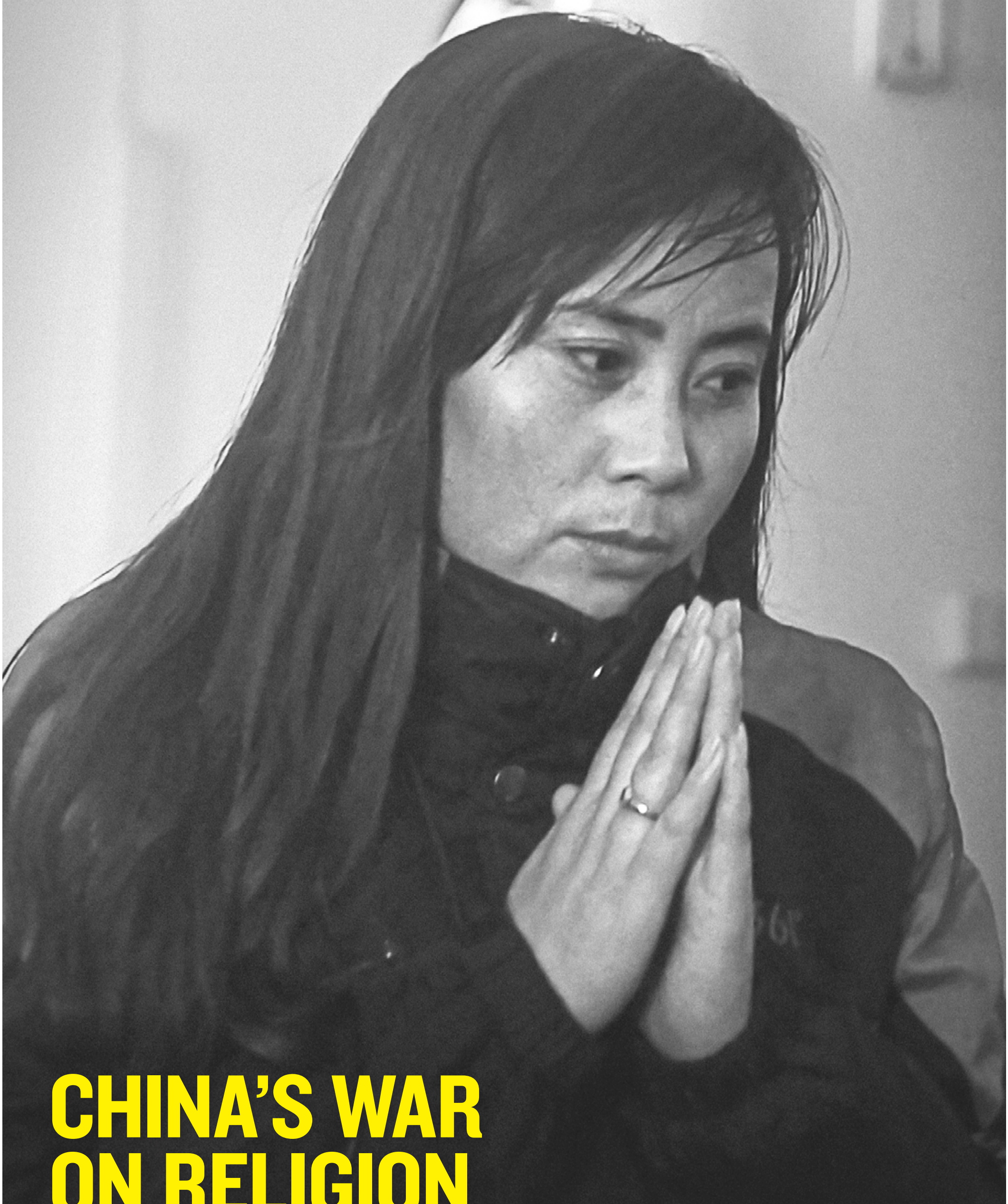


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CHINA'S WAR ON RELIGION

WHAT CHINA CALLS 'SINICIZATION'
IS WHAT HITLER CALLED 'NAZIFICATION'

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OPINION

CHINA'S WAR ON RELIGION

WHAT CHINA CALLS 'SINICIZATION' IS WHAT HITLER CALLED 'NAZIFICATION'

STEVEN W. MOSHER

For religious believers in China, things are rapidly going from bad to worse. And the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has made it clear that its "sinicization" campaign—turning churches into an arm of the state—is only just getting started.

The present wave of persecution began last February, when harsh new restrictions on religious activity were put in place. It has continued to pick up speed in the months since, as churches and mosques have been destroyed or defaced.

Catholics have been a particular target, with a number of bishops and priests arrested and some of China's most famous shrines torn down. As one underground priest recently put it, "Catholicism in China is facing calamity."

Other Christian denominations are faring little better. The Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu, for example, was attacked on Dec. 9. Over 160 members of the congregation were arrested, along with their pastor, Wang Yi, who has been charged with "inciting subversion of state power."

China's Muslims are also under siege, especially the Turkish-speaking minorities of the Far West. Over the past year, more than a million Uyghurs and Kazakhs—out of a total population of only 10 million—have been sent to re-education camps. There they are required to speak only Chinese, forced to eat pork and drink alcohol, and told that all religions are nothing more than superstition.

The persecution of Tibetans and Falun Gong adherents is also reaching new heights. Even China's tiny Jewish community, centered in the ancient city of Kaifeng, has not escaped the wrath of the authorities. In an eerie reprise of Kristallnacht, the authorities trashed their makeshift synagogue (they are forbidden from building a

new one), ripping Hebrew scriptural quotations off the walls and filling in the ritual bath with dirt and stones.

It is important to understand that the Party is not beating down believers because these oppose the official state ideology of "socialism with Chinese characteristics." The vast majority accept Communist rule. They just want to be left alone to practice their faiths in peace—a right supposedly guaranteed by the PRC's Constitution.

The Pastor of the Early Rain Covenant Church, for example, has explicitly said that, following the Bible, he accepts and respects "the fact that this Communist regime has been allowed by God to rule temporarily." It didn't keep him out of jail.

The Catholic Church has gone even further in its efforts to appease China, entering into a still-secret agreement with the Communist Party last September over the appointment of bishops. But the Party's war on religion has continued.

In fact, not long after the Sino-Vatican agreement was signed, the great shrine dedicated to Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows in Shanxi Province had its statues removed. A local Party official explained that they had to go because the shrine had "too many statues."

This is laughable. China is literally littered with statues of past Communist leaders. The problem with those that lined the approach to Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows shrine is that they were the wrong statues. They depicted angels and saints, rather than Commie greats like Mao Zedong or Deng Xiaoping. Because of this, they had to go.

Even worse, the shrine of Our Lady of the Mountain in Yunnan Province was razed to the ground. Why is the government so determined to deface or destroy such centers of public Catholic devotion?

The real issue, in my view, was that tens of

The Bible is being rewritten under Party supervision to emphasize loyalty to the state.

A worn bible at the government-sanctioned Catholic cathedral in Xincun, Henan Province on Aug. 12, 2018.

thousands of pilgrims from all over China visited these shrines each year to pay tribute to the Mother of God. Such a public display of loyalty to something other than the Party and its leaders went directly counter to its push for sinicization and could not be allowed to continue.

Some Westerners still seem to believe that sinicization is merely intended to free Chinese Christianity and other religions from foreign entanglements. What it really is, however, is a far-reaching political campaign intended to transform all religions in China into instruments of state control.

This is why the CCP has imposed a whole host of new restrictions on religious activity within China's borders. And it is also why the state is aggressively invading the sanctuaries of churches it allows to stand.

The authorities are appointing church leaders, including Catholic bishops, who state openly that their primary loyalty is to the Party, rather than to their faith. The Bible is being rewritten under Party supervision to emphasize loyalty to the state. Pastors and priests are being ordered to hang the PRC flag and the portraits of Communist Party leaders above their altars. Those who offer any resistance to the state's encroachments are accused, like Pastor Wang, of seeking to subvert the state.

This is not the first time this has happened. After taking power in 1933, Hitler embarked on what he called Nazification. In order to bring the churches into line with the state, pastors and priests were ordered to hang swastikas around their altars, and



A woman prays at a Catholic church in Tianjin on June 7, 2015.

display his picture in prominent places. Theologians were recruited to retranslate the Bible so that it conformed to Nazi thinking. And those who resisted these encroachments were arrested and charged with treason.

The ultimate goal of Nazification was the worship of the Third Reich and its leader, Adolf Hitler. Facing intensifying persecution, nearly all of China's Christian churches are more than willing to "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's, and what is God's unto God."

Steven W. Mosher is the President of the Population Research Institute and the author of *Bully of Asia: Why China's Dream is the New Threat to World Order*.

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

CHINESE REGIME

BEIJING PUSHES PLAN FOR EDUCATION MODERNIZATION BY 2035

NICOLE HAO

China wants to accomplish its science and tech development goals by solidifying the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) grasp of the education system, while exporting its influence overseas, through education initiatives in "One Belt, One Road" partner countries, according to a new directive.

The Party's Central Committee, an about 200-member body of elite officials, and the cabinet-like State Council co-announced "China Education Modernization 2035" for all education agencies and organizations in the country on Feb. 23.

The plan, published on state-run media Xinhua, sets eight targets to be achieved by 2035, including providing quality pre-school, primary school, and middle school education; increasing high school enrollment; strengthening "political and ideological education" within higher education; and establishing a vocational education system for adults. Political education involves learning about Party ideology and policies.

It also clearly dictates the education system "to work for the CCP's ruling," "adhere to the Party's leadership," and facilitate "the Party to lead the education system in all aspects."

The plan includes ways to increase China's "competitiveness," focusing on science and technology development, which has been the Chinese regime's area of interest in many economic policies, in order to become a tech manufacturing superpower. This includes building "world-class of universities for each academic subject," "setting up a group of world-class science and technology innovation bases," and forming

"a complete chain for innovation from study, research, design, application, to industry." The Chinese regime has a pattern of acquiring intellectual property via academic espionage, including by recruiting top engineers and scientists around the world to work in China.

In the realm of foreign affairs, the plan asks education agencies to push One Belt, One Road (OBOR)—Beijing's foreign-policy initiative to build influence by financing infrastructure projects around the world—by "sharing operational standards and experiences with other countries."

In recent years, universities in the United States, Canada, France, and Sweden have closed Confucius Institutes on their campuses.

The National Defense Authorization Act signed into law by U.S. President Donald Trump last year bars U.S. universities from using Pentagon funding resources for any program involving Confucius Institutes.

Education Minister Chen Baosheng published an article in the state-run *People's Daily* on Feb. 22, emphasizing the Party's role in all universities, including foreign-invested ones. There are at least nine foreign-invested universities, including one set up by Duke University in Kunshan City, Jiangsu Province.

Chen asked all schools to promote Chinese leader Xi Jinping's Party ideology, "the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics" in all academic fields, course material, and textbooks.

"Ideologically, all teachers and students in China's universities must be on the same page with the CCP's Central Committee."

CHINA SOCIETY

SHALE GAS MINING IN CHINA'S SICHUAN PROVINCE SPARKS PROTESTS FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKES AND DEATHS

OLIVIA LI

A decade after the devastating Wenchuan earthquake struck the southwestern Chinese province of Sichuan, locals in Rong County are protesting "earthquakes" that they believe are manmade.

The quakes have caused at least four deaths and many injuries in the county, according to locals. Residents of Rong County blame the extraction of shale gas in the area for triggering the disasters.

On Feb. 24, many people swarmed the streets in front of the county government offices to protest. The next day, about 10,000 protesters clashed with police, after which the county head announced that the shale project would be halted.

Man-Made Disaster?

China's Earthquake Network Center recorded three earthquakes over magnitude 4 in Rong County over two days, including a magnitude 4.7 quake in the morning of Feb. 24 and two more on Feb. 25 of magnitudes 4.3 and 4.9.

A local woman surnamed Chen told *The Epoch Times* that she had heard of at least four deaths in the area due to collapsing houses or objects, and that she herself was nearly crushed.

Ms. Zhao, a villager in the township of Gaoshan, also said that there were four deaths in Rong County. She added that there was another death at a mine,

but the authorities quickly seized the corpse for funeral and were suppressing information about the event.

According to Mr. Li, he witnessed the deaths in Gaoshan, saying that two women had been killed by falling objects around 1 p.m. on Feb. 25, when the second earthquake struck. One of them had greeted him just minutes earlier.

The shale gas reserves in Rong County are 5.18 trillion cubic meters, or about one-sixth of the total estimated shale gas reserves in China.

On April 12, 2016, the Sichuan provincial authorities issued their "2016 Implementation Plan for the Development of Shale Gas Industry in Sichuan Province." The plan aimed to produce 2.5 billion cubic meters per year in the province and set a target for Zigong City, which administers Rong County, to produce 500 million cubic meters per year by 2018.

On Feb. 24, thousands of people held banners and took to the streets to protest. The next day, 10,000 gathered in front of the county government building. At some point during the demonstrations, protesters smashed the front gate.

A number of people who took part in the protests were arrested, including children who damaged the gate to the government office. According to Ms. Wu, the saleswoman, the number of protesters increased even after arrests had been made. "The public is outraged," she said.

stated purpose of "promoting Chinese language and culture," as the United States and other governments have cited concerns about their stifling of academic speech critical of the Chinese regime, as well as their exploitation of mainland Chinese students to conduct espionage.

Confucius Classrooms are akin to Confucius Institutes for overseas primary schools, middle schools, and high schools. The Chinese regime has set up 548 Confucius Institutes and 1,193 Confucius Classrooms in 154 countries, according to a December 2018 report by Xinhua.

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"Ideologically, all teachers and students in China's universities must be on the same page with the CCP's Central Committee."



GREG BAKER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

CHINA SOCIETY

CHINA'S ART MARKET RIFE WITH BRIBERY, CORRUPTION

NICOLE HAO

News Analysis

An artist's position in China isn't based just on the quality of his or her art—someone with the right political connections will see his work jump in value if he becomes an official within the Chinese communist regime.

China's painting and calligraphy market went into turmoil recently after the China Artists Association (CAA) changed its board members for the new term that began on Dec. 23, 2018.

Though the CAA and China Calligraphers Association (CCA) are considered nongovernmental trade organizations on paper, they are, in fact, under the direct supervision of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, an advisory body to the Party leadership.

"The prices of artwork by the former CAA chairman and former vice-chairman has dropped 65 to 75 percent, while prices for artists on the newly created board has increased dramatically," *China Times* reported Feb. 11. "Prices of the artists' artwork are higher if his or her position is higher." *China Times* is a partially state-run news agency.

The biggest increase happens when an artist becomes the CAA chairman. The report quoted

Some artists are willing to bribe higher-ups in order to become an official and generate more value for their work

Xiao Yunru, a consultant of the Shaanxi Province branch of the CCA, as saying: "For one term, which is five years, the value will skyrocket. The income from selling his artwork will be hundred times that of his salary."

Meanwhile, Liu Yi, a Beijing art dealer told the *China Times*, "I have two former CAA vice chairmen's paintings. I bought them for a friend [when the painter was vice chairman]. Now my friend asks me to sell the paintings, but I cannot find a buyer even with a 50 percent discount."

Liu added that buyers only value the painter's title and position, not the painting itself. State-run media *China Economic* similarly reported on Feb. 18 that artwork value can be categorized into different levels based on the artist's position within the CAA and CCA. The report also noted that within the art market, few people buy artwork from artists who aren't CAA or CCA officials, resulting in artists striving to reach those coveted positions.

Some artists are willing to bribe higher-ups in order to become an official and generate more value for their work. To meet such demands for bribes, "one provincial CCA has 64 vice-chairmen," the report said.

China Times previously reported in February

2013 that the positions aren't free, stating, "Artists must pay a sponsorship fee to national galleries after being appointed to be vice chairman or higher positions." These galleries, which belong to China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, are located throughout the country.

The Chinese regime's anti-corruption authorities have taken notice of this phenomenon. In a June 2015 report, *China Economic* quoted the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), then the Chinese Communist Party's chief anti-corruption watchdog, as saying: "Each CCA and CAA chairmen are billionaires, which has damaged [the Party's] image of integrity and honesty that was created by the anti-corruption movement. It has deepened the gap between the rich and the poor, and enlarged social problems."

That year, the CCDI published several articles about problems within the CCA and CCA bureaucracy, but didn't arrest or punish any officials.

Zhang Xiaogang has been one of the most famous and wealthiest oil painters in China since the 1990s. The total revenue of his artwork reached 170 million yuan (\$25.12 million) in 2006.

Zhu Qi, an art critic and independent curator, told *China Times* in 2013: "But Zhang Xiaogang's annual income is much less than some Chinese

WANG ZHAO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



A Chinese woman takes photos of her reflection on an artwork on display at the China National Art Museum in Beijing on Oct. 21, 2012.

painters. Many Chinese painter-officials earn tens of millions, even thousands of millions of yuan per year. They are provincial or higher levels CAA chairmen and gallery presidents."

Liu Dawei, the CAA chairman from December 2008 to December 2018, was on the list of *Hurun* magazine's (akin to *Forbes*) Most Successful Chinese Artists Alive Today since 2009.

Liu first entered the list at 31st place, with an annual income of 14.55 million yuan (\$2.15 million). In 2015, he ranked fourth with an annual income of 248.8 million yuan (\$36.77 million). In 2018, Liu earned 20.46 million yuan (\$3 million) and ranked at No. 36.

TECHNOLOGY

HOW CHINA POACHES TAIWANESE SEMICONDUCTOR EXPERTS TO FULFILL TECH AMBITION

XIAOXU SEAN LIN

Recent media reports say China is proposing to boost imports of U.S. semiconductors to \$200 billion in the coming years, as part of negotiations in the ongoing trade dispute with the United States.

The Wall Street Journal reports that this would be a five-fold increase from current numbers.

Semiconductor chips, which power almost every electronic device, are already one of China's largest import categories by value.

The semiconductor purchase proposal highlights a reality in China: Beijing continues to lag in terms of domestic manufacturing of the most advanced semiconductors, despite the state's heavy investments.

However, Beijing is closing the technology gap fast, because of a push to lure away Taiwanese engineers to work for Chinese chipmakers.

"Chinese companies are offering two to three times [Taiwanese engineers'] current salaries to work for them," said an unnamed Taiwanese engineer in a recent interview with Japanese media Nikkei.

Taiwan is home to some of the world's most advanced semiconductor factories, most notably, the world's largest contract chipmaker, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC).

One of the most high-profile Taiwanese semiconductor talents ever recruited by China is Liang Mong-song.

In August 2018, Taiwan's Central News Agency reported that Nanya Technology, a Taiwanese maker of DRAM chips, lost 48 of its senior experts to China in less than two years. DRAMs are semiconductor memory chips within digital products that store data.

Inotera Memories, another Taiwanese DRAM maker, saw 400 of its employees leave for China after the company was acquired by U.S. tech company Micron in 2016.

In a July 2018 article that cited unidentified head-hunting companies, Taiwan's leading financial publication Business Weekly estimated that there are about 2,000 Taiwanese employees at Chinese semiconductor companies in mainland China. Another 1,000 Taiwanese work at the Taiwan branch offices of Chinese companies.

Recruitment Efforts

In August 2018, two chip industry promotion agencies run by China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology jointly published a white paper on talent recruitment goals. The paper pointed out that to sustain China's desired industry growth, by 2020, the country would need a total of 720,000 IC (integrated circuit, the term for placing electronic components onto semiconductors) qualified workers. The shortage would amount to 400,000, given that there were only 320,000 well-versed workers at the end of 2017, and less than 30,000 Chinese graduates enter the IC sector every year.

The paper called for more efforts in recruiting top IC experts from overseas, as well as offering more

financial incentives such as stock options and other bonuses.

Different city governments also have their own recruitment packages.

For example, the Quanzhou municipal government, located in southern China's Fujian Province, offers a stipend program for workers in the city's IC sector. Companies could nominate candidates to this program. If the candidate is approved by the government, he or she would receive 1,200 yuan (\$178) per month to compensate living expenses if their monthly salary falls in the range of 2,001 to 16,000 yuan (\$1,786 to \$2,381). For a monthly salary higher than 16,001 yuan, the person would receive a monthly stipend of 1,600 yuan (\$238).

Quanzhou authorities have also set aside 50 million yuan (\$7.44 million) to establish a training center, where junior engineers and recent graduates receive specific job training.

The city hired Liu Chung-huang, former president of Taiwan's top school for training semiconductor engineers, National Tsing Hua University, to head the center. The center would hire overseas experts, especially those from Taiwan, to train local IC talents, the authorities said.

National Tsing Hua University is located within the island's biggest science and technology park in Hsinchu City, akin to Silicon Valley.

The Hefei municipal government, located in eastern China's Anhui Province, also provides stipends for living expenses, periodic disbursements of 50,000 to 100,000 (\$7,440 to \$14,882), to approved talents who work in the city's IC sector. The stipend program lasts for three years.

Meanwhile, the Kunshan municipal government, located in southeastern Jiangsu Province, encourages local banks to provide loans to Taiwanese tech companies investing in the city. The government would partially shoulder financial losses incurred should the Taiwanese firms be unable to repay the loans.

Star Engineer

One of the most high-profile Taiwanese semiconductor talents ever recruited by China is Liang Mong-song.

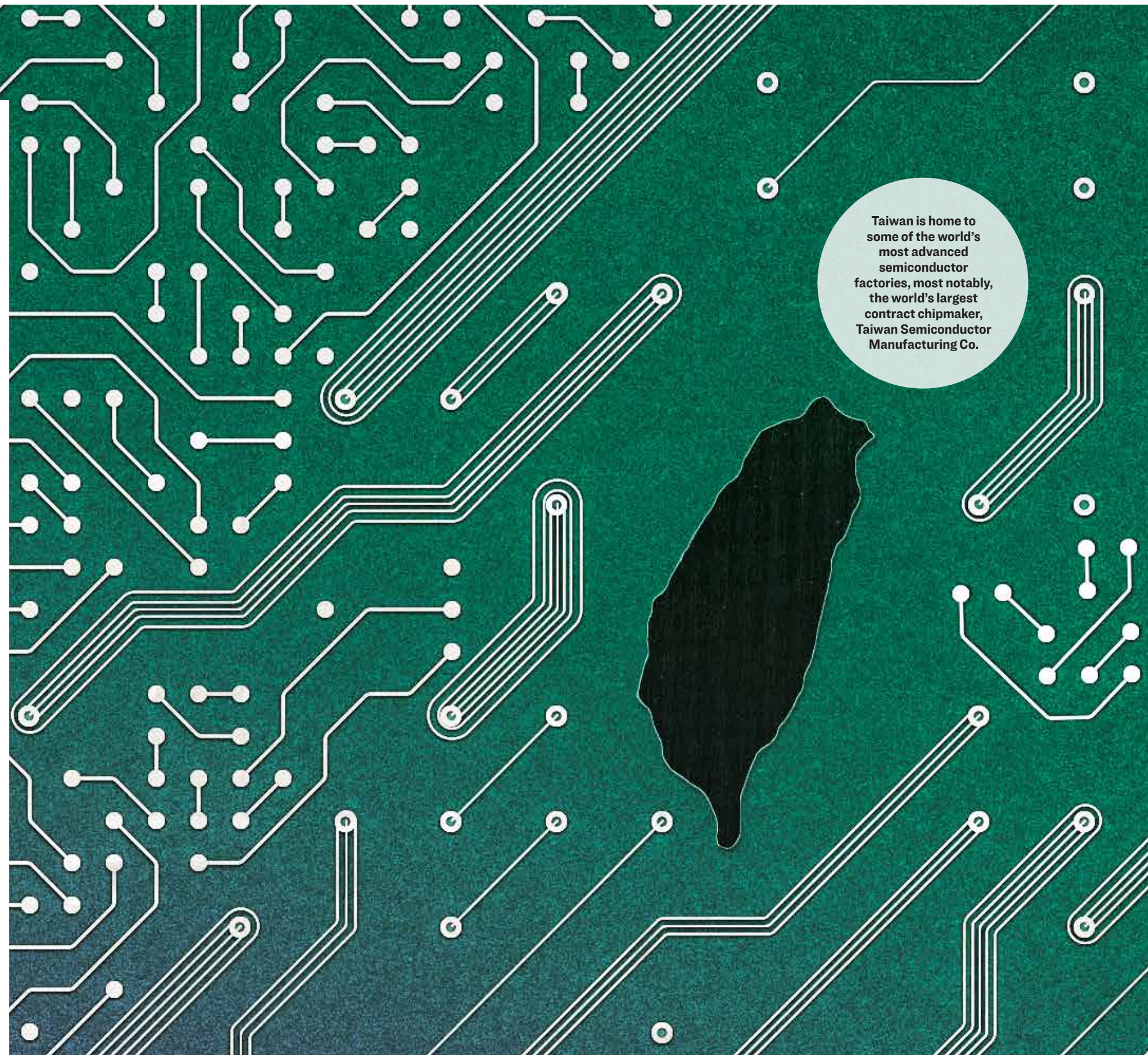
Liang was a senior director in research and development at TSMC, where he worked for 17 years before leaving the company in February 2009. He then taught at the electrical engineering department of Taiwan's Tsing Hua University for six months, before moving on to a teaching post at South Korea's Sungkyunkwan University.

According to Taiwan's leading financial magazine CommonWealth, Liang was poached by Samsung and became chief technology officer at the South Korean tech giant's LSI division in 2011. LSI, or large-scale integration, is a key process to making semiconductors, which involves putting together thousands of transistors onto a single microchip.

Because of Liang's expertise, Samsung was able to beat TSMC in developing the 16-nanometer (nm) and 14-nm chip-making technology, according to CommonWealth.

As chips reduce in size on the nanometer scale, they become more powerful and advanced.

Then, in October 2017, Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation (SMIC), a state-backed semiconductor foundry headquartered in



Taiwan is home to some of the world's most advanced semiconductor factories, most notably, the world's largest contract chipmaker, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.

Shanghai, announced that Liang had been appointed the company's co-chief executive officer. According to multiple Chinese news sites, Liang earned a yearly salary of roughly \$200,000 after taxes.

In a June 2018 report, Taiwanese news site TechNews noticed two significant changes at SMIC after Liang joined the Chinese foundry. First, SMIC's yield rate—the rate at which semiconductors are successfully produced—for its 28-nm chips significantly improved. Second, SMIC announced that it had made a major breakthrough in improving the yield rate for the 14-nm process.

According to TechNews, citing unidentified sources, Liang persuaded his former Taiwanese and South Korean colleagues to work at SMIC, which made the 14-nm breakthrough possible.

Taiwanese media reported that SMIC is set to start mass production of its 14-nm process technology this year—a first for China's chip-making industry.

Despite SMIC's recent advancements, TSMC continues to lead the technology race. It will be the sole manufacturer of Apple's A13 chips, which will power the U.S. giant's 2019 iPhones, according to Taiwanese daily newspaper DigTWP. Last year's Apple iPhones contain A12 processors made by TSMC's 7-nm process.

Last year, two former TSMC employees, one surnamed Wu and another with the name of Zhao, were charged by Taiwanese prosecutors for allegedly trying to transfer trade secrets for the intention of providing them to their future Chinese employers, both chip-making firms.

CHINESE INFILTRATION

CHINESE AMERICANS CALL FOR EXPOSURE AND PUNISHMENT OF COMMUNIST SPIES

OLIVIA LI

Four pro-democracy Chinese groups submitted a petition letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Los Angeles on Feb. 19 to expose the activities of Chinese communist spies in the Los Angeles area and to call on the U.S. government to pay more attention to China's human rights violations and bring communist spies to justice.

Members from the Local Committee of China Democracy Party, the Los Angeles Chinese Democracy Platform, the Social Democratic Party, and Federation for a Democratic China took part in a demonstration in front of the FBI building, holding up anti-communist banners that read "Expel the Chinese Communist Party," "Stop Being a Communist Spy" and "Bring Meng Wanzhou to Justice."

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We must stop the CCP's further infiltration. The American and Canadian governments must find ways to curb the CCP's aggressive ideological expansion.

Yao Cheng,
pro-democracy activist

According to the main organizer of the event, Yao Cheng, the demonstration was part of a global "anti-red devil" activity—in addition to Los Angeles, demonstrations were also held in New York, Washington, San Francisco, Las Vegas, and in the Canadian city of Toronto on the same day.

In his speech, Yao said the "red devil" refers to the Chinese communist spies in the West and the leaders of various overseas Chinese associations who openly promote totalitarianism in the United States and have become more aggressive in recent years.

Yao gave several examples in an interview with the Chinese-language Epoch Times.

"At the Flushing Lunar New Year Parade in New York on Feb. 9, a pro-communist group 'Chinese Anti-Cult World Alliance' was banned from participating in the parade. The organization hired nearly 300 people to occupy Flushing's Main Street, the main parade route, waving CCP's five-star red flags," he said.

On Feb. 9, a Tibetan Canadian student, Chemi Lhamo, was elected student president of University of Toronto's Scarborough Campus (UTSC) in Canada. But her Facebook and Instagram accounts were soon flooded with hateful messages from Chinese international students. They circulated a rumor that Chemi was going to use funds from the student union to support a cause for Tibetan independence, and they petitioned for her to step down.

On Feb. 11, McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada held a seminar to raise awareness of the re-education camps in China's Xinjiang region where 1 million or more Uyghurs are believed to be detained. Former detainees have told The Epoch Times that Uyghurs are being tortured, raped, and killed in secretive "political re-education" camps. Chinese students attended the event only to cause trouble. Using foul language, they yelled at and verbally attacked

the speaker, Rukiye Turdush, a Uyghur activist.

Yao believes that the incidents in New York and Canada are manifestations of the CCP's infiltration in North America. For the past 70 years, the CCP has used its power to brainwash and persecute the Chinese people. He said that the CCP's behavior is like a devil plaguing mankind and it is even more disturbing to see how the CCP influences other countries.

Yao hopes to see the trial of Huawei's chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou. The U.S. government charged Huawei and Meng for violating sanctions against Iran and for stealing trade secrets from American company T-Mobile.

"But more importantly, we must stop the CCP's further infiltration. The American and Canadian governments must find ways to curb the CCP's aggressive ideological expansion," Yao said.

Zheng Ganzhu, an attorney from Los Angeles, said that overseas Chinese leaders are hypocritical and pretend to be "patriotic" by uniting the Chinese and promoting Chinese culture, but in reality, they serve as the eyes and ears of the CCP to monitor the Chinese in the West, and use despicable means to threaten and attack pro-democracy groups.

In an interview with the Chinese-language Epoch Times, Zheng shared some incidents involving the CCP's infiltration in the Chinese community in Los Angeles.

A while ago, a number of pro-democracy activists in the Los Angeles area hired a firearms instructor to teach them about gun safety and laws related to the use of firearms in America. But soon after, the instructor received threats and was pressured to cut his ties with the group. He was even told that his class had been videotaped and photographed. The instructor got scared and agreed not to train pro-democracy activists in the future.

In another incident, a businessman provided a warehouse for pro-democracy activists to have meetings on weekends. In less than two months, the businessman was dismissed from his position inside China and lost his job in the United States.

"All these incidents prove that the CCP's minions are doing evil deeds in democratic societies. The CCP not only controls China, but also reaches out into overseas Chinese communities," Zheng said.

Fu Jun, director of the Southern California branch of the Federation for a Democratic China, wished to remind overseas Chinese that they must stay alert, as these "red devils" are causing chaos and stirring up conflict in the Chinese community. "The red" campaigns they instigated and organized obviously violate the U.S. laws. We hope the U.S. government will enforce the law strictly, and arrest and expel these bad guys accordingly," Fu said.

Zheng mentioned the recent story of Chinese billionaire Huang Xiangmo who was accused of attempting to influence Australian politicians on behalf of the CCP. On Feb. 5, the Australian government rejected Huang's citizenship application and revoked his permanent residency.

"These so-called 'patriotic' overseas Chinese leaders enjoy a free environment in the West, but they constantly help the CCP destroy freedom and democracy in Western countries," he said. "The Australian government is doing the right thing—cancel their permanent residency and send these 'patriotic' hypocrites back to China, as they love the Chinese communist regime so much."

Epoch Times writer Xu Xiuhui contributed to this report.



Yao Cheng said that those who assist the CCP in espionage activities will only become a "scapegoat."

ENVIRONMENT

RUSSIANS PROTEST LOCAL CHINESE WATER BOTTLING PLANT ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

FRANK FANG

A Chinese water bottling plant being built in Russia is drawing protests from locals who fear its harmful effects on the local ecosystem.

The bottling plant is being built in Slyudyansky District, located in the federal subject of Irkutsk Oblast in southeastern Siberia. Nearby is Lake Baikal, the world's largest freshwater lake by volume, which will be the source of the bottled water.

According to Russian media, construction is expected to be completed by 2021, with a production capacity of 132 cubic meters (roughly 132,000 liters) of bottled water per day, which will be sold to China. The Russia-based company AquaSib is building the plant. The firm's main investor is China's state-run Daqing Water



Supply Co., which is based in China's Heilongjiang Province.

Locals soon drafted an online petition on Change.org, calling for construction of the plant to be stopped. At the time of writing, more than 652,000 people have signed it.

The petition states that the lake is known as a unique ecosystem for migratory birds and other living species. In addition, construction of the

plant would mean pipelines for water extraction extending more than 3 kilometers (1.86 miles) over the lake would prevent locals from being able to fish. As a result, the petition points out that the site deserves protection and not industrial construction.

Residents of Kultuk, a village in Slyudyansky District, along with environmental activists from a local organization called Environmental

Lake Baikal in southern Siberia, Russia, in this file photo.

Protection 365, also recently convened a local conference, according to a Feb. 22 article by Russian news agency Agency of Social Information (ASI).

According to ASI, locals fear that upon the completion of the plant, other plants will soon be built, which would cause "irreparable damage to the landscape and waters of Lake Baikal."

Stanislav Filippov, a local resident, called for a national referendum about the plant. He expressed concern that locals may need to give up their vegetable garden plots because of their proximity to the plant.

China's Water Crisis

China's shortage of clean drinking water has prompted the country to find water sources outside its borders.

Groundwater supplies drinking water to about 70 percent of China's 1.3 billion population.

But according to China's Ministry of Water Resources, in a report published in 2016, 80 percent of the country's groundwater is unfit for drinking or daily use, due to contamination and pollution from water discharged by

industrial plants and farming units. Aside from the lack of clean drinking water, water shortages have continually plagued the northern Chinese provinces.

Charles Parton, an associate fellow of the London-based think tank Royal United Services Institute and a trustee of the nonprofit organization ChinaDialogue, detailed the crisis in a report published in April 2018.

The problem is that about 80 percent of China's water sources are located in southern China. This means eight Chinese provinces—Tianjin, Ningxia, Beijing, Shandong, Shanghai, Hebei, Henan, and Shanxi—are facing acute water scarcity, while four—Gansu, Shaanxi, Liaoning, and Jiangsu—are suffering from water scarcity.

The lack of water in this north-central region is considered serious because the 12 cities and provinces above account for 38 percent of China's agriculture, 46 percent of its industry, and 50 percent of its power generation, while serving as home to 41 percent of China's population, according to the report.

China also relies heavily on coal

80%

of the country's groundwater is unfit for drinking or daily use, due to contamination and pollution from water discharged by industrial plants and farming units.

and nuclear energy for power generation. Thermal power plants that run on both energy sources require large amounts of water—either in the form of steam to power turbines for electricity generation or for cooling purposes.

In addition, the report predicted that the Chinese regime's proposed solution, a water diversion project initiated by former Chinese Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin called the South-North Water Transfer Project (SNWTP), wouldn't solve the water crisis.

Even if the SNWTP reaches its operating target of sending 20.9 billion cubic meters of water to the Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei area, "it would only raise water per capita to around two-thirds of acute water scarcity," the report said.

The municipal government for Lanzhou City, the capital of Gansu Province, has proposed building a pipeline that would stretch over 600 miles and would deliver water from Lake Baikal to the city, according to a March 2017 Global Times article.

OPINION

IS CHINA FACING ANOTHER HIV PERIL?

XIAOXU SEAN LIN

Although there are some promising developments in China's HIV response in recent years, China is still a country of concern regarding the resurgence of the AIDS epidemic. According to the PEPFAR Asia Regional Operational Plan 2017, there were 653,865 persons diagnosed with HIV in China in 2016. And in the first quarter of 2018, there were 789,617 persons diagnosed with HIV infection, according to Chinese CDC official data. Compared to 385,817 people diagnosed with HIV in 2012, the number of people diagnosed with HIV infection is more than doubled in China in just a few years.

Typically, female sex workers (FSWs) and their clients, men who have sex with men (MSM), drug users, migrant workers and youth, are recognized as high-risk groups for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). There were an estimated 2.8 to 4.5 million FSWs and 21.9 to 37.4 million clients of FSWs, 2 to 10 million MSM, and 130 million migrant workers in China, according to a study in 2011 by medical journal BMC Medicine. The large volume of these high-risk populations has enabled the rapid spreading of HIV/AIDS and other STIs from high-risk populations to the general population.

The precise total number of sex workers in China is too sensitive for academic research as the government still treats it as a taboo. In 2013, the United Nations estimated there were four to six million, citing police sources, according to BMC Medicine. The estimate was that there are between four to ten million sex workers in China. Here is one clear example

of the rapid growth trend of STI in China: the gonorrhea infection rate in Zhejiang Province was about 0.2% in 2011, while it climbed up to near 0.33% in 2016. And in the same province, the rate of HIV infection was 0.0337% in 2016 (according to BMC Medicine), and it reached 0.042% in 2017.

What is particularly worrisome in the trend is the spike of HIV infections among the youth population. According to the data from National Health and Family Planning Commission, the percentage of HIV infections in young students (age 15-24) among all infections in youth has increased

What is particularly worrisome in the trend is the spike of HIV infections among the youth population.

from 5.77% in 2008 to 23.58% in 2017. Also, the sexual transmission was the main route of HIV infection, and 81.6% of the HIV infections in young students were contracted due to the MSM sexual activities. This situation among high school and college students is very alarming, as illustrated in the following examples:

- Beijing: By June 2017, there were a total of 1244 cases of HIV infections in 59 universities.
- Changsha City, Hunan Province:

By April 2017, in just one district concentrated with universities, there were 603 HIV-infection cases, among which 106 cases were students.

- Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province: By August 2016, there were a total of 135 cases of HIV-infections among students in 37 universities and colleges in this city.

According to the data from China CDC, the HIV infection rate was 0.067% among the whole population. However, the HIV infection rate in students was 1.7% among total student population. This means that the chance of HIV infection among students was 28.3 times higher than that in general population.

It is a consensus that this outburst of HIV-infection in schools was correlated to the open sex attitude that is popular among Chinese students nowadays. One statistics was a clear indication of the situation: In 2017, there were a total of 15 million abortions recorded in China, among which 73% were young females under the age of 23. Also, media reports revealed that inside or around some university campuses there were underground brothels that procured female students to engage in prostitution services.

In addition, according to the data released by China CDC on August 2018, among the persons newly diagnosed with HIV in China, 69.6% of the cases were contracted via heterosexual sex; 25.5% were MSM; 3.2% for drug injections. And among the 1,244 cases of HIV infection in Beijing student population, MSM cases occupied 86.7%. Blued, the popular social App for the LGBT community in China, had more than 22 million users in



2016, and it aimed to break through 40 million in 2018. This clearly suggests that the population of MSM has grown significantly more than 10 million since 2011, with the estimate of the total LGBT population in China at 69 million.

Another situation that deserves close attention is the strong correlation of injection drug users with the HIV infection cases in southwest China, where major drug traffic routes were passing through. Using the data that was leaked from one internal China CDC meeting and reported on Radio Free Asia, the table on the right illustrated that the five provinces with highest HIV infection rates were all in southwest China in 2017:

The above data showed that Sichuan Province has the highest HIV infection rate nearly at 0.19%, which can be partly attributed to the shocking high HIV infection rate in Liangzhou autonomous region in Sichuan Province. Among a total of 9,536 unmarried youth enrolled in one study in

2018, 2.75% (262/9536) of the subjects were tested positive for HIV infection, according to a report published by medical journal AIDS Care. In the Liangzhou area, the number of locally registered drug users was already more than 13,000 in 2007. Besides needle sharing, this study also identified other risk factors like male gender, Yi ethnicity, illiteracy, out-migrating for work, and engaging in high-risk sexual behaviors.

In summary, China is facing a very gloomy situation of HIV epidemic due to increasingly larger populations (in multi-millions) of sex workers, MSM, drug users, tens of millions of clients for sex workers and an even more significant volume of migrant workers who don't have much access to medical care in the cities. Therefore, even though official data for people diagnosed with HIV was less than 800,000 by the first quarter of 2018, the actual number of people who live with HIV could be much higher in the millions. The report produced by UN Theme

Students sign their names on an anti-AIDS banner during an AIDS day event at a school in Hanshan, Anhui Province, China, on Nov. 30, 2012 AIDS.

Group on HIV/AIDS in China defined the HIV epidemic in China as "titanic peril" in 2002. But with the situations described above, it is probably reasonable to state that the peril still exists, apparently gigantic, if not titanic.

Dr. Xiaoxu Sean Lin is a former U.S. Army officer with expertise on infectious diseases surveillance and global public health. He was the co-founder and former executive vice president of Sound of Hope Radio Network, and hosted talk shows on China's current affairs on New Tang Dynasty TV. Currently, he is the founder and general manager of WQER-LP Radio Station. He is also a frequent news analyst and commentator for Sound of Hope Radio Network, with a focus on global public health, national security and foreign relations related to Asian affairs.

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

HIGHEST HIV INFECTION RATES IN 2017

PROVINCES	NUMBERS OF SAMPLES TESTED FOR HIV	NEW HIV-POSITIVE CASES	HIV POSITIVE PER 10000 PEOPLE	PERCENTAGE TESTED AMONG POPULATION
SICHUAN	12880444	24327	18.89	15.59
XIZANG (TIBET)	80926	121	14.95	2.44
CHONG QING	5122696	7500	14.64	16.8
GUIZHOU	7708694	7843	10.17	21.68
GUANGXI	9605663	8923	9.29	19.86



AIDS patients receive medical treatment at a hospital in Li Xin, Anhui Province, on Nov. 30, 2010.

STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

OPINION

A RECURRING NIGHTMARE: TAINTED BLOOD PRODUCTS IN CHINA

XIAOXU SEAN LIN

China's National Health Commission issued on Feb. 5 an order to recall a batch of human immunoglobulin for intravenous injection, for possibly being contaminated with HIV (tested Positive for anti-HIV antibodies). One baby in Jiangxi Province injected with this batch of human immunoglobulin was also tested positive for HIV antibodies. The Shanghai Medical Products Administration identified that the contaminated batch was identified as number 20180610Z, which was made by China Meheco Xinxing Pharma Co. This suspected batch consisted of 12,226 units, due to expire in 2021.

This quickly triggered another wave of public outrages for the concerns of medical product safety in China, as scandals about contaminated rabies vaccine and using expired polio vaccine products for infants were exposed in the last few months in China.

On Feb. 7, China's National Medical Products Administration quickly released a report stating that the related human immunoglobulin product and baby blood sample were

tested negative for HIV viral RNA.

However, this obviously is a typical Chinese regime's effort to put out the fire in the public. Since the recall order was issued by a top national health authority, all related antibody or RNA tests should have been conducted and confirmed. Otherwise, it would be a total incompetence of the authorities to release a recall order without confirmation tests. On the other hand, a negative result in viral RNA testing while being positive for anti-HIV antibody could suggest that the HIV virus was not actively replicating and suppressed to a level that was not detectable by the viral RNA testing method applied. But if the product was injected into a patient with compromised immune system, the viral replication could still be activated again.

The making of human immunoglobulin involves the pooling of thousands of human plasma samples. This recent scandal of contamination with HIV in blood products again raised the public concerns on China's HIV epidemic situation and practice in their blood industry.

In the 1990s, the most frequent



China Photos/Getty Images

modes of HIV transmission in China were sharing the contaminated needles among injecting drug users and unsanitary practices during paid plasma collection. When local governments in some provinces treated plasma collections and sales as an important government-driven local industry, it instigated the rampant booming of illegal plasma collection centers.

Large numbers of poor rural farmers were attracted to these centers to sell their plasma for supplementing their small income. At these centers, blood from many donors

Two women during a police raid of an entertainment center that is suspected of being a front for a prostitution business, drug trafficking, and gambling in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, on July 18, 2006.

was mixed after collection. Then, the pooled plasma was separated from the red blood cells, which were re-injected back into donors, so that donors can recover quickly and sell plasma much more frequently. In such a risky practice, even with one HIV-positive donor, it would infect large numbers of people on one single occasion. This resulted in a severe epidemic of HIV infections, with hundreds of thousands poor villagers contracting HIV while selling their plasma. In some disastrous "AIDS villages" in Henan Province, more than 80% of villagers were infected with HIV. It was estimated that in Henan Province alone, more than 100,000 people have died from HIV infection due to the plasma economy.

At the end of 2001, the Ministry of Health estimated that total adult HIV-positive cases were between 800,000 to 1,500,000 in China.

After public exposure of this HIV epidemic by some courageous Chinese doctors like Dr. Gao Yaojie, the Chinese government closed the notorious blood collection centers in Henan Province. In 1998, China introduced a blood donation law banning the commercial sale of blood and encouraging voluntary donation instead. It also tightened rules on plasma collection and increased blood testing.

However, driven by the enormous profits from plasma economy, the blood agents (also called "blood heads") relocated to more remote and

impoverished regions in Guangxi and Guizhou Provinces in southwest China, to seek new blood sources.

By 2006, Guizhou Province had established 25 blood collection centers, providing about 40% of plasma supply nationwide. However, unsanitary practice in these blood collection centers inevitably resulted in public health disasters again. In 2006, according to the public health data in Guizhou Province, the diseases incidence rate due to infections of HIV and Hepatitis B increased 21.36%, and the related death rate jumped up 65.38%, due to blood contamination issues. Consequently, local governments in Guizhou Province had to close all the commercial blood collection centers in 2006.

However, many of these blood centers re-opened in 2007. And these kinds of semi-official or underground blood centers had always been operating in the past, as China is still facing a severe shortage of blood due to low engagement of voluntary blood donations. In 2017, in Nanning City (in Guangxi Province) alone, the local authorities arrested three groups of blood heads with more than 800,000 cc volume of blood collected and sold.

No official investigations were conducted regarding the plasma economy and the cover-up of the HIV epidemic in Henan in the 1990s. Therefore, no officials were held accountable for this man-made disaster. Even 20 years later in 2017, there were still representatives in



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Hemophiliac protesters, all of whom contracted HIV from infected blood products, wear surgical masks as they demonstrate during an AIDS-awareness event on World AIDS Day in Beijing on Dec. 1, 2009, to call for better government support for HIV/AIDS victims in China.

China People's Congress raising the very same issue to call for an official investigation of the disaster and proper compensation for the victims. Similarly, there were no reports so far on any corporate executives or government officers being questioned or held accountable for this recent incident about tainted human immunoglobulin. There were no reports on how many units of this potentially contaminated batch of human immunoglobulin have been used and whether health authorities are

tracking these people systematically. Chinese authorities always vowed repeatedly for tighter oversight and crackdowns on companies and officials when food and drug safety scandals broke out. However, the Xinxing Pharma Co. was originally established under the China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), and now its largest stock holder is the state-owned public health enterprise—China Meheco Group Co Ltd. So, even though Xinxing Pharma Co. looks like a private business now, it is essentially a state-controlled

enterprise. It is no wonder that they are a state-designated medical product supplier.

Imagine if the U.S. FDA establishes a health product enterprise which could become a major income source for FDA. Will the FDA provide an effective oversight over the safety of health products made by their own enterprise? When the health authorities and health industries have formed a tightly-bonded interest group, the common folks can only hope that they are getting a good health product. When the health authorities actually own the largest health enterprises in a country without free press, where is the hope then?

Dr. Xiaoxu Sean Lin is a former U.S. Army officer with expertise on infectious diseases surveillance and global public health. He was the co-founder and former executive vice president of Sound of Hope Radio Network, and hosted talk shows on China's current affairs on New Tang Dynasty TV. Currently, he is the founder and general manager of WQER-LP Radio Station. He is also a frequent news analyst and commentator for Sound of Hope Radio Network, with a focus on global public health, national security and foreign relations related to Asian affairs.

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