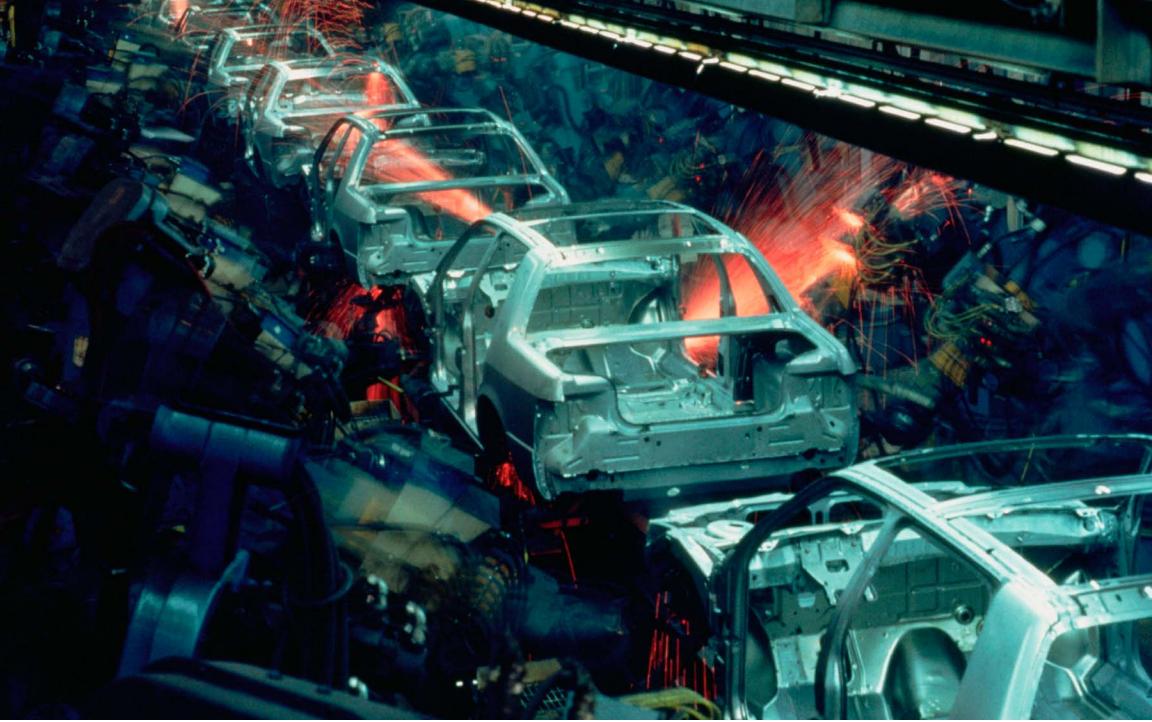




The Truth About
CHINA

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CHINA'S GRAND THEFT

Grand theft auto is a persistent crime in America, a felony in most states with jail sentences up to 10 years and a fine of \$10,000, depending on the value of the car and any valuables left inside. Car theft is a lucrative pursuit. Thieves steal an average of 2,400 vehicles a day for a grand total of around 873,000 stolen cars in 2020, a 9 percent increase over the previous year. It is a telling sign of our times that one of the most popular action/adventure games is “Grand Theft Auto,” with over 280 million units sold. Now imagine a gang of thieves organized to steal not our cars and trucks and RVs, but an invaluable national resource: our research and development in modern technology.

Who is this gang of thieves? The “gang” in question is the government of a country with a population four times that of the United States, a booming gross domestic product (GDP) second only to America’s, and a totalitarian political system with global ambitions. The country is the People’s Republic of China (PRC)—Communist China—and the organization responsible for its policies is the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Communist China has acknowledged that it must make large leaps in cutting-edge technologies to surpass America, and that it cannot

accomplish this with its own state-directed economy. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told a CCP meeting, “Our capacity for innovation is not strong, and our weakness in terms of core technologies for key fields remains a salient problem.”

For China, the solution is simple: intellectual theft on a scale never seen before in modern history. As the former U.S. Assistant Attorney General John Demers put it, “China wants the fruits of America’s brain power to harvest the seeds of its [China’s] planned economic dominance.”

China’s thieves are everywhere. One of its intelligence officers posed as a headhunter on a social media platform and offered an American scientist a large sum for “consulting” services. The American realized that the “consulting” was related to sensitive information he had as a military intelligence specialist. He reported the suspicious contact to the FBI.

Although we do not know precisely what happens when technology is stolen, we do know that the information is usually given to one of China’s universities, which then applies for patents based on the technology. The government distributes the patents to selected Chinese companies, which usually report spectacular advances in their field. The giant Chinese telecommunications company Huawei, for example, acquired an incredible 56,000 patents for fifth-generation (5G) wireless technology and artificial intelligence without spending much of its own money on R&D. Because of China’s far-flung spy ring, Huawei didn’t have to.

China depends on spies, bribes, and theft because its system of centralized decision-making stifles technological innovation. The CCP does not dare permit a real entrepreneurial spirit to flourish in China for fear that economic freedom would lead to political freedom threatening its hold on the levers of power. The CCP looks to intellectual property theft to fill China’s technological gaps, an endeavor that grows more difficult with the aggressive policing by the FBI and other U.S. agencies. Stung by criticism, Communist China claims that it has created courts that have prosecuted many cases of intellectual property theft. But Chinese court records are hard to come by, and several corporations have complained that their cases have been dismissed by courts friendly to Chinese businesses. Such an outcome is not surprising in a land in which the law is what the CCP says it is.

What is to be done? Walter Lohman, director of the Heritage Foundation's Asian Studies Center, has suggested that U.S. policy toward China should "go big," dealing with national defense and diplomatic, as well as economic, issues. **U.S. policy should avoid protectionism and should focus on measures that restrict purchases by companies controlled by the CCP.** It should build a united front of action with allies such as Australia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, and Thailand. It should call out China's widespread use of forced labor in Xinjiang and extend refugee status to Muslim Uyghurs fleeing persecution in China. America must expose China's tactic of applying diplomatic and economic pressure to secure support in international organizations. Citing China's intellectual property theft before a meeting of the World Trade Organization would be a good place to start.

Certain to capture worldwide attention would be U.S. pressure on the International Olympic Committee to postpone the 2022 Beijing Olympics and select a new host country. Postponement of the Olympics, let alone a transfer of venue, would constitute an enormous loss of face by China and the CCP.

The time is far past for America to take decisive action against China's grand theft and treat it for what it is: a grave violation of international law that merits severe penalties, including condemnation by the global community.



EDUCATION IMAGES/CONTRIBUTOR/GETTY IMAGES

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES: CHINA'S TROJAN HORSE

When the Left and the Right agree on something in these disputatious times, the wise man will want to know: What has brought these warring factions together, however briefly? It is the Confucius Institutes that dot American campuses.

The progressive *New Republic* magazine and the conservative National Association of Scholars (NAS) both warn that the Institutes are not the innocent cultural centers they pretend to be. They are, rather, a key stratagem of China's "soft war" against America, crafted, in the words of NAS senior researcher Rachele Peterson, to "teach political lessons that unduly favor China."

Founded in 2004, the Confucius Institutes are a global phenomenon, enrolling more than nine million students at 525 institutes in 146 countries and regions. More than 100 institutes have opened in the United States, including at prestigious universities, such as Columbia and Stanford. They are mostly staffed and funded by an agency of the Chinese government's Ministry of Education—the Office of Chinese Languages Council International, or Hanban. The Hanban also operates Confucius Classrooms in an estimated 500 primary and secondary schools in the United States.

A 243-page NAS report described in detail the many strings attached to the goodies offered by Confucius Institutes:

Loss of intellectual freedom. Chinese teachers—hired, paid by, and accountable to the Communist Chinese government—are pressured to avoid “sensitive” topics, such as the Tiananmen Square massacre and the Cultural Revolution.

Lack of transparency. Contracts between American universities and the Hanban are rarely made public. One university went so far as to forbid Rachele Peterson from visiting its campus as part of her research.

Financial and moral entanglement. Confucius Institutes cover all the expenses of classes and also offer scholarships to American students to study abroad. With such financial incentives, American universities find it difficult to criticize Chinese policies like its genocidal treatment of Muslim Uyghurs in Western China.

Hard-edged soft power. Confucius Institutes avoid discussing China’s widespread human rights abuses and present Taiwan and Tibet as undisputed Chinese territories. As a result, Peterson wrote, the institutes “develop a generation of American students with selective knowledge of a major country”—and a major adversary. Confucius Institutes are a textbook example of soft power that causes universities in receipt of Chinese largesse to stay silent about controversial subjects like China’s use of forced labor to pick cotton, a 21st-century variation of the slavery of the antebellum South.

The Confucius Institutes pretend to be a Chinese version of cultural institutions like the Alliance Française or the Goethe Institute, but they are in reality a propaganda machine funded and directed by the Chinese government. Based on the findings of its 2017 report, the NAS recommends that “all universities close their Confucius Institutes.”

Leading American universities are not immune to China’s hard-edged soft power. Minxin Pei, a professor of government at Claremont McKenna College and an open critic of China’s authoritarian government, refers to the American institutions

that have programs in China as “hostages.” “If you’re Stanford or Harvard and you have operations in China,” Pei asks, “are you going to host a famous dissident?”

China’s dissemination of what amounts to Communist propaganda on American campuses has attracted the attention of U.S. senators and representatives across the political spectrum. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) referred to China’s “tentacles of influence,” such as the Confucius Institutes, the setting up of CCP cells in U.S. businesses, and espionage aimed at high-tech research. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) expressed concern about the Chinese government’s aggressive attempts to use Confucius Institutes to influence critical analysis of “China’s past history and present policies.”

A bipartisan group of senators ranging from Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) to Ted Cruz (R-TX) called out “those that seek to suppress information and undermine democratic institutions and internationally accepted human rights.” Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Tom Carper (D-DE) asserted that absent full transparency of operations in the U.S. and full reciprocity for U.S. colleges in China, “Confucius Institutes should not continue in the United States.”

U.S. intelligence agencies joined the chorus of concern, led by FBI Director Christopher Wray, who revealed that the Bureau was monitoring the activities of the Institutes closely. **As of April 2021, there were 47 Confucius Institutes in the U.S., down from a high of just over 100 in 2017, led by Columbia, Stanford, UCLA, Rutgers, and George Washington University.** There were also Confucius Classrooms in seven K-12 school districts. Many of the Confucius Institute closures occurred in 2018 when Congress passed legislation forbidding schools with Confucius Institutes from receiving language funding from the Defense Department. Almost immediately, 22 schools closed their Institutes.

The University of Chicago shut down its Institute after 100 professors signed a petition citing the “dubious practice of allowing an external institution to staff academic courses within the University.” A University of Chicago professor called the Confucius Institutes “academic malware” injected into the American university system. In response, Hanban attempted American-style rebranding, changing its name from Hanban to the Ministry of Education Center

for Language Exchange and Cooperation. It created a separate organization—the Chinese International Education Foundation—which will fund and oversee Confucius Institutes.

Over 2,000 years ago, besieging Greeks tricked their way into the city of Troy with the gift of a giant wooden horse within which they hid soldiers who, while the Trojans were celebrating victory, opened the gates and let in the rest of the Greek army. Ever since, we have been told, “Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.” The Confucius Institutes are the modern equivalent of the Trojan horse, seemingly benign and apolitical, but committed to (mis-)shaping our understanding of an authoritarian adversary with the goal of undermining America’s leading role in Asia and around the world.





CHINA'S "SOFT" WAR AGAINST AMERICA

The facts are indisputable: Communist China is waging a sophisticated “soft” war against America with a two-fold goal: to challenge the United States as the world’s leading superpower, and to supplant its dominant position in China’s neighborhood. Communist China’s strategy touches every aspect of American society—economic, technological, educational, political, even cultural.

With a GDP of \$14 trillion, a population of nearly 1.4 billion brimming with confidence and nationalist fervor, and an assertive Communist party commanding a modern military, China is determined to again become the Middle Kingdom and to erase the humiliation of Western dominance of China over much of the past two centuries.

China’s calculated use of “hard power”—its offensive weapons buildup, its draconian suppression of free speech and assembly in Hong Kong, the constant military maneuvers and warnings aimed at Taiwan, and the “colonization” of the South China Sea—are troubling enough. But we should also focus on China’s use of “soft power,” especially through its United Front Work Department (UFWD). Although benign sounding, the UFWD “aims to influence the policies of foreign states toward Chinese ends, through means that may be

legal, illegal, or exploit gray areas,” as June Teufel Dreyer wrote in a 2018 Foreign Policy Research Institute report. Target no. 1 of China’s global offensive is the United States.

The public face of the UFWD is the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), which routinely approaches American officials in various states, offering trips to China and discussing possible investments in technological industries affecting U.S. national security. The CPAFFC does not hesitate to apply pressure once a relationship has been established. In one case, as then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo revealed, a Chinese official threatened to cancel a Chinese investment if a U.S. governor traveled to Taiwan, the democratically elected president of which was deemed by Beijing to be too independent. No one is unimportant in the CPAFFC’s calculations—its people cultivate county school boards and local politicians through so-called sister city programs around the world.

Beijing wages political warfare everywhere. **While direct contributions to U.S. federal campaigns from foreign nationals and companies are illegal, indirect contributions through U.S. subsidiaries are legal.** The CCP takes advantage of America’s federalist system—many states do not prohibit foreign contributions in local races. Also legal is the hiring of former senior government officials by foreign companies. One former U.S. representative lobbies for the U.S.-China Transpacific Foundation, a Beijing-backed organization that brings delegations of U.S. congressmen to China to “enhance” their understanding of economic and other developments in the mainland.

After years of overlooking China’s aggressive lobbying and technology theft, the United States has finally taken the offensive in its soft war with China. In 2020, the State Department closed down the Chinese consulate in Houston because China was using it “for highly aggressive espionage efforts against U.S. intellectual property and American citizens of Chinese ancestry.” Among the espionage priorities of Chinese agents was the penetration of “defense and tech sectors in Houston and in the so-called Silicon Hills area of Austin.” The consulate also tracked and harassed Chinese Americans, who the CCP believes should be loyal to the Xi Jinping regime.

In addition, significant targeted economic sanctions against Chinese companies were put in place by the Trump Administration, a policy supported by Republicans and Democrats in Congress because of China's blatant use of privately developed technology for political ends. In December 2020, the Commerce Department added a major Chinese semiconductor and drone manufacturer to the export blacklist. The sanctions followed evidence of activity between the Chinese company and China's military industrial complex. "We will not allow advanced U.S. technology to help build the military of an increasingly belligerent adversary," said then-Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. The department explained it was adding the drone maker for enabling high-tech surveillance in China, a clear abuse of human rights.

The CCP and its satellite organizations are expert in the art of disinformation. Chinese propaganda persuaded so many Americans that a U.S. soldier had brought the coronavirus to Wuhan—as opposed to the truth that Wuhan had given the virus to the rest of the world—that the soldier and her family needed a personal security detail to protect them from death threats.

China has launched a blitzkrieg which, in former Attorney General William Barr's words, is calculated "to seize the commanding heights of the global economy and to surpass the United States as the world's preeminent technological superpower." A primary Chinese weapon in this global conflict is the aforementioned UFWD. The UFWD takes its lead from Lenin, Stalin, Mao, and other dictators, for whom, says Australian government official John Garnaut, "words are not vehicles of reason and persuasion. They are bullets...for defining, isolating, and destroying opponents."

America's response must be multitiered. For one thing, we must understand that China is not a harmless competitor, as we once imagined, but a determined opponent who will stop at nothing to achieve his goals. **We must also employ every necessary weapon, such as imposing tighter targeted economic sanctions on companies and individuals involved in human rights abuses; establishing reciprocity in travel and media access; barring U.S. investment in People's Liberation Army-controlled companies, particularly in technology; closing down all Confucius Institutes and Classrooms; and challenging China in every international forum from the United Nations to the World Health Organization.**



XINHUA NEWS AGENCY/CONTRIBUTOR/GETTY IMAGES

A REMINDER THAT CHINA IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S WORST HUMAN RIGHTS OFFENDERS

The re-election of Communist China to the U.N. Human Rights Council was a travesty. It mocked the U.N.'s boast that the Council is the world's "premier" human rights agency and ignores the record of one of the worst offenders of human rights in the world.

The U.N. General Assembly also elected Communist Cuba to the Human Rights Council, declining to acknowledge its decades-long human rights violations, such as not holding the democratic elections that dictator Fidel Castro promised the Cuban people 60 years ago. As one watchdog group commented, Cuba's election to the body was like turning the firehouse over to a gang of arsonists.

Mao Zedong has rightly been called the greatest murderer of the 20th century, killing an estimated 65 million Chinese in radical Marxist experiments, such as the so-called Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. Li Rui, Mao's personal secretary, admitted, "The deaths of others meant nothing to him." Today, General Secretary Xi Jinping, whose photo is linked with that of Mao wherever one turns in China, is leading an Orwellian campaign of control and intimidation of the almost 1.4 billion people of China, running roughshod over human rights whether

the U.N. recognizes it or not. Like any totalitarian party, Xi's Chinese CCP is everywhere.

The CCP persecutes religious minorities to a degree not seen since the most repressive days of Mao's Cultural Revolution. According to reliable sources, including the U.S. State Department, more than 1 million Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Muslim ethnic groups have been placed in internment camps designed to "erase religious and ethnic identities." Camp officials have abused, tortured, and killed as many as 20,000 detainees, according to the Uyghur Human Rights Project. The prominent Uyghur writer Nurmuhhammad Tohti, for example, suffered a heart attack during his internment and died shortly after being released. When his body was returned to his home, his legs were still chained.

Like the Buddhist Tibetans with their unique culture, the Muslim Uyghurs are a special target of Beijing. The CCP has launched a campaign to limit the Uyghur birthrate through mandatory birth control and other methods. Zumrat Dawut, a Uyghur woman, was fined for having three children instead of two and offered free surgical sterilization.

Moreover, the slightest criticism incites swift reprisals. Pro-democracy activist Wang Meiyu was arrested after holding a placard outside Hengyang Normal University in Hunan calling for Xi's resignation and democratic elections. Sometime after Wang's arrest, his wife was called to a military hospital to visit her dying husband, whom she barely recognized—he was bleeding from the eyes, mouth, ears, and nose. To ensure her silence, she and her two children were placed under house arrest after Wang died. Her treatment was a warning to dissidents: Your family is not immune from governmental retribution.

Such surveillance supplements the Orwellian social credit system that monitors and grades every citizen on his financial credit, driving practices, court orders, and online actions. Disobedience brings lower scores and penalties affecting loans, government jobs, housing, transport, and schooling.

Meanwhile, Xi has elevated himself to the exalted realm of Mao Zedong with his own manifesto—"Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era." "Xi Jinping Thought" asserts the supremacy of the CCP, declaring that the goal

of a powerful unified China can be achieved “only” through the leadership of the Communist party. Xi and the CCP celebrate their Marxist roots: “We commemorate Marx in order to pay tribute to the greatest thinker in the history of mankind and also to declare our firm belief in the scientific truth of Marxism.”

Communist China’s decision to seek re-election to the U.N. Human Rights Council is proof that it understands the global importance of human rights as a way to legitimize its indefensible conduct. It remains for the U.S. and other nations to apply constant pressure on Beijing to abandon its totalitarian methods and reform one of the worst human rights records in the world.





ERIC BOUVET/CONTRIBUTOR/GETTY IMAGES

CHINA'S CORONAVIRUS LIES NOT THE FIRST FROM ITS COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT

Lying comes naturally to the Chinese Communist government, which will say anything to maintain its tight grip on the reins of power.

But the dishonesty didn't start with the novel coronavirus outbreak in 2020. **The government has been lying for 32 years about the Tiananmen Square massacre of several thousand freedom-seeking students in June 1989.** Beijing insists that only a few people died and that troops were dispatched merely to quiet “hooligans” and maintain public safety.

The Chinese Communist government lies about its persecution of the Muslim Uyghurs in Western China. An estimated 1.5 million Uyghurs—one-tenth of the population—have been placed in “education centers.” We don't know how many have died in these gulag-like camps circled with barbed wire while being educated in Chinese President Xi's school of thought. Nor do we know how many Uyghurs have died of COVID-19.

The Chinese Communist government lied that it intended to honor its 1984 agreement with the British regarding the transfer of authority of Hong Kong to China. Ever since, like a giant boa

constrictor, Beijing—enabled by an excessively deferential Hong Kong government—has steadily encroached on the political affairs of the city’s 7 million inhabitants.

The greatest lie of all was the monstrous suggestion made by a Chinese Foreign Ministry official that the coronavirus was American in origin—that it was brought to Wuhan by the U.S. military. Such calculated disinformation was the stock in trade of the Soviet Union, whose casebook Communist China has clearly copied.

Today, we are still waiting for the lies to end and the truth to be told about life and death in a country that a Chinese friend of mine calls “the land of the lie.”





NURPHOTO/CONTRIBUTOR/GETTY IMAGES

IS CHINA TOTALITARIAN?

Some four decades ago, Deng Xiao-ping, the paramount leader of Communist China, took command of a country that had been nearly wrecked through Mao Zedong's radical Marxist experiments like the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, and announced a new economic policy of "socialism with Chinese characteristics."

Many experts in the West predicted that political liberalization would soon follow the economic "liberalization" initiated by Deng. Others were skeptical that the CCP would relinquish any meaningful degree of its political power. After all, they noted, Deng stressed that "we shall adhere to Marxism and keep to the socialist road."

Has Communist China become more liberal with the passing of the years? Has it demonstrated a willingness to respect the political and human rights widely honored by the world community? **Is the curve in Communist China pointed up toward freedom and democracy, or down toward Marxism-Leninism and totalitarianism?**

There is disturbing evidence of the latter course.

One widely accepted way of measuring a nation's place on the political spectrum is to apply Zbigniew Brzezinski's six traits of a

totalitarian state: **(1) an official ideology (2) a single political party typically led by one man, (3) a secret police, (4) party control of mass communications, (5) party control of the military, and (6) a centrally directed economy.** Where does Communist China belong?

China is ruled by an official body of socialist doctrine that covers all aspects of society. At the 2017 party congress, the CCP approved a new phrase for its charter—"Xi Jinping Thought for the New Era of Socialism with Chinese Special Characteristics"—elevating President Xi to the demigod status of Mao and Deng. The congress's meeting hall featured enormous side-by-side portraits of Xi and Mao.

The CCP is increasingly dominated by one man, Xi Jinping, whose power is stronger than any leader since Mao. At the 2018 People's Congress, lawmakers passed changes to the constitution abolishing presidential term limits and enabling Xi to rule indefinitely. Just how powerful Xi is can be judged by the vote on the constitutional change—2,958 in favor, 2 opposed and 3 abstaining. The change in the duration of the presidency aligns that office with the other positions that Xi holds—head of the CCP and of the military, neither of which has term limits. Since taking power in 2013, Xi has centralized his authority, ousted internal political enemies, and backed policies to tighten control of civil society.

Beijing depends on a system of police control supervised by the leaders of the CCP and directed against all "enemies" of the regime. Although denied by the regime, the laogai system of prisons and labor camps still exists and is populated by political prisoners. According to Human Rights Watch, the government has detained and prosecuted hundreds of political activists and human rights defenders. The unexplained disappearance and forced confessions of two high-profile citizens—actress Fan Bingbing and Vice Minister Meng Hongwei—demonstrated that China's legal system has its own set of rules.

The government and the CCP are especially sensitive to the activity of Christians, Muslims, the Falun Gong, and other believers. In April 2018, Cui Haoxin, a Muslim poet, was placed in an internment camp for one week for the political views in his poetry. Subsequently, Cui was warned by the police to stop posting information about the camp, the existence of which the government denied. It is reliably estimated that as many as 1.5 million Uyghurs have been placed in re-education camps.

Beijing does not hesitate to monitor media far beyond its national borders. The manager of Australia's largest independent Chinese-language newspaper described the pressure that Chinese officials applied to the paper's advertisers in an attempt to silence its critical views. Maree Ma of Vision China Times told The Sydney Morning Herald that two businesses withdrew advertisements after they were asked to do so by Chinese government officials. The publication later lost over 90 percent of mainland Chinese website traffic in one day, which the paper believes to be the result of Chinese government actions.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics is not soft democratic capitalism but hard market socialism in which critical decisions are made by the Communist party not the market. China's economic growth is due to several factors, including its very loose adherence to the rules it agreed to abide by when it joined the WTO; the remarkable work habits of the Chinese; the allure of the almost 1.4 billion Chinese as a market for Western businesses; and the ability of the CCP, so far, to balance the demands of a mixed economy.

As we can see, **China is totalitarian in five of the six traits developed by Brzezinski to determine a totalitarian regime.**

Only with regard to a centrally controlled economy do we find an authoritarian, rather than a strict totalitarian, structure. Human Rights Watch has been persuaded by this capitalist tilt to describe China as "a one-party authoritarian state that systemically curbs fundamental rights." The U.S. State Department says that "the People's Republic of China (PRC) is an authoritarian state in which the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is the paramount authority."

Does this mean that the U.S. should not do business with China? No, it means that the U.S. in its trade and other dealings with the PRC should proceed from the understanding that China is ruled by a regime that is not liberal or socialist or authoritarian, but totalitarian in its essence and is headed back to its Maoist roots.



HOW BEIJING CONTROLS CHINESE CITIZENS THROUGH FAMILY, EDUCATION, AND SPEECH

You may have read about the Chinese practice of foot-binding. It's an ancient custom dating back to the supposedly pleasing aesthetic sense of the 10th century. To improve girls' marriage prospects, their parents bound their feet with bandages from an early age to stunt the further growth of the feet. Fortunately, the practice has since been condemned and discontinued.

But Communist China has adopted other methods of suppressing the growth of the individual by attacking three bedrock institutions of society: the family, the school, and free speech. In 1980, Communist China announced a "one child" policy to prevent a population "crisis." Chinese families were limited to one child or faced severe penalties. The punishments included heavy fines, forced sterilizations, forced abortions, and even infanticide.

During the 35 years of the one-child policy, there were a recorded 196 million sterilizations and 336 million abortions. (That 336 million figure is greater than the entire population of the United States.) Since 2015, Communist China has amended the policy to allow a second baby to be born without the CCP intervening. The abortion rate, however, remains above 24.2 for every 1,000 babies born.

Communist China also controls the populace through its school system. The Communist party has complete power over education, so much so that school principals are either members of the party or operate under the direction of a party member.

This close monitoring of schools allows Communist China to indoctrinate children at a young age in Communist party propaganda. The curriculum is so strict that students fear speaking out of line. They “learn” to parrot CCP guidelines as gospel.

Cui Haoxin says that the government explicitly bans “discussion of democracy, freedom of speech, and past mistakes of the Communist Party.” Other bans include access to Google, Facebook, Instagram, The Wall Street Journal, and The Economist. There seems to be no limits to the censorship. Both “South Park” cartoons and “Winnie the Pooh” children’s stories are forbidden—the former for criticizing the Chinese government, the latter for vaguely resembling President Xi Jinping.





DALE DE LA REY/CONTRIBUTORS/GETTY IMAGES

WHY THE HONG KONG PROTESTORS KEEP MARCHING

Yet, in Hong Kong, the people publicly demonstrate against such incursions on free speech.

The demonstrations forced the government of Hong Kong to take out a full-page advertisement in *The Wall Street Journal* proclaiming that Hong Kong remains a “free society.” The ad lists nine different freedoms, ranging from freedom of speech and freedom of the press to freedom of religious belief.

Beijing is reduced to hoping that Hong Kongers will eventually tire of their protests. That’s a baseless hope, however, because it doesn’t recognize **the innate desire for freedom that exists within every human being and inspires the brave people of Hong Kong to demonstrate until their city is fully free.**

The Hong Kong demonstrators are the tip of a giant iceberg. The Chinese people are no longer satisfied with just a “full rice bowl” and seek basic human rights and some form of democracy.



UNIVERSAL HISTORY ARCHIVE/CONTRIBUTOR/GETTY IMAGES

THE LEGACY OF MAO ZEDONG IS MASS MURDER

Can you name the greatest mass murderer of the 20th century? It wasn't Hitler or Stalin. **It was Mao Zedong.**

According to the authoritative 1997 Black Book of Communism an estimated **65 million Chinese died as a result of Mao's repeated, merciless attempts to create a new "socialist" China.** Anyone who got in his way was done away with—by execution, imprisonment, or forced famine.

The most inhumane example of Mao's contempt for human life came when he ordered the collectivization of China's agriculture under the ironic slogan "The Great Leap Forward." A deadly combination of lies about grain production, disastrous farming methods (profitable tea plantations, for example, were turned into rice fields), and misdistribution of food produced the worst famine in human history.

Deaths from starvation reached more than 50 percent in some Chinese villages. The estimated number of dead from 1959 to 1961 was at least 40 million—the population of California.

Only five years later, when he sensed that revolutionary fervor in China was waning, Mao proclaimed the Cultural Revolution. Gangs of Red Guards—young men and women between 14 and 21—roamed the cities targeting revisionists and other enemies of the state, especially teachers. Professors were dressed in grotesque clothes and dunce caps, their faces smeared with ink. They were forced to get down on all fours and bark like dogs. Some were beaten to death, some even eaten—all for the promulgation of Maoism. A reluctant Mao finally called in the Red Army to put down the marauding Red Guards when they began attacking Communist party members, but not before 1 million Chinese died.

All the while, **Mao kept expanding the laogai, a system of 1,000 forced labor camps throughout China.** Human rights activist Harry Wu, who spent 19 years in labor camps, estimated that from the 1950s through the 1980s, 50 million Chinese passed through the Chinese version of the Soviet gulag. Twenty million died as a result of the primitive living conditions and 14-hour days of forced labor.

And yet Mao Zedong remains the most honored figure in the CCP. At one end of historic Tiananmen Square is Mao's mausoleum, visited daily by large, respectful crowds. At the other end of the square is a giant portrait of Mao above the entrance to the Forbidden City, the favorite site of visitors, Chinese and foreign. In the spirit of Mao, China's present rulers continue to oppress intellectuals and other dissidents, such as human rights activist Liu Xiaobo. He was sentenced to 11 years in prison for "inciting subversion of state power." His offense: signing Charter 08, which calls on the government to respect basic civil and human rights within a democratic framework.

China presents itself as a vast market for U.S. companies and investors. But some U.S. companies are taking a second look at doing business in a country which considers Mao Zedong its patron saint. Google reconsidered its operations in China after discovering a sophisticated cyberattack on its e-mail system which the Chinese government must have initiated or approved.

Google has revealed what many in the Internet world have known for some time: China routinely hacks into U.S. and Western web sites for national security and other valuable information. Mao would have applauded this intellectual rape with enthusiasm.

To learn more about
how to build an America
where freedom,
opportunity, prosperity,
and civil society flourish,
visit **heritage.org**.



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