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## NATIONAL SECURITY

# HIGHLIGHTING THREAT FROM RED CHINA, US LAUNCHES COMMITTEE

CHRISTOPHER C. HULL

WASHINGTON—Prominent national security and human rights experts have launched a new effort dedicated to educating U.S. citizens and policymakers about the threat posed by communist China.

The coalition, called the Committee on the Present Danger: China, includes former Clinton administration CIA Director R. James Woolsey, former Reagan Education Secretary William Bennett, former Trump Chief Strategist Steve Bannon, former Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.), former Strategic Defense Initiative Director Ambassador Henry Cooper, and Chinese dissident and China Aid President Bob Fu.

According to the committee's chairman, former Claremont Institute President Brian Kennedy, the initiative is a "wholly independent and nonpartisan effort to educate American citizens and policymakers about the existential threat presented by the People's Republic of China [PRC] under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party."

More specifically, "[i]ts purpose is to explain these threats, which range from the military buildup of the PRC, their active information and political warfare that targets the American people and our business, political, and media elites, their cyber warfare, and their economic warfare," said Kennedy.

America, Kennedy said, "has not been so divided politically since the Civil War," and its "media and half our political system have spent the last two years" pursuing allegations of Russian collusion that turned out to be baseless. He said this is "especially ridiculous when one considers the array of threats posed by the People's Republic of China."

The original Committee on the Present Danger (CPD) "was formed in 1950 as a bipartisan education and advocacy organization to build a national consensus behind President Truman's policy of 'containment' against Soviet expansionism," according to its official website.

In 1976, the committee reconstituted based on concerns "about strategic drift in U.S. security policy and determined to support policies intended

to bring the Cold War to a successful conclusion," according to its website.

During that time, Kennedy said, "the Soviet Union had very few economic ties with the United States." By contrast, he pointed out, China's ties to the United States are "extensive," through which Americans "have transferred trillions of dollars of wealth through trade." Red China also has "stolen and extracted" U.S. technologies, through which it has "become a First World military and economic power."

"Though this dynamic is 'poorly understood, especially here in Washington,'" Kennedy said he was "encouraged that the threat is understood by President Trump."

Kennedy pointed to statements that Trump wrote 20 years ago, in his book "The America We Deserve":

"We have to make it absolutely clear that we're willing to trade with China, but not to trade away our principles, and that under no circumstances will we keep our market open to countries that steal from us."

"There are some things more important than profits, and one of them is our own national security."

Trump wrote that communist China "fears freedom because it knows its survival depends on oppression. It does not respect individual rights. It is still, at heart, a collectivist society. As such it is a destabilizing force in the world, and should be viewed that way."

## Alternative Warfare

An array of foreign policy, human rights, and national security experts spoke at the event on March 25 at the Reserve Officers Association headquarters, including original CPD director, former naval aviator, and Pentagon official Chet Nagle, who noted that since the original committee had closed its doors, "another existential threat to America has arisen," namely "communist China's plan to dominate the United States, and ultimately the entire world."

Nagle gave the example of "Unrestricted Warfare," a 1999 document by People's Liberation



Despite the deceptive cover, the CCP is nothing but the biggest evil cult, the biggest organized crime group in the world.

Lianchao Han, vice president, Independent Federation of Chinese Students and Scholars

Chinese soldiers ride in an armored vehicle as they hold machine guns while passing in front of Tiananmen Square during a military parade in Beijing on Sept. 3, 2015.

Army (PLA) colonels Qiao Liang and Wang Xiang-sui, describing the approach by which a then-second-tier power like communist China could best a first-tier superpower like the United States.

According to the book's summary, Qiao and Wang argued, "American military doctrine is typically led by technology; a new class of weapon or vehicle is developed, which allows or encourages an adjustment in strategy, [which is] a crucial weakness in the American military, and that this blind spot with regard to alternative forms [of] warfare could be effectively exploited by enemies."

Specifically, such alternative forms of warfare might include "international policy, economic warfare, attacks on digital infrastructure and networks, and terrorism." By this measure at least, Nagle said, the United States is already engaged in "warfare with the People's Republic of China and it will stay that way for decades."

Former Clinton CIA Director James Woolsey highlighted that, should a military conflict with the People's Republic of China take place, it "won't be as straightforward or as quick as, say, the Gulf War in 1990." For instance, he said, it would be "perfectly easy ... to launch a satellite, and if you put it in polar orbit that crosses a single place in the United States ... a couple times a day," if the satellite has a nuclear weapon in it, even a small, "Hiroshima-style" one, detonating it above the surface of earth could both "destroy our electric grid and each of our electronic devices" with the electromagnetic pulse (EMP) that would result.

In addition, Woolsey said, America is "almost completely unprepared to deal with" the implications of fifth-generation communications technology, known as 5G. "We have to be able to turn away Chinese domination of our internet," he said. Through Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., the dominant Chinese telecom and electronics manufacturer, and "other paths," the Chinese regime has "embarked very heavily on that effort. That is a loser for us in every way one can possibly lose."

He continued, "Every purchase of Huawei materials, everything that is being done by people who have blinders on with respect to what the Chinese are going to be able to do if we don't stop them—ev-

eryone who has blinders on better take them off."

## 'Biggest Organized Crime Group'

Vice President of the Independent Federation of Chinese Students and Scholars Lianchao Han, who also spoke at the event, argued, "The Chinese Communist regime has become the biggest threat to the United States and the free world." According to Han, "This threat is real, and very, very serious—but many people have not realized the magnitude, and the scope, and the seriousness of this threat."

The "engagement and appeasement advocates," he said, "continue to push for their failed China policy." Therefore, "it is our duty to inform and educate the American public and decision-makers" about what members of the CCP "intend to do and why they're so dangerous."

"Despite the deceptive cover, the CCP is nothing but the biggest evil cult, the biggest organized crime group in the world," Han said. During its nearly 70 years in power, the CCP has "killed tens of millions of people."

Another speaker, best-selling author and Claremont Institute senior fellow Mark Helprin, argued that Americans "have a crucial interest in preventing the hegemony to which China has always felt entitled" because "a world subject to China's hegemony will suffer continual warfare" as well as "smothering restrictions, the model of which we have seen in Mao's China."

"To block Chinese hegemony and avoid open warfare, we have only one course of action," Helprin said. This would be to concentrate on America's strengths, specifically by putting its defenses in order first, re-gearing our economy to that task, and focusing on the "repair of our own faltering civilization." No matter what China trade agreement Trump strikes, Helprin said, "no deal will ever correct our own deficiencies," and a deal that would bring the PRC "into a nuclear arms control regime, we mysteriously do not seek."

According to Helprin, "China can accomplish its first war aims," namely clearing its vicinity of American power, by eliminating "our vulnerable bases there, none of which has sufficiently hardened aircraft ... [nor] air and missile defenses sufficient to defeat a saturation attack." Without these assets, he said, the United States "will be defeated." "All this, without striking the U.S. homeland."

The distance across the Pacific is twice that across the Atlantic, Helprin said, and by "spiking the Panama Canal" by blocking it with attack submarines to deny us passage, the "Chinese would have to fight only 60 percent of our fleet." The United States has "catastrophically truncated development of long-range air power," and has a Navy "half the size of the Reagan Navy."

Overall, he argued, "it is foolish, cowardly, and in the long term, not survivable to accept that provisioning our defense is secondary to assuring our comfort." In the peacetime years between 1940 and 2000, U.S. military spending constituted 5.7 percent of GDP, Helprin noted, while today, as during the Obama administration, that figure remains at just 3 percent.

"We sleep as a nation because we betray our ancient character," Helprin said.



A perimeter fence around a so-called vocational skills education center in Dabancheng in Xinjiang on Sept. 4, 2018. It is estimated that the regime has detained more than 1 million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in such detention facilities.

## OPINION

# US PENSION FUNDS SHOULD WORRY ABOUT FINANCING RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, CYBER ESPIONAGE

FAN YU

Billions of dollars in foreign capital are about to pour into Chinese companies.

Some of those funds will eventually make their way to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), its security apparatus, and its military apparatus. Global index provider MSCI recently announced that it would increase the allocation of China A-shares in its global and emerging markets indices by the end of 2019. That means many passive funds and exchange-traded funds will be set to purchase swaths of China A-shares in 2019, flooding Chinese companies and stock markets with foreign capital.

One such company that will enjoy an expanded ownership base is Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Co., the world's biggest maker of surveillance equipment. The Shenzhen Stock Exchange-listed Hikvision makes surveillance technology used in concentration camps in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, where more than 1 million oppressed Muslims, according to the UN and U.S. State Department, are said to be detained by the Chinese state.

## Pension Fund Ownership

Several major institutional investors already own substantial shares in Hikvision. The California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS), the nation's second-largest pension fund with \$227 billion of assets, owned 4.4 million shares worth \$24.4 million as of its June 30, 2018 disclosure of its assets.

Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec (CDPQ), the investment firm that manages several public pension plans of the Canadian province of Quebec totaling approximately \$232 billion of assets as of Dec. 31, 2018, disclosed that it owned \$81 million worth of Hikvision shares as of Dec. 31, 2017. Hikvision, which grew out of a government research lab in 2001, is a major supplier to numerous state-sponsored surveillance projects across China, including the national Skynet Project. Six years ago, the company expanded into the retail and home market, by launching a line of video surveillance equipment under the brand EZVIZ.

Hikvision's biggest single shareholder, at 42 percent, is state-owned China Electronics Technology Group Corp. China Electronics Technology develops communications and electronic technology for the Chinese military and is tasked with developing software for visual identification, and was recently included in a list of Chinese entities subject to U.S. export controls due to its "significant risk" to U.S. national security.

Ownership in Chinese companies with extensive links to the CCP is apparently prevalent across U.S. pension funds. The New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYTRS)—one of the biggest pension funds in the United States with \$120 billion of assets—holds approximately \$4 million worth of shares in China Unicom Hong Kong Ltd., as of Dec. 31, 2018, according to a fund statement.

China Unicom is a state-owned telecommunications operator in China, providing landline and mobile communication network. Subsidiaries of China Unicom are also publicly listed on the exchanges of Hong Kong and Shanghai.

China Unicom provides internet connection in North Korea, providing critical infrastructure and equipment for the Communist state and its ability to stage international cyber attacks against other nations.



The logo of China Unicom, a Chinese state-owned telecommunications operator, in Shanghai on Nov. 3, 2016.

There's also evidence from security researchers that several long-running hacker groups are sponsored by the Chinese state intelligence apparatus and China Unicom acting as the main internet service provider. In some instances, "We have observed a few cases of the attackers mistakenly accessing victim machines without a proxy, potentially identifying the true location of the individual running the session," according to a 2018 SecurityWeek report. "In all of these cases, the net block was 221.216.0.0/13, the China Unicom Beijing Network, Xicheng District."

Investors should understand that every major Chinese company must answer to the CCP and to Beijing, and party agenda and politics are as deeply ingrained in business as profit-making.

These cyber espionage efforts were collectively nicknamed the "Winnti Umbrella" according to security experts, and have been running at least since 2009. The attacks begin with a "phishing" bait, which seeks to install malware onto corporate and organizational networks to collect data.

## 'Investing Ethically'

This is just the proverbial tip of the iceberg. But it's unfortunate—to put it charitably—that certain pensions with public funding choose to financially back Chinese firms with obvious CCP ties that are clearly adversarial to the interests of the United States and Canada.

In the 2017 CDPQ annual report, the word "ethics" appears 27 times throughout the document. In its introduction, CDPQ states that "being conscious of our impact and of the world that we will leave to future generations" as a fundamental value.

CalSTRS says on its website that it's "committed to socially and environmentally responsible business practices and acquire goods and services in the best interest of CalSTRS."

However, financially backing a company whose chief business is aiding the persecution of millions of ethnic minorities doesn't seem to align with those values.

Similarly, NYTRS's annual report states that it is "committed to the highest ethical standards of conduct," as it strives to "guard the privacy of stakeholder information" and "invest ethically to maximize income and minimize risk." Perhaps NYTRS's diligence into China Unicom failed to uncover China Unicom's involvement in cyber espionage that directly attacks the privacy and digital security of Americans and U.S. businesses.

At the minimum, the pension funds should already know that no matter how many shares are privately owned, key decision-making and de facto control at these Chinese companies lie entirely with the CCP. And as pension funds step up their investor activism, they must take a more critical look at their international holdings.

Some U.S. politicians are putting pressure on the federal government to take action. Last year, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) wrote a letter to President Donald Trump urging the administration to impose sanctions on individuals and companies involved in constructing and operating detention centers in China's Xinjiang region. His letter, which is endorsed by senators from both political parties, mentioned Hikvision and China Dahua Technology by name.

But awareness at a more micro level is still lacking. Investors should understand that every major Chinese company, especially those involved in areas that touch on key regime interests like military, security, and cyber, must answer to the CCP and to Beijing. The Party agenda and its politics are as deeply ingrained in business as profit-making.

As Chinese companies begin to tap international debt and equity capital markets more broadly, investors must understand that their money is aiding and abetting the Chinese companies' actions, and the actions of the ultimate beneficiary of such capital—the CCP.

At least some fund managers are taking a critical look at their portfolio investments. One portfolio manager who recently sold out of Hikvision told the Financial Times, "A lot of investors talk about ethical investing but when it comes to Hikvision and Xinjiang, they are happy to fill their boots."

"It is pretty hypocritical."

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



## OPINION

# IS THE HUAWEI LAWSUIT THE START OF A LEGAL WAR?

HEM HE

On March 7, Huawei announced from its Shenzhen headquarters that it had filed a lawsuit in Texas against the U.S. government, claiming that provisions in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act banning the use of Huawei and ZTE products were in violation of the U.S. Constitution.

In this case, the crux of the matter is not whether or—Huawei has any chance of winning the lawsuit, but that under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), there is no constitutionalism or rule of law. In China, citizens and foreigners alike are deprived of their basic judicial rights, and Huawei helps the CCP violate human rights through its development of the internet firewalls and surveillance technology that are used to censor and monitor the Chinese people. Yet Huawei, being such a close accomplice to these abuses, sees no shame in using American judicial independence in an attempt to challenge U.S. legislation.

Dean Cheng, a senior researcher at the American Think Tank Heritage Foundation, suspects that part of the intention behind Huawei's indictment is to understand the sources and methods used by U.S. intelligence.

Meanwhile, the CCP continues to publicly and categorically deny the independence of the Chinese judiciary. This is the biggest irony. The United States' national security concerns about Huawei products in fact revolve around Huawei's domestic surveillance and intelligence gathering techniques being exported internationally. Using the same set of hardware and software, what can be achieved in China can surely be done anywhere on earth.

Huawei needs to prove that it has no relations with the CCP and is not beholden to the Party's instructions. Even putting aside the true relationship between Huawei and the CCP, mainland China's intelligence law is enough to refute Huawei's claim that it would not give up data even if Beijing so demanded. Few if any Chinese companies would refuse the CCP's requests to cooperate for the sake of intelligence gathering, as those that do are sure to face heavy penalties followed by televised confessions. The distinction lies in whether such cooperation is done willingly or under duress. Moreover, the CCP has long applied its legal controls in overseas settings. For example, in U.S.-based Confucius Institutes, teachers are required to comply with Chinese laws—a phenomenon to which individuals like Sonia Zhao can attest. Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei telling the media that he has the ability to reject the CCP's demands thus contains only one possibility—that Huawei has obtained special permission from the CCP to make this statement. This in itself reminds us that the relationship between Huawei and the Chinese regime is not an ordinary one.

Particular attention should be paid to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's support of Huawei on the CCP's behalf. The second day after Huawei announced it would litigate, Wang expressed support for Huawei's lawsuit at a press conference held during the "Two Sessions," saying "We also support companies and individuals using legal weapons to protect their rights and interests and not to be silent lambs." To the outside world, this confirms speculations that Huawei is backed by the CCP. For a company that claims to be a private firm, if it wants to sell products to the United States, then the U.S. government is the buyer, and naturally has the

power to choose between different suppliers. It will have to make various considerations, which of course includes considerations of national security. How could a seller forcefully push their product, and then sue if its products are not purchased? The side effects of such arrogance and irrationality are far more detrimental to the image of the company than Huawei's recent public relations campaign; it is completely not worth it. But this kind of irrationality is much more reasonable from the point of view of CCP interests. Making trouble for the U.S. government is completely in line with the CCP regime's long-term goal to undermine America, as well as its short-term goal of breaking down obstacles in the trade talks.

Wang Yi's statement not only hints at Huawei's lawsuit being a move to defend the CCP, but also shows, in action, the CCP deploying its strategy of "lawfare" to use the judicial system of Western countries against those countries' national interests. Lawfare as a concept was mentioned as early as 1999, in the book "Unrestricted Warfare" written by two Chinese military officers. And 2003's Regulations on the Political Work of the PLA further integrated "legal warfare," "public opinion warfare" and "psychological warfare" together as one of the combat functions of political work.

According to CCP internal documents obtained and publicized by Bitter Winter, a website dedicated to exposing religious persecution in China, at the end of 2015, Meng Jianzhu, secretary of the Central Political and Legal Committee and head of the Leading Group for Prevention and Handling the Cult-related Issues (610 Office), said at an all-hands conference of the Central 610 Office members that when it comes to the overseas struggle against Falun Gong, full play must be given to the "the Party's political and institutional advantages." If this message weren't clear enough, in January 2016, what Fu Zhenghua, director of the Central 610 Office, said at a meeting of the national 610 Office directors was even more direct. He emphasized that overseas struggle should "take the initiative to go on the offensive and be good at using international rules and relevant national laws [in foreign countries] to do the work."

Obviously, the CCP's appropriation of international rules and foreign laws is not just used against Falun Gong; one of the purposes of this Huawei lawsuit is use U.S. democracy and laws against the United States itself. Juxtaposed with the robbery, replication, and replacement of U.S. technology, the CCP's political system is akin to barely imitating the external form while completely denying what it implies. And once studied thoroughly in the literal sense, these "means of replication" transform into "means of confrontation."

From Wang Yi's speech, one can see that not only was Huawei's litigation plotted by the CCP, but that the CCP is likely to plan more legal offensives in the future. The CCP is certainly not worried that Western companies will imitate such tactics and sue in Chinese courts. For the Party, this does not present any problem. The Chinese court will simply not accept the case. Even if the case is taken, the court can easily twist the law to rule against the foreign company. A decent excuse is not even needed. An example is the Fujian Intermediate People's Court where Micron Technology of the United States quickly lost its case against Fujian Jinhua. Another example is when Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor were detained for three months and essentially deprived of all judicial rights, with not so much as an explanation given or charge made. This is what Meng Jianzhu referred to by "the Party's political and institutional advantages."

However, the use of law is also a double-edged sword. While U.S. courts are open and trans-

parent, the CCP is a black-box operation. Many things cannot be debated in court. When the court demands evidence, Huawei can provide false evidence, but what about summoning key witnesses? While CCP officials can avoid appearing in court when accused, but if they were to do so while being the plaintiffs, they would be doing themselves a disservice.

Dean Cheng, a senior researcher at the American Conservative Think Tank Heritage Foundation, suspects that part of the intention behind Huawei's indictment is to understand the sources and methods used by U.S. intelligence. This is of course possible, but it presents a two-way street, as the case would expose the black curtain of Huawei and the CCP. This is precisely one of the reasons why the CCP is so desperate to extricate Huawei by stopping the extradition of Meng Wanzhou.

When the founding fathers of the United States enacted the "Bill of Attainder" clause, they did so out of consideration as to how to restrict legislation in order to protect citizens' rights. The rights of U.S. citizens and residents, including foreign individuals residing in the United States, are protected by this. But as to foreign governments or their agents, especially those who pose a threat to U.S. national security, are they to enjoy the same rights? Such a dilemma may not have existed in the era when Constitution was drafted. Huawei's lawsuit may serve to clear up uncertainties in regards to this issue.

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ERIC COX PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK

One of the purposes of the Huawei lawsuit is to use U.S. democracy and laws against the United States itself.



MOHD RASFAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Huawei's lawsuit against the U.S. government reflects a Chinese military strategy known as legal warfare.



## CENSORSHIP

## CHINA PUSHING 'NEW WORLD MEDIA ORDER' TO SUPPRESS DISSENT, REPORT SAYS

FRANK FANG

TAIPEI, Taiwan—The Chinese regime is pushing its own model of media control and propaganda around the world, with a particular focus on influencing U.S. political and business elite, according to a new report by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

The report, released on March 25 and titled "China's Pursuit of A New World Media Order," details the communist regime's different tactics to export the "Chinese media model," a system in which "journalists are nothing more than state propaganda auxiliaries."

These tactics include expanding the presence of China's state-run media globally, hosting training sessions in China for foreign journalists, harassing and intimidating overseas journalists and academics, and employing a "trojan horse policy" by having foreign media carry its propaganda through advertorials and targeted advertisements.

## Global Reach

The regime is now pouring as much as 10 billion yuan (\$1.5 billion) a year into disseminating its views globally, the report says. As a result of this investment, which began during the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Chinese state-run media has significantly ramped up its presence worldwide.

According to the report, the international arm of China's state-owned broadcaster, China Global Television Network, now broadcasts in at least 140 countries with 70 bureaus, while state-owned China Radio International broadcasts in 65 languages from more than 70 stations worldwide.

Meanwhile, in the United States and elsewhere, the regime has paid prestigious media outlets to carry propaganda supplements, made to look like news, in an effort to sway public and elite opinion, the report indicates.

China Watch, an English-language propaganda supplement edited by China's state-run mouthpiece China Daily, is currently inserted into about 30 daily newspapers around the world, including The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, and The Daily Telegraph, the report says, citing a 2018 article by The Guardian.

"The ultimate purpose for Beijing is, of course, to influence U.S. policymakers," Cédric Alviani, East Asia bureau director of RSF and report author, told The Epoch Times.

Alviani explained that these prestigious newspapers were deliberately chosen by the regime because their readers include society's influencers. "China is talking to the leaders, talking or trying to influence the leaders' opinions," he said.

The report, citing unnamed U.S. media professionals, estimated that a leading outlet could receive around \$250,000 by agreeing to have China Watch inserted in its newspapers. This agreement then "exposes these media outlets to the possibility of being pressured by Beijing."

"The problem is that, sooner or later, when [these media] publish content that the Chinese authorities do not like, the [Chinese] ambassadors will come to see them, and tell them, do you want to keep the China Watch supplement or not," Alviani said.

"When you really put that in your budget it is very hard to say no."

At the same time, readers of the newspapers may also be tricked into believing these supplements are written or endorsed by these leading outlets, the report author said.

"It is a big threat to the independence of the media," he said.

## Overseas Chinese-Language Media

The report also draws attention to the overseas Chinese-language media landscape, which it says has mostly been co-opted by the Chinese regime.

"In the U.S. nowadays, there are very few Chinese-language titles that are not being controlled by the Chinese authorities," Alviani said.

The report described The Epoch Times, as well as its sister outlet NTD, and U.S.-based news site China Digital Times, as the few truly independent diaspora media.

The Epoch Times, founded in 2000 as a Chinese-language outlet, is headquartered in New York, and now publishes in more than 23 languages, and distributed or sold in more than 35 countries.

"[The] Epoch Times is a reliable resource, which ... we use a lot at RSF, whenever it is related to prisoners in China, or to violations of human rights, and especially the press freedom in China," Alviani said.

Such overseas media and journal-

ists, the report says, who refuse to toe the regime's editorial line have been subject to intimidation, harassment, or have had advertisers unexpectedly pull out of their publications.

The report cites two incidents of harassment or pressure targeting The Epoch Times—one involving a staff member, and another its Australian branch office.

In 2006, Li Yuan, the outlet's chief technical officer, was beaten, tied up, blindfolded with duct tape, and robbed of two laptop computers by suspected Chinese agents at his suburban Atlanta home.

In 2017, Apple stopped advertising in the Australian edition of The Epoch Times and another independent Chinese-language publication Vision China Times because of Beijing's political pressure, the report says citing an article by The Australian.

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It is a new world media order ... a model that could become the dominant model in 20 or 30 years, and that would make journalism as we know it something of the past.

Cédric Alviani, East Asia bureau director, Reporters Without Borders

## Other Overseas Media

Beijing has been buying up shares of media outlets around the world, the report says, with one recent example being the purchase of Mexican Spanish-language radio station XEWW 690 by H&H Group, an investment firm with ties to Beijing-controlled Phoenix Television, in July 2018.

Winston Xia, president of California-based Chinese-language radio station Sound of Oriental and West Heritage, warned at the time that Beijing would be able to encroach on freedom of speech on U.S. airwaves through XEWW, given that XEWW broadcasts into much of southern California.

Beijing also has been rolling out the red carpet to foreign journalists to secure favorable press coverage of China, in the form of lavish, all-expense-paid trips to attend seminars in China, according to the report.

Journalists from countries such as Zambia, Grenada, Kenya, Turkey, Egypt, and Pakistan, have all attended these Chinese seminars, the report says, with some foreign journalists even receiving a monthly stipend of up to 5,000 yuan (\$744).

There are, however, unspoken strings attached to these press trips. "The conditions are clear: [the journalists] must promise to 'tell the China story well' and even portray its authoritarian regime as a democracy and international peacemaker," it says.

The Chinese regime is now pouring as much as 10 billion yuan (\$1.5 billion) a year into disseminating its views globally.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping has repeatedly directed leaders in the regime's propaganda apparatus to "tell China's story well, and properly disseminate China's voice."

Indian news site The Print reported in November 2018 that China has been offering a 10-month fellowship program since 2016 to train foreign journalists from Southeast Asia and Africa—two areas key to China's "One Belt, One Road" infrastructure initiative—so that they would report positively on projects under the police.

## More Action Needed

Alviani said governments and journalists need to increase their scrutiny of the Chinese regime's interference in foreign free press, and do more investigations into this area.

"The most important [thing] ... is that democracies realize the danger, and realize the extent of the Chinese penetration in their media," he said.

"So far, most democracies have been somehow naive and not paying enough attention."

Failure to do so could lead to dire results, Alviani warned.

"The danger is much wider than Chinese propaganda. It is a new world media order ... a model that could become the dominant model in 20 or 30 years, and that would make journalism as we know it something of the past."



MATTHEW LLOYD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Chinese leader Xi Jinping (L) is shown around the offices of Huawei by its CEO Ren Zhengfei in London during Xi's state visit on Oct. 21, 2015.

## OPINION

# SECRET COAL PLANTS REVEAL CHINA'S STRATEGY OF THE 'GREEN' MIRAGE

JOSHUA PHILIPP

Despite claims that it would reduce coal use, the Chinese regime has quietly renewed its construction of coal-fired power plants.

The findings were based on recent satellite images that show the regime has resumed construction on dozens of coal-fired power plants, according to German broadcaster Deutsche Welle. The new construction was exposed in a joint report from the Global Energy Monitor, Greenpeace, and the Sierra Club.

As Deutsche Welle notes, this goes against the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP's) own measures in 2012 and 2013 to allegedly slow the growth of its coal industry, and its promise to cap coal consumption. The broadcaster reported that the CCP also has been putting cash behind more coal-fired plants abroad.

This shows that while the CCP has been paying lip service to "clean energy" and has backed international programs to curb greenhouse-gas emissions, it has maintained its own programs for cheap and effective energy.

At the same time, by promoting less profitable and less effective energy programs in Europe and elsewhere, the CCP has been taking a road that could allow it to dominate the market.

and means that do not involve the force of arms, means that involve military power and means that do not involve military power, means that entail casualties and means that do not entail casualties—to force the enemy to serve one's own interests."

In the strategic sense, resource warfare could be the intentional destruction of land to deny its use to an adversary—such as when Russia burned farmland while falling back from Napoleon's forces, causing Napoleon's army to starve.

When it comes to legal warfare, this includes the manipulation of laws and regulations to control or deny access to key resources, such as iron ore, rare earth minerals, or energy sources like oil and natural gas.

The CCP demonstrated this strategy's use in September 2010, when it was trying to seize control of Japan's Senkaku Islands. After Japan detained a Chinese fisherman in the disputed waters, the CCP answered by banning the sale of rare earth minerals to Japan.

Its control of the rare earth market acted as a symbolic gun to the head of Japan's high-tech industry—and likewise the Japanese economy.

In other words, the CCP used a legal warfare method to seize control of territory.

## Environmental Warfare

Now let's get into fossil fuels and greenhouse gases—and whichever side of the fence you're on with global warming, forget about it for a moment. We're going to look at this purely from the angle of strategy.

When it comes to the current topic of coal energy, the CCP had been speaking with two tongues. On one side, it was paying lip service to clean energy and claiming it would lead this charge. On the other side, it wasn't changing anything—and it even continued its track record of being the top offender on greenhouse-gas emissions.

The energy business is strategically valuable—not just for controlling the ability to power armies, economies, and national infrastructure—but also on its power to influence other nations. Russia was keenly aware of this concept, and has used its control of natural gas to sway politics in Europe. Leaked State Department cables in 2009 showed that Russia was planning to exert similar control with nuclear energy, and was specifically targeting Eastern Europe.

Russia's known ambitions to use energy markets for political influence were part of the controversy when the U.S. State Department under Hillary Clinton held its March 6, 2009, "reset" with Russia, and helped approve Russia's purchase of uranium company Uranium One—\$500 million of dollars poured into the Clinton Foundation.

When it comes to the debates around global warming, China is the greatest abuser on greenhouse-gas emissions. As Deutsche Welle notes, coal is the worst offender in carbon emissions, and while most of the world was pushing to phase out coal energy, global demand for coal rose by



KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES



China is the world's biggest greenhouse-gas emitter and its ... carbon dioxide emissions were 4 percent higher in the first quarter of 2018.

The Heartland Institute

## Unrestricted Warfare

These actions tie closely to military strategies outlined in the CCP's unrestricted warfare systems—specifically to resource warfare and international law warfare (also called "legal warfare"). Environmental warfare combines both of these concepts.

According to the Chinese military book "Unrestricted Warfare," resource warfare is described as "grabbing riches by plundering stores of resources," and legal warfare is described as "seizing the earliest opportunity to set up regulations."

"The goal of this kind of warfare will encompass more than merely 'using means that involve the force of arms to force the enemy to accept one's own will,'" the book states.

"Rather, the goal should be 'to use all means whatsoever—means that involve the force of arms

KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES



Chinese locals gather at a local market outside a state owned coal-fired power plant in Huainan, Anhui Province, China, on June 14, 2017. The Chinese regime has quietly resumed construction of dozens of coal plants, according to satellite images obtained by German broadcaster Deutsche Welle.

While the Chinese regime has been paying lip service to "clean energy" and has backed international programs to curb greenhouse-gas emissions, it has maintained its own programs for cheap and effective energy.

The CCP supports restricting greenhouse-gas emissions because international regulations enable it to buy up resources at fire sale prices.

0.7 percent. It states, "Almost all of that growth came from Asia and especially China, where coal power generation of electricity rose by more than 5 percent."

Going by these numbers, and the Chinese regime's environmental track record that includes reckless destruction of its own natural resources, it's fair to say that the CCP cares very little about how its industry affects the environment.

But the CCP claims it cares. This has a few facets to it. Part of the reason the CCP supports restricting greenhouse-gas emissions is that international regulations cripple its competitors, and enable it to buy up resources going at fire sale prices.

Also, the CCP controls a strong portion of the "clean energy" tech movement, including through its monopoly on rare earth minerals used in solar panels and wind turbines, and its ability to underprice competitors in wind turbine technology, which its military hackers—"Unit 61398"—stole from U.S. company American Superconductor Corp.

This brings us to the Paris climate accord, which was an international agreement to cut greenhouse-gas emissions. President Donald

Trump pulled out of the agreement, criticizing it as a deal that would have placed heavy restrictions on U.S. companies while giving free rein to the major abusers, including China.

Ironically, the Trump administration—with restrictions lifted on producing clean-burning natural gas—has managed to cut carbon emissions even without the restrictions in the Paris accord—so much so that the United States is now the world leader in cutting carbon emissions. It's outpaced all the critics from Canada to Europe, and all the way to China.

Meanwhile, according to The Heartland Institute, "China's carbon dioxide emissions rose at the fastest rate in seven years during the first quarter of 2018, according to Greenpeace. China is the world's biggest greenhouse-gas emitter and its government data show the country's carbon dioxide emissions were 4 percent higher in the first quarter of 2018 than at the same time in 2017."

The Paris accord would have allowed the CCP to dominate the energy market. The new findings on the CCP's coal-fired plants show that, despite all its talk about clean energy, it was all just hot air.

## SOCIAL CONTROL

## CHINESE REGIME'S SOCIAL CREDIT SYSTEM AIMS TO FOSTER POLITICAL OBEDIENCE AMONG YOUNG CITIZENS

OLIVIA LI

In the latest move to implement a social credit system across mainland China, Chinese authorities recently launched a credit rating app targeting China's 460 million adults aged 18 to 45. According to this scheme, those who earn the highest credit scores enjoy greater access to training and employment benefits, while those with low scores encounter restrictions even in day-to-day life.

Observers say that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is trying to use technology to build a unique form of totalitarianism that has never existed in the past.

The social credit rating app, called "Unicity," was formally released in February by a team at Tsinghua University under the dual leadership of Communist Youth League Central Committee and the National Development and Reform Commission, according to the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post (SCMP). Unlike the financial credit systems in the West, Unicity gathers a large amount of non-financial information about its users, including so-called "anti-social" behavior and participation in "volunteer work."

By collecting, sorting, and analyzing a vast array of data, from a person's educational background to online shopping habits, the app aims to encourage "good" behavior and deprecate "bad" behavior, especially among college students and new graduates.

For this group of users, extra points can be earned for publishing papers, inventing products, and participating in social volunteer activities, while cheating on exams or committing plagiarism will affect their social credit scores.

When a student purchases an online course via Unicity, the app will determine how much of a discount can be applied based on his or her social credit score. More importantly, when looking for employment, those who have higher social credit will be prioritized.

According to SCMP, the developers of Unicity declined to disclose how the app evaluates various data to calculate a credit score, and denied that whether a person is a member of CCP is taken into account in the metric.

China's state-run media praised the credit system as being able to guide young people to consciously practice the CCP's "socialist core values."

## High-Tech Totalitarianism

Chinese human rights lawyer and visiting scholar at New York University Teng Biao told the Chinese-language Epoch Times that the new social credit scheme is part of a series of measures taken by the CCP to strengthen its surveillance over the whole of society and re-activate totalitarian rule.

Teng believes the CCP is in the process of building a super-totalitarian system using big data, video surveillance, DNA collection, internet technology, facial recognition technology, and social credit, creating an unprecedented form of totalitarianism.

"In the past, there was the Nazi totalitarianism and Mao Zedong's totalitarian system, but a totalitarian system powered by the internet and contemporary technology has not existed before," Teng said. "The CCP is now taking the first step to build such a high-tech totalitarian system, by using credit ratings and monitoring and recording every detail in people's daily life, which is very frightening."

While some may welcome the imposition of a social ranking system as an avenue to earning certain benefits, Teng warned against the darker aspects of digital social control, as it would severely curtail individual freedoms in China.

According to Teng, the development of today's social credit system is rooted in the CCP's sense of crisis as a ruling party. The CCP has tightened its control in every aspect in Chinese society in recent years; such as by launching tougher crackdowns on human rights lawyers, religious groups, Uyghur and Tibetan activists, and imposing more stringent internet censorship.

Xia Yeliang, a former professor of economics at Peking University now living in the United States, said in an interview with Radio Free Asia that the social credit rankings system for young people is a new means for the Chinese authorities to control them, especially college students.

He compared the social credit system to a huge net, trapping everyone inside. "The CCP wants to make sure that these young people don't do or say anything that is considered out of the boundary," Xia said.

## OPINION

## DIA OFFICER SPIED FOR CHINESE AS PART OF 'RESISTANCE'

BRAD JOHNSON

There's currently extensive news reporting about former Defense Intelligence Agency officer Ron Hansen, who spied on the United States for the Chinese intelligence service. He was caught by U.S. authorities and made a plea arrangement, likely facing 15 years in prison when he's sentenced in September.

In return, Hansen will tell U.S. intelligence everything he did and everything the Chinese asked of him. This sort of plea deal in cases of this kind are common. It's of real value to find out what the enemy—the Chinese in this case—learned from their spy and the techniques they used to communicate with him, how they passed him money, what information and people they targeted, and so on. This teaches us what to look for in the cases of other Americans who might be spying for the Chinese.

Also, knowing what the Chinese learned lets us accurately assess the damage done and what Chinese priorities are. Their priorities are more interesting than one might think. The Chinese would ask a trusted spy of this nature exactly what they wanted to know, and from this, we can thereby

learn where the gaps existed in their information and, perhaps more importantly, where no gaps existed. No gaps means they know the information from some other source. You can see where that takes us, and why it would be useful.

To someone with my background, one of the aspects of this case that really floats to the top is the motives of Hansen to spy for the Chinese to begin with. In his case, it appears that money was high on his list, and he was apparently well-paid, which isn't common for the Chinese. This is certainly a measure of the harm he did to the United States.

For any students of such things, the intelligence agencies of the rest of the world always consider greed to be the weakness of Americans. Hansen also spent time in Taiwan as a young man, where he learned to appreciate the country and culture. Finally, just uncovered by Bill Gertz at The Washington Free Beacon, buried in the transcripts of phone conversations, we learn that Hansen hated President Donald Trump passionately and viewed working against Trump as his duty.

This isn't the first time an individual believed that resisting Trump justified



Former Defense Intelligence Agency officer Ron Hansen. SALT LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Former intelligence contractor Reality Winner. SEAN RAYFORD/GETTY IMAGES



CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) participates in a reenacted swearing-in with her husband, Richard Blum, and then-Vice President Joe Biden at the Capitol on Jan. 3, 2013.

leaking classified information. In 2018, Reality Winner was sentenced to five years and three months in federal prison for leaking classified information to the press that she thought would damage Trump.

These are just two examples of the poisonous atmosphere the resistance movement within the liberal Democratic Party has created. Most of the leadership at the Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and National Security Agency (NSA) are overwhelmingly liberal and take it unto themselves to betray their oath of office to support the Constitution of the United States, for political motives.

In the bowels of bureaucracy, it's "mainstream" to talk openly about how best to resist the lawfully elected president of the United States, and it shows up everywhere. There was a time when most in government were professionals first, but those days are gone, and now it's overwhelmingly personal politics first.

We don't have to look very far back to remember that Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) had a Chinese spy on her staff for about 20 years, who was her office director and her driver when she was in San Francisco. She claimed that since the Chinese spy was in California and didn't have direct access to classified information kept only in Washington, it was all a big nothingburger.

What is almost beyond belief is that this was accepted by everyone, including Congress and the cast of characters at the DOJ, FBI, CIA, and NSA, who all know better.

Being an expert on exactly this sort of case, please let me authoritatively point out this was a fantastic opportunity for the Chinese and a stunning success from their perspective. Any CIA officer who successfully recruited a similar person to spy on the Chinese leadership for 20 years would be a rock star. This was a truly big deal and very damaging to U.S. interests. Anyone who says differently is ignorant or a liar, and yet absolutely nothing has been done.

Wouldn't it be worth knowing if over a 20-year period, the chief of staff who was a spy for the Chinese recommended or hired people to work on Feinstein's Washington staff? Are they still there now or did they move to work in another senator's office?

One other point worth noting, Feinstein's estimated net worth is \$94 million. Most of that comes from the private equity firm of her husband, Richard Blum, who does much of his business with none other than the Chinese.

Did any of the tens of millions of dollars made by the Feinstein family have anything to do with the Chinese spy or Chinese intelligence? Can you imagine if Donald Trump's wife made tens of millions of dollars doing business

This isn't the first time an individual believed that resisting Trump justified leaking classified information.

with Russia and it was discovered that Trump's chief of staff was a Russian spy on his staff for 20 years?

China is probably the greatest long-term strategic threat the United States faces, and the socialist liberal movement within the Democratic Party has given birth to the resist movement to fight behind the scenes against the duly elected U.S. president. This negative force in American politics is so poisonous that it justifies in the mind of liberals almost any action, no matter how wrong.

It's clear, the leadership, particularly at the FBI and DOJ, are staunch Democratic supporters and appear to buy into the resist movement to the point they are willing to overlook glaring, significant damage to U.S. national security, only because looking into the matter would hurt a senior Democratic senator.

It seems they will also invent an investigation against political opponents. That this plays into the hands of our enemies like the Chinese isn't even a consideration for them.

Brad Johnson is a retired CIA senior operations officer and a former chief of station. He is president of Americans for Intelligence Reform.

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

# THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH *and* TRADITION

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