-education centers”—have begun to receive “proof of life” video calls from their loved ones, according to first-hand accounts.

On March 1, Tahir Mutallip Qahiri, 38, was initially relieved when he received a video call via WeChat from his 69-year-old father, Mutallip Sidiq Qahiri—once a prominent Uyghur scholar and professor—who had suddenly disappeared from his home in Kashgar, Western Xinjiang, last September.

The pair had lost contact almost 12 months before his disappearance. Once Tahir learned that his father wasn’t at home, he began tirelessly campaigning and contacting Chinese authorities for information on his father’s whereabouts. But when Mutallip started demanding that Tahir stop advocating for his freedom, Tahir realized that his



Uyghur protesters in Urumqi, Xinjiang region, China, on July 7, 2009.

father had most likely been threatened before being allowed to call.

Tahir believes his father was forced by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to phone him, in what appears to be a wider attempt to silence those who are speaking up about their detained or “disappeared” family members in Xinjiang.

Tahir had earlier learned through a contact in the police department that Mutallip was due to appear before the

People’s Court in February, after being accused of creating propaganda for separatist activities against the state.

Given the widespread crackdown against Uyghur intellectuals and cultural leaders in the region, the family believes that Mutallip had been targeted for publishing 20 books on the Uyghur and Arabic language throughout the span of his career, before he retired in 2010.

In video footage shown exclusively to The Epoch Times, Mutallip tells his son, who secretly taped their 47-minute conversation, to forget everything he had said about his well-being and for Tahir to thank the CCP. If not, Tahir would be disowned.

“My father said, ‘Look, I want you to write back to all those authorities telling them that everything is perfect’ ... that I made a mistake, that I had lied, or had heard lies about him, and to apologize for causing inconvenience,” Tahir told The Epoch Times in a phone interview from Germany.

“

Looking at him physically, I could clearly tell that he went through some hardship. He was like skin to bone. He was really skinny and his head was shaved like a prisoner.

Tahir Mutallip Qahiri, Uyghur activist

“Looking at him physically, I could clearly tell that he went through some hardship. He was really skinny, and his head was shaved like a prisoner.”

When Tahir asked his father why he hadn’t contacted him in 17 months, Mutallip said his health had deteriorated.

“He said he didn’t want me to be worried or to hinder my studies. It was a pretty lame excuse basically,” Tahir explained.

Despite his worries, Tahir said that the “proof of life” call was a positive thing, given that he hadn’t been able to talk to his father since October 2017.

The video call follows a viral social-media campaign under the hashtag #McTooUyghur, where hundreds of members of the Uyghur diaspora have demanded “proof of life” videos of their family members from the CCP.

Escalating Crackdown on Uyghur Intellectuals

At least 338 Uyghur intellectuals have been “interned, imprisoned, or forcibly disappeared” by the CCP since April 2017, a January report by the Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP) found.

“These people are leaders and offer a focal point for Uyghurs, and so to target them is really an effective way of accelerating assimilative processes but it is also a way of breaking Uyghur identity at the same time,” UHRP se-

nior researcher Henryk Szadziowski told The Epoch Times.

Mutallip, who taught Turkic and Uyghur literature at Kashgar University from 1983 to 1991, is best known for his 900-page work, titled “An Onomasticon of the Modern Uyghur Language” (2010), which is considered central to Uyghur Studies.

Beijing has carried out a “decades-long campaign to systematically eradicate Uyghur language from public life, which includes the denial of Uyghur language education in the regional curriculum,” the UHRP report details.

According to figures quoted by the U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China and the U.N., as many as one million Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities are believed to be detained in China’s reeducation facilities, which Beijing says are to “educate and transform” those whom the CCP deems at risk of the “three evil forces” of “extremism, separatism, and terrorism.”

But mounting evidence suggests that detainees are being exploited as forced labor in the camps-turned-training centers. Former Uyghur detainees have told The Epoch Times that they were subject to torture, forced to denounce their faith, and forced to pledge loyalty to the CCP while held for unknown reasons in often overcrowded facilities.

“It is part of a coordinated effort to undermine and eliminate a distinct Uyghur identity as rapidly as possible in an

As many as 1 million Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities are believed to be detained in China’s reeducation facilities.

unprecedentedly aggressive forced assimilation campaign,” the UHRP said.

Uyghur Diaspora on ‘High Alert’

Arslan Hidayat, son-in-law of the prominent Uyghur comedian Adil Mijit, who has been missing since November last year, told The Epoch Times that the Uyghur diaspora are now preparing themselves to receive more video calls from loved ones.

“Many people are receiving ‘proof of life’ video calls or videos, and it’s pretty much the same message, where family members are pledging allegiance to the CCP, saying ‘How dare you go to the media and talk about the situation in Xinjiang. We don’t know you, we disown you,’” he said in a phone interview from Istanbul.

“Everyone in the Uyghur diaspora are actually on high alert, because they could expect a video call at any time.”

“I’ve told my brother-in-law [Adil Mijit’s son] to keep his cameras charged and ready to go, just in case we receive a similar call.”

Tahir believes the WeChat video call was Beijing attempting to silence his ongoing efforts advocating for his father’s freedom.

“What’s crazy is I have clear evidence that he could have been put to death for separatism and now suddenly, he’s back at home. I think the reason that they’re calling me is to reassure me so that I stop my advocacy,” he said.

THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH *and* TRADITION

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