

WE ARE BACK

Congratulations on picking up your new edition of **The Epoch Times**. We look forward to preparing more honest, responsible news for you from all around the world. Make sure to pick up your weekly edition every Thursday morning.

In the NEWS



Cardinal  
GEORGE PELL,

a top Vatican official and former adviser to Pope Francis, has been found guilty on five charges of child sex offenses, in a verdict revealed just days after a global summit in Rome aimed at addressing the problem.

WORLD | A9

President  
DONALD TRUMP

has slammed Senate Democrats for blocking a bill that would penalise doctors for failing to care for children who survive an attempted abortion, calling it one of the most “shocking votes in the history of Congress.”

US | A3

Some  
HOLD THEIR BREATHE,

others style their hair in anticipation of the outcome of the Trump-Kim summit in Hanoi, Vietnam.

WORLD | A9

HUAWEI

and Samsung recently unveiled a newfangled technology: the foldable smartphone. But a closer look at Huawei's supplier reveals a possible case of intellectual property theft.

CHINA | A5

African  
SWINE FEVER

continues to ravage pig farms all over China. Experts explain how the outbreak can have detrimental effects for the environment and human health.

WORLD | A4

We're a  
KEY TARGET

for the Chinese communist regime, says UK security experts as they sound the alarm on China-based telecommunications company Huawei.

WORLD | A9

INSIDE

AU ..... A2  
US ..... A3  
China..... A4  
World..... A8  
Opinion..... A10

FEATURES

Travel..... B1  
Health..... B4

Don't delay. Subscribe today.  
Tel: 02 8988 5600



AAP IMAGE/LUKAS COCH

Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison poses for photographs in front of the Snowy Hydro Scheme in Talbingo on Feb. 26, 2019.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Aust to Meet Emissions Targets Without ‘Wrecking’ Economy: PM

Coalition unveils new \$3.5 billion climate solutions package

RICHARD SZABO

A Coalition government will not cause wholesale electricity prices to jump or damage the health of Australian paychecks and still meet its U.N. mandated targets to reduce carbon emissions, the prime minister has said.

“We will meet our global commitments and do what is right for our environment, without taking a wrecking ball to the economy,” Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in a public statement on Feb. 25.

“We have an obligation to preserve the environment for our children, we also have an obligation to hand over a strong economy, where our kids and grandkids can get jobs.”

Scott Morrison, who is leading the centre-right Liberal-National Coalition to the upcoming federal election, said that achieving the targets that have been proposed by the left-leaning Labor opposition will come at an extra \$472 billion cost to the Australian economy.

Labor said that if elected, it would work to reduce CO2 emissions by 45 percent by 2030 based on 2005 levels, compared to the 26 percent that Australia ratified under the Paris Climate accord, without providing details on how the abatements would be achieved. Labor said it would also commit to generat-

“  
We have an obligation to preserve the environment for our children.

Prime Minister  
Scott Morrison

ing 50 percent of the nation's electricity from renewable sources.

“[It would] slash more than 336,000 jobs, cut the average wage by over \$9,000 a year, and increase wholesale electricity prices by more than 58 per cent,” Morrison said in an opinion piece published by Fairfax Media. “In short ... shutting industries and businesses down.”

“You can't achieve that any other way,” he added at a press conference. “So they're either lying about the targets they are setting, or they are lying about the impact, on jobs, especially in heavy industries and the agricultural sector.”

The Coalition's 26 percent reduction already means that each person will have to reduce their emissions by 50 to 52 percent between 2005 and 2030, while the economy will have to meet a 64 to 65 percent reduction in emissions intensity.

This week, the prime minister announced a new \$3.5 billion Climate Solutions Package through which the government will continue to implement action to reduce carbon emissions.

A key strategy in the Coalition's plan will be meeting Australia's 2030 Paris climate com-  
Continued on A2

CHINA

The AI Race: China's Aggressive Bid to Overtake US as Global Leader

LI JIE

In early February, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order promoting the development of artificial intelligence (AI) by directing federal agencies to devote resources to AI research.

Days later, the Pentagon unveiled an AI strategy to counter threats posed by China and Russia.

The Chinese regime has been developing AI at full speed. As Beijing aggressively develops AI technology for military and surveillance use, experts in U.S. government and think tanks warn about China's potential to narrow the United States' lead in AI development.

In an October 2018 article published in Foreign Affairs magazine, policy analyst Michael Auslin noted that, while the United States maintains a slight advantage in the AI arms race,



NICOLAS ASFOURI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Visitors being filmed by AI security cameras with facial recognition technology at the 14th China International Exhibition on Public Safety and Security in Beijing on Oct. 24, 2018.

a lack of investment in related fields may place Washington at a disadvantage in future research compared to China.

In January, Elsevier, a global technology and medical-information analytics company, released an analysis report on AI research around the world,

noting that China is attracting more AI talent and is “on track to establish a leading position in AI research.”

Big Data: Beijing's Advantages

In fact, as early as July 2017, China's State Council, a cabinet-like department of the central

government, announced a detailed strategy delineating China's desire to become a “world leader” in AI by 2030.

Li Kaifu, a Taiwan-born angel investor and former president of Google China, gave a speech at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in November 2017, in which he explained how the Chinese regime has an advantage over the United States in developing AI.

The Chinese regime has the power to manipulate domestic markets and has a budget not made public to the country's taxpayers—giving Beijing unbridled access to funding.

In addition, in the West, people value privacy and data protection. But in mainland China, the Chinese regime has appeased citizens through spreading the propaganda that technological advances are for the purpose of “national rejuvenation.”

Continued on A4

VENEZUELA CRISIS

Venezuela's Guaido Calls for International Help After Maduro Blocks Aid

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

Troops loyal to illegitimate socialist dictator Nicolás Maduro violently drove back foreign aid convoys from Venezuela's border crossings on Feb. 23, drawing condemnation from the United States, and prompting interim President Juan Guaidó to propose that the international community consider “all options” to secure the impoverished nation's freedom.

Maduro's troops set fire to two trucks laden with food and medicine, and forced others to return to warehouses in Colombia, after Guaidó's citizen volunteers failed to break through the blockade. Troops dispersed crowds at several border crossings and towns  
Continued on A8

RAUL ARBOLEDA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Venezuelan interim president Juan Guaidó stands with presidents Ivan Duque (R) of Colombia and Sebastian Pinera of Chile (L) on Feb. 23, 2019.

MADURO REGIME

Univision News Team Briefly Detained in Venezuela After Infuriating Maduro

BOWEN XIAO

Venezuela's illegitimate dictator Nicolás Maduro abruptly cut short an interview with Univision News after a journalist showed him footage of the nation's youth eating food from a garbage truck—infuriating Maduro who “just couldn't stand it.”

Univision anchor Jorge Ramos explained in detail the brief detainment he experienced in video footage posted on the network's website on Feb. 26. He said Maduro's personnel took him and producer Maria Guzman into a security room  
Continued on A3

AFP/GETTY IMAGES



High school students go through exam papers ahead of college entrance examinations in Hebei Province, China.

CHINA

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  
Continued on A4



# Australian State MP Calls on Victoria to Crackdown on Human Organ Trafficking

**HENRY JOM**

MELBOURNE, Australia—Victorian Member of Parliament, Bernie Finn, has called on the attorney general to cooperate with the federal government to stop the practice of human organ trafficking.

In a speech before the Victorian Parliament on Feb. 21, Finn, a Liberal Party member who is also part of Victorian Legislative Council, said that 3 of the 12 recommendations from a report by the Human Rights Sub-Committee for the inquiry into Human Organ Trafficking and Organ Transplant Tourism could be applied in Victoria.

“[T]his might not seem like a state matter at all, but in fact it does have state implications ... of the 12 recommendations that the subcommittee made, three of those have very strong state implications,” Finn said.

The report, entitled “Compassion, Not Commerce: An inquiry into human organ trafficking and organ transplant tourism” was released on Dec. 3, 2018 and considered whether Australia’s organ trafficking laws should be extended to prohibit citizens from travelling overseas for unethical transplants, and whether Australia should accede to the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs, that went into force March 1, 2018.

Finn outlined three recommendations from the report.

Recommendation five is related to mandatory reporting protocols by medical doctors who care for patients suspected to have received a commercial transplant.

Recommendation six is related to criminal proceedings, under the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs, against the illegal removal of human organs from living or deceased donors.

Recommendation 12, is related to the commercial display of human tissue where “verifiable documentation of the consent of a donor person or their next of kin” must be produced.

**Source of Human Organs**

The report acknowledged experts’ concerns that organs used in transplants in China were allegedly sourced from political prisoners, prisoners of conscience, and executed prisoners.

“I have been worried about and have expressed opposition to for quite some years, and that is the practice of the Government of China, to have a forcible organ harvesting, followed by human organs trafficking, and organs tourism,” Finn said.

During the inquiry that began in 2017, experts gave evidence of cases of transplant abuse that have been reportedly occurring in China as well as across the Asia-Pacific region.

The committee said they were not in the position to decide on the truth of the allegations against the Chinese regime but were “inclined to conclude that organ trafficking has occurred in China and may continue to occur, albeit on a lesser scale.” Given the Chinese Embassy’s silence on the al-



Bernie Finn, State MP for Western Metropolitan Region of Melbourne, addresses the Victorian Parliament on Feb. 21, 2018.

legations, the sub-committee recommended that the Australian government monitor and express concern about the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) transplantation practices.

According to in-depth investigations by former Canadian Secretary of State, David Kilgour, and human rights lawyer, David Matas, China has been harvesting organs from prisoners of conscience on a mass scale—mainly Falun Dafa practitioners—fuelling a multi-billion-dollar business that benefits CCP officials. Falun Dafa, or Falun Gong, is a traditional spiritual meditation practice that is heavily persecuted in China.

“[T]he onus is on the Chinese authorities to demonstrate to the world that they are not overseeing or permitting the practice of harvesting organs from executed prisoners without their knowledge and free consent. In the absence of such a demonstration by the Chinese authorities, the world is entitled to question assertions of claims to the contrary,” the Australian report stated.

**Important First Step for State of Victoria**

Spokesperson for Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH)—an organisation founded by medical doctors that provides objective findings of unethical and illegal organ harvesting—Dr. Liza Lau, said that Finn’s speech in the Victorian Parliament was an important first step in addressing

China has been harvesting organs from prisoners of conscience on a mass scale, fuelling a multi-billion-dollar business that benefits CCP officials.

the issue of forced organ harvesting by the CCP.

“We have good reason to believe that the Chinese government’s [practice of forced organ harvesting] is continuing to occur, and it would be really important for the state government to take action based on the recently the released summary recommendation from human rights sub committee.

“I feel that people who can’t speak for themselves are finally going to get a voice from people like Bernie Finn speaking up for them,” Lau said.

The report also recommended that Australia should accede to the Council of Europe convention.

“Australia has an obligation to demonstrate leadership as a notable organ-importing jurisdiction, and now has the opportunity to do so through accession to the convention,” it said.

Finn noted that the significant section of the report would have to be carried out by the states.

“So what I am asking the attorney general to do is to cooperate with the federal government in its attempts to crackdown on human organ transplants, and human organ trafficking, and ensure that Victoria plays its role in stopping what is a pretty loathsome and despicable practice.”

*Epoch Times reporter Janita Kan contributed to this report.*

# Aust to Meet Emissions Targets Without ‘Wrecking’ Economy: PM

**CONTINUED FROM A1**

mitments through “practical” means by working with landholders, farmers, businesses, and indigenous communities.

This includes another \$2 billion in investment towards a Climate Solutions Fund that works with the existing Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy.

The ERF, which received an initial \$2.55 billion tax-payer investment in 2014, has already purchased 193 million tonnes of carbon from businesses and land managers who have adopted approved practices like capturing methane from landfills to produce electricity.

According to the government, its cash injection will help ensure that the ERF reduces carbon emissions by a further 103 million tonnes no later than the year 2030, enabling the bulk of the 26 percent emissions reduction target under the Paris agreement to be met.

“The ERF is investing in our farmers to help them revegetate degraded land, to protect existing forest areas, and to increase habitats for our native species,” Federal Minister for the Environment Melissa Price said in the public statement. “We are working with businesses to invest in the adoption of energy efficient business practices that are reducing costs, and working with waste managers and with recyclers to reduce waste emissions.”

To support renewables, the Coalition’s package also includes more funding for the Battery of the Nation Project in Tasmania and its \$56 million Bass Strait interconnector, which will provide a 1,200 megawatt boost in renewable hydroelectricity from Tasmania to the mainland.

The broader energy industry



The Bay-swater 2640 megawatt coal-fire power station in Muswellbrook, Australia.

We have an obligation to preserve the environment for our children.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison

will also continue to receive ongoing subsidies for renewables through the Renewable Energy Target (RET), which is set to deliver a mix of at least 23 percent energy from renewables by 2020.

In the transport sector, the government said it is introducing a National Electric Vehicle Strategy aimed at addressing barriers for more ownership of electric vehicle technology.

To end the price gouging by Australia’s big, vertically-integrated power companies, the government said it is working on a plan with states and energy companies to regulate energy prices. “Gentailers” have been gaming the system by selling electricity between their generation and retail businesses at inflated prices.

Morrison added that the Coalition is on-track to exceeding Australia’s first direct action emissions target that was set under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce emissions by 236 million tonnes no later than the year 2020, or 13 percent below 2005 levels by 2020.

“We’re absolutely on track to meet our 2020 Kyoto emissions reduction target and that’s no small feat.”

He added that after inheriting a 755 million tonne projected deficit on the 2020 goal from Labor in 2013, “we are now expecting to over-achieve on the target by 367 million tonnes—a 1.1 billion tonne turn around.”

But the government has been questions on how it plans to consider this 367 million tonne of carbon in its calculations for meeting the Paris agreement after Senator Birmingham said in Senate estimates that the government “would intend to use carryover if required.” Jo Evans, deputy secretary of the Climate Change and Energy Innovation Group, said that Australia had not been criticised at the most recent U.N. climate conference in Poland for its support of using carryover credits to achieve its abatement goals.

Federal opposition and Labor Party leader Bill Shorten has echoed the Coalition’s promise for lower power prices with

his own proposal in November 2018 when he announced that Labor would introduce a new national target of one million household battery installations by the year 2025 if he wins the next election.

Up to 100,000 households earning less than \$180,000 a year would be eligible for a \$2,000 rebate towards buying and installing a battery storage system. The first three years of the plan is projected to cost \$140.9 million, according to forward estimates.

Labor policies will also continue to support renewables as it pushes for the eventual replacement of all coal-fire power stations.

Shorten said on Feb. 25, “Labor has a plan for more renewables, less pollution, and lower power prices and, unlike the Liberals, our plan wasn’t written by [former Prime Minister] Tony Abbott.”

The party said it has proposed a coal transition plan that will address the unemployment for workers in the sector as they find new jobs. The plan would include \$10 million for skills training in the renewables sector.

Labor has also said it will continue to support the small-scale renewable energy (SRES) scheme until 2030 when the RET scheme ends. The Coalition said that it would consider revising the SRES after a 2018 ACCC report called for the scheme to be abolished by 2021 to “reduce its impact on retail prices paid by consumers.”

The report found that the scheme has subsidised households with solar power by \$538 each year for the excess solar power sold back to the grid at a premium price. Under the current RET schemes, taxpayers will end up paying \$2.8 billion a year in subsidies alone for renewable energy, according to a 2017 report by economic consultancy BAEconomics.

Meanwhile, the Coalition announced that it has decided to approve the Snowy 2.0 pumped hydro-electric plant, which was given the green light by Snowy Hydro Board members back in December 2018.

Under the plan, water would be pumped uphill when electricity cheapest into a dam to be released when dispatchable energy is needed to meet shortfalls in the grid that have occurred when intermittent renewable power generators or ageing coal-power stations go offline.

“If you want to transition over time to a renewable future for energy, then you cannot do it without stations like this and stations like in Tasmania,” Morrison said on Feb. 26. “As we all know, the wind does not blow all the time and the sun does not always shine.”

With a 250 percent increase in renewable energy coming online over the next three years, Morrison said that the Snowy Hydro project will act to firm up the east coast’s power supply.

The \$4.5 billion project will increase the capacity of the existing 4,000 megawatt Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme by 2,000 megawatts. When full, the dam stores enough water to generate over seven days of power for 500,000 homes at peak demand.

The expansion is hoped to ensure that electricity remains dispatchable during prolonged “droughts” in wind or solar power generation, which will make electricity more affordable.

Up to \$1.38 billion in federal funding will be provided, while the remainder will be financed by Snowy Hydro. The government lauded that up to 2,400 construction jobs and up to 5,000 direct and indirect jobs will be created across the Snowy Mountains region as the power plant is built.



# US Denied Tens of Thousands of Visas in 2018 Due to Trump’s Travel Ban

WASHINGTON—The State Department rejected more than 37,000 visa applications in 2018 because of the Trump administration’s travel ban, up from fewer than 1,000 the previous year, when the ban hadn’t fully taken effect, according to agency data.

The United States denies almost 4 million visa applications a year for a variety of reasons, including for practicing polygamy, abducting children, or simply not qualifying for the visa in question. The data released Feb. 26 was the first comprehensive look at the effects of the ban ordered by President Donald Trump shortly after he took office, and which was initially blocked by federal courts.

The ban has especially affected people from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen, countries where the number of visas issued slid 80 percent in 2018 from 2016, the last year without a travel ban.

Trump’s initial January 2017 executive order, banning entry to the United States by citizens of several Muslim-majority countries, launched a fierce fight in federal courts over whether the policy amounts to an unlawful “Muslim ban” or was a legal exercise of presidential power.

The administration revised the policy following court challenges, and the Supreme Court allowed it to largely go into effect in December 2017 while legal challenges continued. In June 2018, the high court upheld the new version of the ban.

As a result, most people from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen have not been able to enter the United States for well over a year. Venezuela and North Korea also were targeted in the current policy, but those restrictions weren’t challenged in court.

The figures released show the government denied 15,384 applications for immigrant visas—given to those who want to live permanently in the United States—due to the “2017 Executive Order on Immigration.” A State Department spokeswoman confirmed that term referred to the travel ban policy.

In addition, 21,645 applications for non-immigrant visas—for short-term visits for business, tourism or other reasons—were denied due to the ban. Approximately 2,200 visa applications overcame denials based on the travel ban last year, but it was unclear how many of those applications were initially made last year or earlier.

The data didn’t include how many visa applica-

tions were made by citizens from countries affected by the travel ban.

Every month, the State Department releases the numbers of visas issued to citizens of all countries, including those under the travel ban, but it doesn’t publish equivalent monthly information on the number of visa applications or denials by country.

Other previously released data from the State Department shows that the number of U.S. visas issued to citizens of the countries under the travel ban has dropped drastically since its implementation.

In the fiscal year from Oct. 1, 2017, through Sept. 30, 2018, citizens of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen received approximately 14,600 U.S. visas. That is down 80 percent from approximately 72,000 visas issued for citizens of those countries in fiscal year 2016, when no such ban was in place.

Trump issued the ban “to protect the Nation from terrorist activities by foreign nationals admitted to the United States.” The targeted countries either don’t cooperate with the U.S. screening process or are so unstable as to render the current screening methods ineffective.

The number of U.S. visas issued to citizens of the countries under the travel ban has dropped drastically.

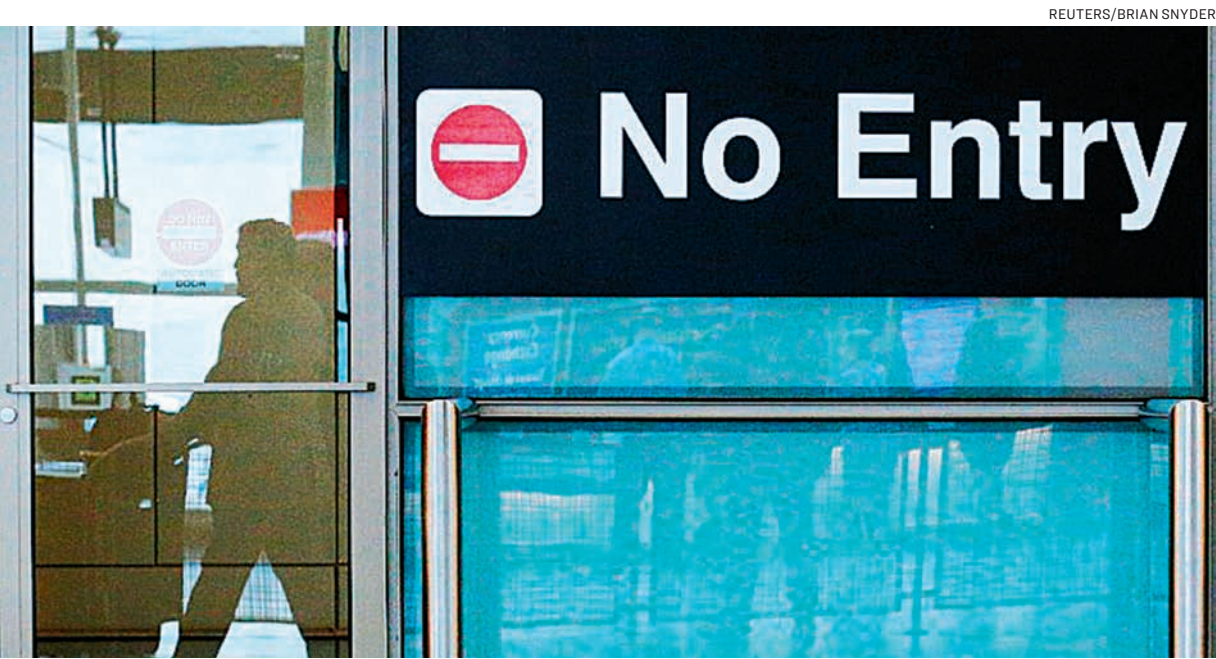
Trump’s original order targeted seven countries, based on the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015 that tightened U.S. visa requirements for people coming from, or who had recently traveled to Iran, Iraq, Sudan, and Syria.

Originally, only the four countries were included on the bill, but the Department of Homeland Security was tasked to add any other “countries of concern.” The department then added Libya, Somalia, and Yemen on Feb. 18, 2016, citing a “growing threat from foreign terrorist fighters.”

The threat was based on concerns that as the ISIS terrorist group continued to lose ground in Iraq and Syria, its fighters were shifting from military combat in the Middle East to “lone wolf” terrorism and were trying to infiltrate Europe and the United States as refugees, immigrants, and other travelers.

By Yeganeh Torbati. The Epoch Times reporter Petr Svab contributed to this report.

From Reuters



International travelers arrive on the day that President Donald Trump’s limited travel ban went into effect, at Logan Airport in Boston on June 29, 2017.

## Univision News Team Briefly Detained in Venezuela After Infuriating Maduro

CONTINUED FROM A1

and asked for their cellphones—which Ramos said he didn’t want to hand over.

“So they turned off the light of the room and a group of agents came in,” Ramos said. “They took forcefully my backpack, my cellphone, they did the same thing with Maria’s, and they forced us to give them our passcodes for the cellphones. We didn’t know what was going to happen to us.”

Ramos then recalled the moment when Maduro stopped the interview from continuing and detained his team inside Venezuela’s Presidential Palace. He added that his camera equipment and footage was confiscated and never returned.

“He tried to close my iPad where I showed him the video and then he said the interview was over,” he said. “I think we’ll never have that interview again. They don’t want the world to see what we do.”

Ramos was the head of a team consisting of six journalists from Univision, an American Spanish-language free-to-air television network. The incident ignited international concern on Feb. 25 following a post from Univision. Just before his phone was taken, Ramos was able to alert his bosses, who then notified the U.S. State Department of the situation.

Assistant Secretary of State Kimberly Breier demanded the team’s immediate release, adding that the “world is watching.” Hours later on the same day, Ramos and his team were released.

A video posted a day later on Feb. 26 shows the Univision team leaving the hotel in Caracas en route to the airport as they were accompanied by U.S. and Mexican embassy personnel.

“They are taking us in bulletproof vehicles for our own security,” Univision National News Correspondent, Pedro Ultras, said on Twitter.

Ramos told reporters that Maduro had deported them from the country with no reason provided, aside from notifying them that they had been “expelled.”



Mexican-U.S. journalist and author Jorge Ramos speaks during an interview with AFP in Mexico City, on April 11, 2016.

Univision also publicly posted the video which prompted the abrupt reaction from Maduro. The roughly two-minute long clip shows a group of Venezuelan youth and adults rummaging through the back of a garbage truck and eating the leftover scraps—a signal of just how widespread food shortages are in Venezuela.

Almost 90 percent of Venezuela’s population live below the poverty line and more than half of families are unable to meet their basic food needs, according to Mercy Corps, a humanitarian group. The U.N. estimates that by the end of 2019, 5.3 million refugees and migrants will have fled the socialist regime in Venezuela.

“These are the images ... that caused Maduro to walk out of the interview, order the Univision team detained and their work confiscated. This is what Maduro does not want the world to see,” Univision said.

**Authoritarian Rule**

Maduro’s regime has a history of arrests and violence against the free press, stemming from a 2010 law that provides for sanctions in the case of any content “calling the legitimately constituted authority into question.”

Venezuela is ranked 143 out of 180 countries in last year’s

“They don’t want the world to see what we do.”

Jorge Ramos

World Press Freedom Index, which is calculated according to the level of freedom available to journalists. The ranking is used by diplomats and international entities such as the United Nations and the World Bank.

Foreign journalists are often expelled in Venezuela, with arrests and violence by Venezuela’s police and intelligence services against reporters reaching a record level in 2017, the site said.

An annual report released by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) found that in 2018, Venezuela jailed the most journalists in the Americas, with three in prison as of Dec. 1.

Freedom House, another organization dedicated to reporting media independence and press freedom ranked Venezuela 81 out of 100—with 100 being the least free. Their 2017 score—the latest from their site—labelled the press freedom of Venezuela as “not free.”

The site said some journalists faced “politically motivated prosecutions and spurious charges” such as those of David Natera Febres, who was convicted of criminal defamation in March 2016 and Braulio Jatar Alonso, who was arrested in September 2018 and charged with money laundering.

## Trump Slams Democrats for Blocking Bill That Would Have Protected Infants Who Survive Abortions

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

President Donald Trump excoriated Senate Democrats on Feb. 26 for blocking a bill that would penalize doctors for failing to care for children who survive an abortion.

The senators voted 53–44 on a bill introduced by Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) that needed 60 votes to pass. The legislation sought to prohibit health care providers “from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.”

“Senate Democrats just voted against legislation to prevent the killing of newborn infant children. The Democrat position on abortion is now so extreme that they don’t mind executing babies AFTER birth,” Trump wrote on Twitter.

“This will be remembered as one of the most shocking votes in the history of Congress. If there is one thing we should all agree on, it’s protecting the lives of innocent babies,” he wrote.

The legislation was created in response to public outrage caused by comments from Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat, who suggested that an abortion measure under consideration by that state’s legislature would allow for the killing of a newborn infant.

Northam made the remarks in response to brewing backlash to earlier comments of a Democratic state legislator Kathy Tran, who admitted that the abortion bill she supported allowed a mother to request an abortion for physical or mental health reasons even when she was dilating and ready to give birth.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) supported the bill ahead of the vote and called on Democrats to not succumb to the “extreme voices” within their own party.

“It isn’t about new restrictions on abortion. It isn’t about changing the options available to women. It’s just about recognizing that a newborn baby

is a newborn baby. Period,” McConnell said.

“Can the extreme far-left politics surrounding abortion really have come this far?” McConnell added. “Are we really supposed to think that it’s normal that there are now two sides debating whether a newborn, whether newborn living babies deserve medical attention?”

Senate Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said that Republicans’ statements about the bill were misleading. In arguing against the bill on the Senate floor, Schumer said, without evidence, that the bill “is carefully crafted to target, intimidate, and shut down reproductive health care providers.”

The bill “would impose requirements on what type of care doctors must provide in certain circumstances, even if that care is ineffective, contradictory to medical evidence, and against the family’s wishes,” Schumer added.

Contrary to Schumer’s assertion, the bill didn’t include any requirements for the care doctors must provide to living infants who survive an abortion, leaving the specifics up to doctors. The bill instead would have required health care practitioners to treat infants who survive abortion the same as any other child born alive at the same age.

“Any health care practitioner present at the time the child is born alive shall exercise the same degree of professional skill, care, and diligence to preserve the life and health of the child as a reasonably diligent and conscientious health care practitioner would render to any other child born alive at the same gestational age,” the bill states.

In addition, after caring for the child, the health care practitioners would have been required to “ensure that the child born alive is immediately transported and admitted to a hospital.”

No Republican voted against the bill.



# Experts Warn of Pollution, Human Health Risks from Spread of African Swine Fever in China

NICOLE HAO

After witnessing 5,000 of their 20,000 pigs die within 30 days, farmers at the China Dawu Xinda farm located in Xushui district within Baoding City, Hebei Province, grew concerned.

African swine fever has swept through farms all over the country, including the surrounding municipalities and provinces near Hebei. The latter has an annual production of around 35 million pigs, according to official statistics.

The farmers repeatedly asked local government officials to conduct an inspection and determine whether the deadly virus was the culprit, but authorities refused.

Sun Dawu, founder and former chairman of the farm, wrote on WeChat, a popular social media platform, on Feb. 21: “Li Zhiyong, mayor of Xushui district, visited our farm and said [the African swine fever] is a political issue that cannot be reported [to city government].”

Worried that if there was indeed an outbreak of the virus, it would spread quickly to other farms, the Dawu Xinda farmers asked for help on social media.

Finally, on Feb. 24, China’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs confirmed and announced that an outbreak of the African swine fever had occurred on the farm, the first recognized case in Hebei.

The Ministry wrote in the announcement that 5,600 pigs on the farm are still alive. Local authorities will quarantine, cull animals, and sterilize the farm.

Dawu Xinda farmers spoke to the Chinese-language Epoch Times about the situation.

“Last night, officials and experts from the Hebei provincial government and Baoding city government came here, and buried alive all 5,000-plus pigs in the night,” one farmer said in a Feb. 23 interview. Worried about reprisals from the authorities, the farmers didn’t reveal their names.

Pigs began dying off since Jan. 2. “More and more pigs died day by day. At the beginning, 600 pigs died in one day, then 800 pigs died per day,” the farmer said.

He estimated that the total death toll was over 15,000. The farm kept reporting the deaths to the

Xushui district government, who eventually agreed to an inspection, but didn’t announce the results. The swine fever virus was only confirmed with the Ministry’s announcement.

The outbreak, which first appeared in the northeastern city of Shenyang in August last year, is taking its toll on China, as the world’s largest producer and consumer of pork.

Now, the only three provinces left untouched by the disease are the northwestern regions of Xinjiang and Tibet, and the southern island province of Hainan.

Carcass Problem

The highly contagious disease kills nearly all pigs that contract it, so local authorities need to take immediate action after an outbreak to prevent the virus from further spreading.

That includes burning carcasses or using chemical treatment to ensure that no contamination occurs.

But many pig farmers are dumping the carcasses into rivers and reservoirs, or burying them underground—potentially contaminating the soil and sources of water.

Food products made with Chinese pork have tested positive for African swine fever.



Pigs are seen at the Zuqiao Slaughterhouse in Chengdu City, Sichuan Province, on July 25, 2005.

On Feb. 12, Radio Free Asia published a video taken near the Nangang township in Lianyungang City, Jiangsu Province, where hundreds of pig carcasses can be seen floating in a river.

China’s media reported that most pig farmers improperly discard carcasses because of the cost of a proper disposal.

Hong Kong-based media Phoenix TV reported back in Sept. 2013 that disposal services by authorities can cost up to 200 yuan (\$30) for each carcass. Sadly, Chinese news portal Sohu reported in July 2017 that farmers have been known to sell carcass for 200 to 300 yuan (\$30 to \$45) to the slaughterhouse to process, although it is illegal.

Health Effects

The African swine fever virus isn’t known to be harmful to humans, but Chen Bingzhong, a former health official, told the Chinese-language Epoch Times in a Feb. 20 interview that it could have the potential to affect one’s nervous, cardiovascular, and respiratory systems, given the typical behavior of a virus.

Chen said that a longer amount of time is needed to properly observe the virus’s impact on the human body, including a pathological and toxicity analysis.

Chen believes that “the impact could be huge,” especially for children, the elderly, or those with weak immune systems, as they could be susceptible to the virus’s effects, after eating infected pork products or drinking water that has been contaminated with the virus.

Exporting the Virus Overseas

Recently, imported food products made with Chinese pork in Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan have tested positive for African swine fever.

Meanwhile, the disease has appeared in pigs in Vietnam and Mongolia since January, although neither country has yet linked the outbreak to China. Even the United States is on high alert.

“The swine fever outbreak has prompted U.S. customs to enact “stricter U.S. import requirements and increased vigilance,” Troy Miller, director of CBP New York Field Operations, said in news release on Feb. 19.

## The AI Race: China’s Aggressive Bid to Overtake US as Global Leader

CONTINUED FROM A1

A key step in AI development is the testing and training of AI algorithms. This requires a massive trove of data. In free societies, the ethics of data access is a major bottleneck in AI development. But the Chinese regime doesn’t have any qualms about accessing citizens’ data.

Concrete examples abound. Dr. Xu Li, the founder of SenseTime (also called Shangtang Technology), a Chinese AI startup that specializes in image recognition, told Bloomberg in an August 2017 article that his company used large amounts of video data from police in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou to develop its video analysis software. He added that most of China’s large cities have set up artificial intelligence research institutes so they can share data amongst each other.

“In China, the population is huge, so it’s much easier to collect the data for whatever use-scenarios you need,” he said. “When we talk about data resources, really the largest data source is the government.”

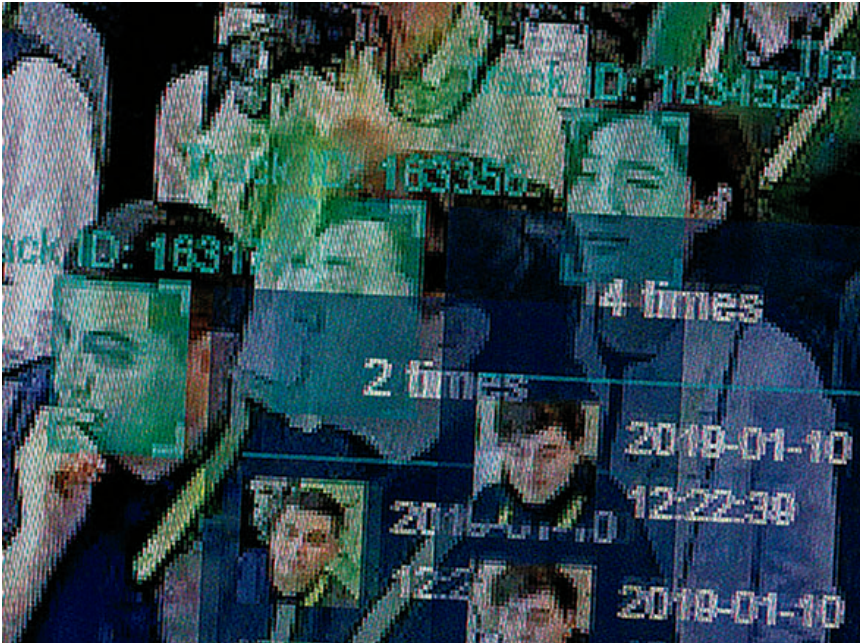
By contrast, in 2015, Google’s artificial intelligence lab DeepMind signed a deal with the Royal Free NHS Foundation Trust to obtain some 1.6 million case records from the UK’s National Health Service, as source data for a diagnostic app. But in July 2017, the UK government’s data protection watchdog determined that the deal violated UK data-protection regulations.

**Military Applications of AI**

Western countries have long studied the applications of AI for military uses.

Likewise, the Chinese regime enshrined the development of AI military applications into its national strategy—as evidenced by Chinese leader Xi Jinping’s speech at the November 2017 19th National Congress, emphasizing the need to “accelerate the intelligentization of the military.”

But the United States has been cautious about the ethical concerns of military AI research. According to a January report by defense news website Defense One, the Pentagon is working with AI experts in industry and academia to establish ethical



A live demonstration uses AI and facial recognition in dense crowd spatial-temporal technology at the Horizon Robotics exhibit at the Las Vegas Convention Center on Jan. 10, 2019.

guidelines for military AI development.

Google, which participated in the Pentagon’s AI project, Project Maven, last year, was forced to withdraw after protests from more than 3,000 employees, including dozens of resignations. The goal of the Maven project was to apply AI technology to drone video footage and help guide airstrikes. But worry about the lethality of AI weapons, and concern that control of an AI weapon could be lost, made developers in Silicon Valley cautious about working with the military.

In China, by contrast, the Chinese regime’s military research has been classified as a state secret.

It’s difficult for the outside world to fully know the concrete usage of AI by the Chinese military.

In February 2018, Hong Kong newspaper South China Morning Post, citing an anonymous source, reported that the Chinese navy is developing a computer control system for applying AI to nuclear submarines, with the purpose of improving reaction speed and accuracy, and reducing operational and decision-making errors made by human commanding officers under mental stress.

And according to a December 2017 report in the official state-run newspaper of the Chinese

Worry about the lethality of AI weapons, and concern that control of an AI weapon could be lost, made developers in Silicon Valley cautious about working with the military.

military, the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Daily, the National University of Defense Science and Technology in Changsha City, China, is conducting flight testing of autonomous drone clusters in order to implement Beijing’s military modernization strategy. The military academy is run by the PLA.

**AI for Surveillance**

The Chinese regime has especially relied on big data to create more accurate technology to surveil the populace. In addition to facial recognition technology, Chinese firms have even developed “gait recognition” technology that can identify people based on how they walk.

The technology, often developed with the help of Chinese authorities, is so accurate that it has swept international competitions for imaging analysis.

Facial recognition-equipped cameras are ubiquitous in many Chinese cities: on the subway, train stations, road junctions, shopping malls, supermarkets, stadiums, libraries—even public toilets, where faces are scanned before using toilet paper dispensers.

Meanwhile, Chinese firm HikVision is the world’s largest manufacturer of video surveillance equipment. The company’s products are banned from U.S. government use over national-security concerns.

## Beijing Pushes Plan for Education Modernization by 2035

CONTINUED FROM A1

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.”

China Education Modernization 2035 also urges the country’s universities to set up more Confucius Institutes, Confucius Classrooms, and “Luban Workshops” overseas, particularly in OBOR countries.

Luban Workshops have been dubbed the “Confucius Insti-

tute of vocational education” by the state-run China National Radio. The first workshop was founded in Thailand in 2016 for teaching mechanical manufacturing skills, while the second one, teaching Chinese culinary skills, was set up in London in 2017.

State-funded Confucius Institutes, established on university campuses around the world since 2004 with the stated purpose of “promoting Chinese language and culture,” are a controversial creation, 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.

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.”



# Huawei and Samsung Unveil Foldable Phones

FRANK FANG

South Korean tech conglomerate Samsung and its Chinese tech rival Huawei recently made headlines as both companies unveiled their respective models of foldable smartphones. As attention is drawn to their latest innovations, however, how Huawei was able to obtain the foldable technology has come under scrutiny.

On Feb. 20, Samsung unveiled its foldable phone the Galaxy Fold. It looks like a regular-sized smartphone with a 4.6-inch display, but it opens like a book to reveal a separate 7.3-inch display on the inside. What makes the folding possible is a sophisticated hinge system, as well as a new flexible display screen named the Infinity Flex Display.

OLED, also known as organic light-emitting diode, is a new advance in display technology that allows display screens to be thinner and more energy-efficient than traditional LCD (liquid crystal display) displays. The new Samsung phone incorporates AMOLED (active matrix OLED), a type of OLED technology that boasts greater resolution for a better viewing experience.

Days later, on Feb. 24, Huawei unveiled its foldable phone, called the Mate X, at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain. Like Samsung's Galaxy Fold, the Mate X also boasts a flexible AMOLED display, but it comes with a single 8-inch display. When folded, the single display separates into two rectangular screens, one with a 6.6-inch display and the other at 6.4-inch.

The challenge with making a phone with a flexible display is that glass material cannot be used as a screen cover, because glass cannot be bent. Currently, almost every smartphone uses a glass cover. The replacement material not only must be flexible, but must withstand being bent hundreds of thousands of times—since users would repeatedly open and close their foldable phones.

Huawei does not make its own flexible display. According to a Feb. 25 article published on Taiwanese tech news site DigiTimes, Chinese



Justin Denison, Samsung's senior vice president of product marketing, announces the new Galaxy Fold smartphone in San Francisco on Feb. 20, 2019.

screen maker BOE Technology supplies Huawei with its foldable display screen.

Past events in South Korea indicate that BOE may have been the culprit behind an intellectual property theft case where Samsung's flexible display technology was stolen.

**South Korean Court Case**

In November 2018, South Korean prosecutors in the Suwon District indicted the chief executive and eight employees at South Korean tech manufacturer and Samsung supplier Toptec Co. They alleged that the Toptec employees sold documents that belonged to Samsung subsidiary Samsung Display, including drawings of flexible OLED panels and the lamination equipment used to make them, according to Reuters. The nine defendants were accused of forming

Samsung faces a loss of \$5.8 billion in sales due to the technology leak.

a shell company to obtain the documents. Some of the documents were sold to China for 15.5 billion won (about \$13.8 million), South Korean prosecutors said. Toptec denied any wrongdoing.

Citing unnamed sources, Japanese media Nikkei named BOE as one of two recipients of the stolen "3D lamination technology," according to a Dec. 1 report. Lamination enables objects to be glued together, and would be critical to developing Samsung's foldable displays—though media reports and South Korean authorities so far have not identified the stolen technology in this case as the kind utilized in making the Galaxy Fold models.

Samsung did not respond to a request for comment about the case in relation to BOE.

BOE is Samsung's chief rival in OLED display technology. South Korean media have reported on how BOE has poached many researchers from its rival by offering lucrative salaries.

According to prosecutors, Samsung faces a loss of 6.5 trillion won (\$5.8 billion) in sales due to the technology leak.

Similar cases of IP theft have occurred before involving South Korean screen-making technology. In July 2018, prosecutors indicted seven individuals—six South Koreans and one Chinese national—for attempting to pass on OLED technology developed by an unnamed South Korean firm to an unidentified Chinese OLED company, according to Aju News. The South Korean company had business deals with Samsung Display.

Coincidentally, around the same time, BOE announced its huge improvement in yield rates for its 6.39-inch AMOLED panels, going from 10 percent in the third quarter of 2018 to 30 percent in the following quarter, according to DigiTimes. Industry experts predicted that before the end of 2019, the rate could go up to 50 percent.

It is unclear whether Huawei utilized BOE developments poached from Samsung (the Chinese smartphone maker didn't respond to a request for comment), but details from the BOE case beg the question.

## China February Factory Activity Seen Shrinking for Third Month

Factory activity in China is expected to have contracted for the third month in a row in February, a Reuters poll showed, adding to evidence of a further slowdown in the economy in the first quarter.

While record bank lending last month and signs of progress in Sino-U.S. trade talks have lifted some of the gloom hanging over Asia's economic giant, another weak manufacturing reading would suggest it is far from out of the woods yet.

The official Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is forecast at 49.5, unchanged from January's near three-year low and still below the 50 level separating expansion from contraction on a monthly basis, according to the median forecast of 36 economists.

"The lagged impact of slower credit growth last year will continue to weigh on industrial activity until at least the middle of this year," Capital Economics said in a note to clients this week.

"And exports are likely soften further, with cooling global demand offsetting any gains from a U.S.-China trade deal," it added. Its forecast is below consensus at 49.0.

The PMI data will be released just days ahead of China's annual meeting of parliament starting on March 5, where top officials are widely expected to announce more support measures such as sweeping tax cuts to reduce the strains on the economy.

Leaders will also reveal the government's key economic and financial targets for the year



which may give clues on their future policy stance.

Sources have told Reuters that Beijing is planning to lower its growth target to around 6 percent this year from around 6.5 percent in 2018, reflecting softer domestic and export demand.

Actual growth in the world's second-largest economy cooled to 6.6 percent last year—the slowest in 28 years—from 6.8 percent in 2017.

Analysts polled by Reuters

expect that pace to slow further this year to around 6.3 percent, with most predicting there will be some signs of stabilization by mid-year after a rocky first half.

The latest PMI reading will come with the usual caveat that Chinese data early in the year may be skewed by the timing of the Lunar New Year holidays, which began on Feb. 4.

Businesses typically rush out shipments and then scale back operations or close for long peri-

Employees work on a production line manufacturing light trucks at a motor plant in Weifang City, Shandong Province, on Nov. 30, 2018.

ods around the holidays. But Reuters reporters who visited the export-reliant southern province of Guangdong recently were told some factories had likely shut their gates for good.

A private survey—the Caixin/Markit Manufacturing PMI which focuses more on small and medium-sized Chinese firms—is again expected to show a somewhat sharper contraction than the official gauge.

The Caixin PMI is forecast to edge up to 48.5 from January's 48.3, but also remain around contractionary levels not seen since early 2016.

Companies in the private survey are believed to be more export-oriented. Even if Washington and Beijing reach a comprehensive trade agreement soon dismantling tariffs, those firms will have to win back market share.

The official PMI survey is due Feb. 28, along with a sister survey on services. The Caixin manufacturing PMI will come out March 1 and its services PMI on March 5.

By Kim Coghill  
From Reuters



TRUTH *and* TRADITION

COVERING IMPORTANT NEWS  
OTHER MEDIA IGNORE

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

02 8988 5600



# Join in Restoring Virtue and Values to Society

For Our Children and Grandchildren’s Sake...

At The Epoch Times, we’re building a media supported by readers instead of corporate advertisers, ensuring it’s free from outside influences—forever. Please help to strengthen this vision.

A REAL DANGER

Our Civilisation Faces Serious Treats at This Moment in History

- 1. Our nation is in trouble. According to a 2018 survey, 58 percent of young Australian voters say they would prefer to live in a socialist society.\*
- 2. If this trend continues, within the next decade, Australia could become a socialist country.
- 3. 85% of newspaper sales in Australia are controlled by two corporations. They’re not out to tell you the truth about what’s happening; they only tell you the picture of the world that they represent.
- 4. For decades, ideas stemming from communist ideology like socialism and cultural marxism have been moving Australia away from the preservation of rights enshrined in the Magna Carta.
- 5. These ideas create social turmoil, division, frustration, hatred, and violence; they break down the morality at the foundations of society. These same ideas now have found their way into the government, schools, and other key institutions across the nation.

\* POLICY PAPER ON MILLENNIAL ATTITUDES TOWARD SOCIALISM CONDUCTED BY THE CULTURE PROSPERITY CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT STUDIES.

THE BEST DEFENSE

The Epoch Times Stands Firmly Against this Subversion

- 1. The Epoch Times has the wisdom to expose the evil nature of communism and its infiltration into our media, schools, government, churches, and society.
- 2. The Chinese regime makes it clear to companies that have business ties with China that working with us will cost them business.
- 3. Built on the values of Truth and Tradition, and based on the virtue of compassion, The Epoch Times promotes long-established universal values that represent the best of humankind.



“After being lobbied and seduced by those puppets, politicians, journalists and leaders of all sorts of organisations across the country believe they are responding to the wishes of ‘Chinese-Australians’. They are in fact dancing to the tune of the Chinese Communist Party.”

Clive Hamilton, Author of ‘Silent Invasion: China’s Influence in Australia’

THE CHALLENGES

We’ve Been Fighting a Long Battle

Since our founding in 2000, the Chinese Communist Party, with its multibillion-dollar lobbying and overseas propaganda budget, has tried relentlessly to stop The Epoch Times. It’s not easy to stand up to the world’s biggest dictatorship, with the world’s largest propaganda and fake news operations, but we have done it.

These Are Some of the Many Challenges We Face:

- 1. The Chinese Communist Party has threatened and intimidated our advertisers and ad agencies.
- 2. The Chinese regime makes it clear to companies with business ties with China that working with us will cost them business.
- 3. The Chinese regime has had its agents steal our newspapers and distribution boxes, vandalise our offices, and spread misinformation about us abroad. Inside China, the regime has jailed and tortured our journalists.

## Violence We Faced



In 2006, Dr. Peter Li, chief technical officer of The Epoch Times, was beaten, tied up, blindfolded with duct tape, and robbed of two laptop computers by three Asian men who burst into his suburban Atlanta home, wielding a gun and a knife.



## A NEWSPAPER YOU CAN TRUST

### This Did Not Stop Us

You can help make the global communist community’s efforts meaningless—and help us to expand! To achieve this, we need your help!

### The Epoch Times Contributes to Society

- 1. Truthful reporting on the issues that matter, including the Trump administration’s achievements in the United States and around the world.
- 2. Leading the reporting on the Chinese communist threat over the last 18 years (since 2000).
- 3. Exposing communist thought in our government, schools, universities, popular culture, and media.
- 4. Reporting on the persecution of Falun Gong, including the state-sponsored forced organ harvesting in China—one of the most underreported atrocities of our time.
- 5. Spreading the truth through Freegate secure anti-censorship software.
- 6. Providing an acclaimed Mind & Body section that that offers insights from traditional wisdom and holistic wellness.

### Rigorously Exposing Communism

The Epoch Times actively works to investigate and expose communist ideology, its history, theory, and true intentions. Our latest series, “How the Spectre of Communism is Ruling Our World,” exposes the nature of communism and the harm it has brought and continues to inflict on the world.

Since the book “Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party” was published by The Epoch Times in December 2004, 320 million Chinese people have renounced the Chinese Communist Party and its associated organisations.

The Epoch Times reports issues and events side-stepped by other media, but which are vital to exposing the harm communism poses to humanity. These include the persecution of Tibetans, underground Christians, practitioners of Falun Gong, Uyghurs, and other groups in China.



Our infographics have had a big impact on society, allowing people to understand the intricate connections between seemingly unrelated events, revealing what mainstream media is not telling you.

### Our Investigations

We have championed a new method of investigative journalism, bringing together the best of both traditional journalism and quality design to tell stories that expose corruption and subversion. Our work has included investigations about:

- 1. Illegal Spying on President Trump (February 9, 2018)
- 2. China’s Military Expansion Into Space (March 23, 2018)
- 3. The Secret Propaganda War on Our Minds (April 6, 2018)
- 4. Hillary Clinton and the Uranium One Deal (February 16, 2018)
- 5. Spygate: The True Story of Collusion (October 12, 2018)
- 6. Clinton Foundation ‘Pay to Play’ Model Under Investigation (December 5, 2018)

### IMPACT OF THE EPOCH TIMES Conscience Over Profit: Organ Killings in China—The Sixty Million Dollar Decision

Entrepreneur Jeffrey Van Middlebrook turned down \$60 million in R&D funding from China after finding out the Chinese regime harvests organs from practitioners of Falun Gong.



“Once I started reading these articles in your newspaper I decided I could not do business with China.”

Jeffrey Van Middlebrook, entrepreneur







We are the “lucky country.” But our parliamentary democracy only works when the populace is well informed through an honest and transparent press. This is the role that The Epoch Times strives to fulfill.

What People Are Saying



“The Epoch Times is a distinctive newspaper and reports the news truthfully, decently and fairly. It’s a shame that only Chinese Epoch Times was available in the early days. Now, I look forward to the relaunch of the English edition. The Australian community needs to know what is happening in China and the suppression of human rights under the CCP. This will uphold Australian values and is also an opportunity for Australians to help improve the human rights situations in China.”

Qi Jiazhen, Writer



“I think as a media company The Epoch Times can be part of a positive force for the culture and a positive force within this economic machine of capitalism to help elevate cultural products and ideas that are going to help heal society as you preserve the family.”

Carrie Sheffield, founder, Bold



“‘The first duty of the press,’ the great London newspaper The Times declared as long ago in 1851, ‘is to obtain the earliest and most correct intelligence of the events of the time, and instantly, by disclosing them, to make them the common property of the nation.’ ‘There can be no doubt that in assessing the newspapers of the world, The Epoch Times deserves the encomium that it is a leader in observing, to the very highest degree, this timeless enunciation of the first duty of the press.’”

Emeritus Professor David Flint AM



“As a child, my father would eagerly look forward to reading The Epoch Times newspaper. Now I understand why, it’s 100% correct. A rare publication celebrating Chinese culture whilst speaking against the atrocities of communism. Australians take note.”

Asha Towers, NSW President of the National Civic Council



“The Epoch Times has done a great job in its quest for truth and its devotion to humanitarian concerns.”

Feng Chongyi, Associate Professor in China Studies at University of Technology Sydney

A Brief Introduction to The Epoch Times

Started in 2000 by Chinese-Americans who fled communism, The Epoch Times was founded in America to bring truthful and uncensored news to Chinese people worldwide—people oppressed by lies, violence, and propaganda. The English edition of Epoch Times was started in 2004, and has upheld the same values.

In December 2000, a few months after we began publishing, 10 of our staff members in China were jailed and tortured. They were sentenced to prison terms ranging from three to 10 years, forcing us to work largely underground in China. Later, Epoch Times contributors continued to be targeted: One died in a Chinese prison in 2017 after 12 years in jail; another was just released on Feb. 13, 2018 after over 10 years in jail.

Despite these challenges, we have been committed from the beginning to getting the truth out under difficult circumstances, and this is and will forever be part of The Epoch Times.

Having faced extreme challenges (financial, physical, and cyber) from

one of the most despotic regimes on the planet, The Epoch Times has never stopped delivering on its promise to readers: to use traditional, upright, and true journalism to keep the public informed.

We investigate issues overlooked—or avoided—by other media outlets. We don’t spin the news, push biased agendas, or create false narratives. We give the facts and context to allow readers to make up their own minds.

We report on a wide range of topics, from national politics, to holistic health, foreign affairs, traditional culture, immigration, and food & lifestyle.

We also hold that one of the most overlooked stories of the 21st century is the global cultural and moral destruction wrought by communism, and so we take special care to expose this deadly ideology and the harm it has caused to us all.

In all that we do, we make an earnest attempt to hold ourselves to the highest standards of integrity. This is our promise to you.

Make a Difference Today

The Power of Your Contribution

- 1. Help us publish truthful news.
- 2. Builds a nonpartisan, independent media that stands outside of any political interests.
- 3. Helps fund the research that exposes the true nature of communism and its impact on our media, our schools, our government, our religious institutions, and our society as a whole.
- 4. Helps us to report stories within Australia and abroad that are rarely reported by other media outlets.
- 5. Safeguards a forum for discussion of traditional values and the traditional vision of journalism.
- 6. Informs schools, universities and other public institutions with our content.

What Your Contribution Achieves

- \$50 – Help us get our message of ‘Truth and Tradition’ into local universities.
- \$500 – Help 250 households test drive The Epoch Times newspaper.
- \$5,000 – Help us create an ebook of “How the Spectre of Communism is Ruling our World” so that millions of people can enjoy reading it in book form.
- \$10,000 – Fund the research and production of a new investigative piece so that millions of people can benefit from it.
- \$20,000 – Help us reach an extra 1 million people with an Epoch Times investigative journalism video.



THE EPOCH TIMES TRUTH AND TRADITION

By Phone: 02 8988 5600

By Cheque: Please make cheque payable to: The Epoch Times Mail to: Attn: Accounting Department, 49A Treacy Street, Hurstville, NSW 2220

Australian Epoch Times Ltd.

Mail to: The Epoch Times 49A Treacy Street, Hurstville, NSW 2220

If you want to make your donation by phone, please call: 02 8988 5600

If you want to make your donation by bank transfer, please indicate “DONATION” in reference. Westpac Bank - A/C name: The Epoch Times BSB: 032 055 A/C No: 649 022

PAYMENT METHOD ☐ CREDIT CARD/ ☐ DEBIT CARD: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ CHECK \$ \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Options ☐ \$50 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$1000 ☐ \$300 ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

BILLING INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT): NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APT. \_\_\_\_\_ SUBURB \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC Nr. \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Authorization Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The Epoch Times is published by Australian Epoch Times Ltd, registered as a non-for-profit company.



# Venezuela’s Guaido Calls for International Help After Maduro Blocks Aid

CONTINUED FROM A1

with live rounds, tear gas, and rubber pellets, killing two protesters and injuring hundreds.

Rights group Penal Forum said it recorded 29 injuries from bullet wounds and two deaths across Venezuela in clashes with troops on Feb. 23. Colombian authorities said they registered 285 people injured, including those affected by tear gas.

“Today’s events force me to make a decision: to formally propose to the international community that we must have all options open to secure the freedom of our country that is fighting and will continue to fight,” Guaidó wrote on Twitter. “Hope was born not to die, Venezuela!”

The United States was the first to recognize Guaidó as the legitimate leader, when he invoked the constitution to assume an interim presidency last month. More than 50 free-world nations now recognize Guaidó, while a handful of current and former communist and socialist regimes back Maduro.

President Donald Trump has warned members of the Venezuelan military that they stand to lose everything if they harm fellow citizens and continue to side with Maduro. Trump also has said that military intervention is one of the options on the table.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo condemned the violence and aid blockade, and on Feb. 23 said the United States will take action against those “who oppose the peaceful restoration of democracy in Venezuela.”

“We denounce Maduro’s refusal to let humanitarian assistance reach Venezuela. What kind of a sick tyrant stops food from getting to hungry people? The images of burning trucks filled with aid are sickening,” Pompeo wrote on Twitter. “While Guaidó leads the effort to get the aid to the people, Maduro sends armed gangs to attack innocent civilians.”

Guaidó had given a personal send-off to one convoy carrying aid from the Colombian city of Cucuta on Feb. 23. Guaidó’s volunteers hoped Maduro’s troops would balk at turning back supplies desperately needed in the country, where millions suffer from malnutrition and treatable diseases.

Some 60 members of Maduro’s armed forces defected Feb. 23, according to Colombian authorities. But the lines of National Guard soldiers at the several border crossings held firm, and fired tear gas and rubber pellets at the convoys.

Television images from one border crossing showed an all-female unit of Maduro’s forces locking arms to block the aid convoy. Some of the women appeared to break down in tears as volunteers begged them to allow the aid to proceed.

Maduro’s forces set two aid trucks on fire at the Urena border point, sending plumes of dark smoke into the air as crowds raced to try to save the boxes of supplies.

Guaidó said he would attend a meeting of the regional Lima Group of nations in Bogota on Feb. 25 with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, and they would decide on more actions to ramp up pressure on Maduro.

“Today the world saw in minutes, in hours, the worst face of the Venezuelan dictatorship,” Guaidó said at an earlier news conference in Colombia, alongside Colombian President Ivan Duque.

Angered by Duque’s support for Guaidó, Maduro said he was breaking diplomatic relations with Bogota and gave its diplomatic staff 24 hours to leave the country.

Maduro, whose socialist policies have crippled



MARCO BELLO/REUTERS

the once oil-rich nation, denies his nation has any need for aid. Washington has warned it could seek to impose tough new sanctions on Venezuela at the Feb. 25 summit if Maduro blocked the aid shipments.

Witnesses said masked men in civilian clothes also shot at protesters with live bullets. Pompeo noted that the attacks were perpetrated by Cuban agents on behalf of Maduro. In a thinly veiled rebuke to China and Russia, Bolton asked how these countries could back such behavior.

“Masked thugs, civilians killed by live rounds, and the burning of trucks carrying badly needed food and medicine,” Bolton said on Twitter. “This has been Maduro’s response to peaceful efforts to help Venezuelans. Countries that still recognize Maduro should take note of what they are endorsing.”

The United States considers Maduro a puppet of the communist regime in Cuba. More than 90,000 Cuban proxies are embedded in Maduro’s government. The communists in Havana have also deployed more than 20,000 security-force personnel to Venezuela to support Maduro.

**‘Freedom’**

In the Venezuelan border towns of San Antonio and Urena, troops fired rubber rounds at opposition supporters, including lawmakers, who walked toward the frontier waving Venezuelan flags and chanting “freedom.”

Television images from San Antonio showed a dozen men on motorbikes, dressed in black and wearing balaclavas, firing shotguns and pistols at a crowd.

Demonstrators in Urena barricaded streets with burning tires, set a bus on fire and hurled stones at troops to demand that Maduro allow aid into a country ravaged by a meltdown that has halved the size of its economy in five years.

“They started shooting at close range as if we were criminals,” said shopkeeper Vladimir Gomez, 27,

“This has been Maduro’s response to peaceful efforts to help Venezuelans.”

**JOHN BOLTON**  
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER TO U.S. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

wearing a white shirt stained with blood.

At least six of about a dozen trucks that tried to reach Venezuela later returned to Cucuta, where Colombia’s disaster management agency said they would be unloaded and the aid stored until Guaidó requested their use again.

Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello said he ordered a Puerto Rican ship carrying humanitarian aid to turn back after a Venezuelan navy ship threatened to open fire on it.

“This is unacceptable and shameful,” Rossello said in a statement. “We have also notified our partners in the U.S. government about this serious incident.”

In the southern town of Santa Elena de Uairen, at least two people were killed in clashes with security forces, according to a doctor at the hospital where they were treated. On Feb. 22, a married couple in a nearby indigenous community was shot dead by security forces.

▲ People try to unload humanitarian aid from a truck stranded at Venezuelan border in Colombia on Feb. 23, 2019.

**Dozens Defect**

Guaidó had appealed to Venezuela’s armed forces to stand aside and allow aid in, promising amnesty to officers who disavowed Maduro. Dozens of soldiers, whose families suffer the same shortages as other Venezuelans, took up his offer.

“You don’t owe any obedience to someone who sadistically celebrates that humanitarian aid doesn’t enter a country that needs it,” Guaidó said.

A video on social media showed troops who abandoned their posts driving armored vehicles across a bridge linking Venezuela and Colombia, knocking over metal barricades, and then jumping out of the vehicles and running to the Colombian side.

“What we did today, we did for our families, for the Venezuelan people,” one of the defectors said in a video televised by a Colombian news program.

Reuters contributed to this report.

# Cubans Protest in Streets Amid Change in Venezuela, as Trump Predicted

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

Cubans took to the streets in Havana to protest the communist regime’s new constitution on Feb. 23, proving U.S. President Donald Trump’s assertion that changes in Venezuela will have a ripple effect in Cuba and Nicaragua.

In video footage shared on the personal account of Telemundo reporter Eduardo Rodriguez, a crowd of Cubans is seen walking and shouting on a sunny street in Havana. The Miami Herald reported the next day that a movement opposing the communist regime’s new constitution held a protest in Havana. It’s unclear if the protest in the video is the same as the one referenced in the Herald report.

Trump suggested in an address to the Venezuelan community in Miami on Feb. 18 that change in Venezuela will spread to Cuba and Nicaragua as well, as part of a process of purging socialism and communism from South America.

Public protests are extremely rare under Cuba’s communist dictatorship, but a referendum on the regime’s new constitution has drawn resistance from a vocal opposition movement. The new constitution proclaims, “The Communist Party is the director of Cuban society for ever” and that socialism is “ir-



FERNANDO MEDINA/REUTERS

reversible.”

Some 81 percent of the 8.7 million of the electorate had cast votes by 5 p.m. on Feb. 24, an hour before polls closed, according to the national electoral commission. Early results indicated that the referendum succeeded.

According to accounts from the opposition, several volunteers who went to watch polling stations have been arrested. Video footage widely circulated on social media shows one man casting several ballots. Multiple photos posted on Twitter show large posters promoting the

regime’s preferred “yes” vote plastered inside polling stations.

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), in a Twitter message, called the election “a farce and a fraud of the communist party.” Trump’s national security adviser, John Bolton, voiced support for those resisting the communist regime.

“Cuba’s constitutional referendum today is another ploy of the Cuban regime to cover up its repression and tyranny,” Bolton wrote on Twitter. “The United States supports the Cuban people’s calls for freedom and democracy.”

The constitutional referendum

is the first update to Cuba’s governance since 1976. While cementing communism as the permanent guide for Cuba, the document includes references to the recognition of private property, foreign investment, small businesses, the internet, the right to legal representation upon arrest, and habeas corpus.

The new constitution would also restructure government, adding a prime minister and setting term limits for the president, among other changes. The communist regime orchestrated thousands of local meetings to debate the draft of the new constitution last year, but the original draft is nearly identical to the document put forth for the referendum of Feb. 24.

The current constitution was approved in 1976 with 97.7 percent of 5.6 million registered voters in favor, and just 54,000 voting no. Most analysts expect the new version to pass by a lesser margin among 8 million registered voters.

In an uncharacteristic fashion, the communist regime went to great lengths to promote the referendum and the call to vote “yes.” The government has portrayed a “yes” vote as patriotic, while the new constitution’s most vociferous opponents say “no” would be a step toward ending decades of Communist rule.

And with an ever-bolder civil

society and more Cubans than ever before connected to the internet, public debate has become more active than in the past. Hashtags such as #YoVotoSi (I vote yes) and #YoVotoNo (I vote no) compete for space on Twitter.

“We can only overcome tyranny if everyone who wants a free and democratic Cuba gives full support ... I vote no,” wrote Jose Daniel Ferrer, leader of the Patriotic Union of Cuba, some of whose members have suffered temporary detentions and raids on their homes in the lead up to the referendum.

The communist regime has used its monopoly on traditional media and public spaces to press for approval and censor other points of view. The opposition used social media and door-to-door tactics to call on people to vote no or abstain on the day of the referendum.

Cuban communist dictator Miguel Diaz-Canel said the vote took place as events in Venezuela showed the “imperialist threat” facing the region, a reference to the United States. Trump recognized Venezuela’s Juan Guaidó as the legitimate leader after Venezuela’s elected National Assembly declared socialist dictator Nicolás Maduro’s presidency illegitimate.

Reuters contributed to this report.



# UK ‘Irresponsible’ to Rely on Huawei

JOHN SMITHIES

LONDON—Security experts have warned that the UK’s reliance on communications equipment made by Chinese company Huawei is too risky, especially as the country prepares to introduce ultra-speed 5G networks.

“Allowing Huawei’s participation is at best naive, at worst irresponsible,” said a report by the Royal United Services Institute think tank, adding that the UK represents a key target for the Chinese communist regime.

It followed a speech by Ciaran Martin, CEO of the UK’s National Cyber Security Centre, in which he claimed the UK could “manage” any risk from Huawei using the UK’s “detailed, formal oversight.”

In that same speech, Martin revealed that Huawei equipment was not present in any of the UK’s “sensitive networks—including those of the government.”

It’s the first time a high-level cybercrime official has clarified the level of Huawei’s involvement in the UK’s communication networks in detail. Before this, it was widely believed that the company’s equipment was present in critical national infrastructure.

The risk presented by Huawei’s involvement in 5G is multifaceted, according to Anthony Glees, professor of politics at the University of Buckinghamshire.

“In all areas of life, 5G will transform the way we interact with each other, how we sell things to each other, how we protect ourselves in the future,” he said.

Glees said there was both a technical risk from Huawei and a political risk.

“You can’t get a cigarette paper between Huawei, Chinese government, the People’s Liberation Army, and the Chinese Communist Party,” he said, warning that although China is merely an “adversary” at the moment, it could become an “enemy” in the future.

### Be ‘Very, Very Cautious’

The United States recently urged European countries to be “very, very cautious” when considering using Huawei for 5G networks, fearing that China could use the ultra-fast networks for espionage.

The U.S. government has so far banned Huawei from bidding on contracts, although President Donald Trump said on Feb. 22 that companies like Huawei and ZTE may or may not be included in a trade deal between China and the United States.

Some European countries have taken steps to ban

or exclude Huawei from their 5G networks, with Poland recently arresting and charging a Huawei employee with spying.

The Czech Republic has warned of security threats posed by the company, while Germany considers stricter controls on it before any integration with its 5G networks.

The UK’s Huawei Cyber Security Evaluation Centre was set up in 2010 in response to government concerns about possible security threats to national infrastructure from Huawei. British security officials from agencies including the Government Communications Headquarters sit on its oversight board and report annually on its work.

The center is funded and run by Huawei, with one of its staff members, David Francis, serving as managing director. However, it’s monitored by an oversight board, which reports on its activities once a year.

The oversight board is chaired by Martin but there are four members from Huawei also on the board, as well as British government representatives.

### A ‘Ruthless Advancement of China’s Interests’

Alex Younger, the head of Britain’s spy service MI6, previously said that the UK had to make “some decisions” about Huawei, now that intelligence partners such as the United States had blocked the company’s

“  
Allowing  
Huawei’s  
participation  
is at best  
naive, at worst  
irresponsible.

RUSI

technology from their 5G networks.

“We need to decide the extent to which we are going to be comfortable with Chinese ownership of these technologies and these platforms in an environment where some of our allies have taken a quite definite position,” Younger said.

However, Younger took a softer approach on Feb. 15 in a speech in Munich, Germany, saying that the subject of China’s technologies was “complex” and the UK should aim for “maximum diversity” when choosing providers.

It was “not inherently desirable that we have any monopolistic supplier of any of our critical national infrastructure,” Younger said, according to the Telegraph.

However, at the same conference in Munich, Vice President Mike Pence labeled Huawei a “threat,” saying that “Chinese law requires them to provide Beijing’s vast security apparatus with access to any data that touches their networks or equipment.”

The Royal United Services Institute report similarly pointed out that “Huawei’s Chinese staff have no choice but to accede to requests from Chinese government departments.”

The report said, “Beijing’s interference is not aimed at subverting the West, but represents a rigorous, ruthless advancement of China’s interests and values at the expense of those of the West.”

DADO RUVIC/FILE PHOTO/REUTERS



◀ The Huawei logo in a photo illustration on Feb. 12, 2019.

## Hanoi Barber Offers Free ‘Trump’ and ‘Kim’ Haircuts in Support of Summit

LOUISE BEVAN

Have you ever envied the iconic hairstyle of your favorite politician? Well, look no further than barber Le Tuan Duong of Hanoi, Vietnam, who is offering Donald Trump- and Kim Jong-un-inspired haircuts ahead of the February 2019 summit. The president of the United States and the North Korean leader meet on Feb. 27 and 28.

This will be the second summit between the two leaders; they first met in Singapore in June of 2018 to discuss possible routes to peace and denuclearisation.

Duong’s unique shout-out to the presidential proceedings is taking place under the roof of Tuan Duong Beauty Academy in Hanoi, and the whimsical barber isn’t charging a penny. Customers can show their support for the summit and walk away with a Donald Trump-esque bleached ‘do or a Kim Jong-un style shave, absolutely free of charge.

To achieve the idiosyncratic Trump style, Duong bleaches the hair to a sunny yellow-orange and teases the locks into an off-center parting. For those who preference Kim Jong-un’s signature short back and sides, Duong buzzes the sides short, keeps the top long, and coils the iconic, cuboid pompadour with strong-holding hair wax.

“Hanoi is a city of peace,” Duong said. “When Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un decide to come here to talk about restoring peace, I think I should do something to show that Hanoi people welcome the summit.” Duong supports the intention of the upcoming summit: to improve relations between the



Tuan Duong Hair Salon in Hanoi offers Trump and Kim styled haircuts to spread the message of friendship on Feb. 23, 2019.

United States and North Korea. And what better way to do that, as a barber, than with a visual nod to the two world leaders by emulating their signature hair?

Nine-year-old To Gia Huy spoke to the Associated Press: “Many people say that I look like Kim Jong-un,” he revealed, “especially when I have this hairstyle.” Huy is sometimes called “Un” by his teasing friends because of the uncanny resemblance. Huy stepped onto the barber’s chair for a full Kim Jong-un hair makeover, and the result was, indeed, uncanny.

“I feel happy with this haircut because people will think I look like the leader of North Korea,” Huy concluded, proudly.

Many customers besides young Huy have flooded to Duong’s sa-

The  
passionate  
barber is  
hopeful  
about what  
the summit  
could bring.

lon for the unique experience. But what are they going for? The American bleached blonde, or the North Korean pompadour? Kim’s style is much more youthful, Duong admits, and is a “lot more popular among customers.” However, the U.S. president’s hairstyle is a statement of power, and increasingly popular among his older clientele.

The NY Post reported that the industrious barber approached a local man, 66-year-old Le Phuc Hai, and asked him whether he would model the Trump haircut. Duong would dye his hair back to its original color after the summit, he added. “I’m not afraid of this bright orange hair color,” Hai claimed, agreeing to the treatment. “I like Donald Trump’s haircut. It looks great and it fits my age.”

The passionate barber is hopeful about what the summit could bring: “I love peace. I hate war so much,” he shared. “I was doing this for fun only but was surprised at how people have responded.”

Duong will keep styling hair in the image of the two world leaders, for free, until the end of the summit.

Which haircut would you go for, the Trump or the Kim? Show your support for the summit (and great barbering!) by sharing this uplifting article with friends, family, and loved ones.

## Top Vatican Official and Former Adviser to Pope Francis Found Guilty of Sexual Abuse

BOWEN XIAO

Cardinal George Pell, one of the highest-ranking Vatican officials and a former top adviser to Pope Francis, was found guilty in an Australian court on five charges of child sexual offenses. The verdict is an embarrassment to the Vatican as it was revealed just days after a global summit in Rome dedicated to preventing sexual abuse.

Pell, 77, was found guilty of offenses committed over two decades ago against then-13-year-old boys. The conviction was made public on Feb. 26, after a court suppression order on the trial was lifted, following a second abuse case against Pell. Those child sex offenses ended up being dropped by the prosecution.

The cardinal’s lawyers said that they would appeal the verdict, which followed days after the major summit where some 190 senior Catholic bishops and religious superiors attended. Pell has been the most senior Catholic clergyman internationally to be convicted for child sex offenses. He pleaded not guilty to all five charges.

The Vatican, in their first response to the conviction, said that it was “painful” for many but insisted that the Pell had the right to “defend himself until last level” of the judicial process, citing his proclamations of innocence.

Pell was first found guilty by a jury on Dec. 11 last year, following a 4-week trial in the Country Court of Victoria in Melbourne, Australia. He was convicted of committing five sexual offenses against two 13-year-old choir boys in the priests’ sacristy of St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Melbourne, where Pell was archbishop at the time. One of the two victims died in 2014.

Each of the five offenses carries a maximum of 10 years in jail. Pell’s lawyers have filed an appeal against three grounds of the verdict, which

could lead to a retrial if successful. Pell remains on bail and is due to return to court for the start of his sentencing hearing on Feb. 27.

Vatican spokesman Alessandro Gisotti told reporters that Pope Francis “confirmed” measures prohibiting Pell from practicing his ministry in public and from having contact with minors “in any way or form.” Francis had removed Pell from his group of close advisers in December, without any comment on the trial.

### No Concrete Policy Changes

The verdict comes as the Catholic Church struggles to deal with a mounting child sexual abuse crisis where scandals have rocked the United States, Chile, Germany, Ireland, Australia, and more.

Francis closed the four-day summit on Feb. 24, describing it as an “all-out battle” against the sexual abuse of minors. But he failed to offer any concrete plans that would hold bishops accountable—aside from offering some rough guidelines.

Many of the abuse survivors who made the long trip to Rome and other advocates reacted in frustration after Francis made no mention of a “zero tolerance” approach to pedophile priests and those who cover up such acts.

A number of victim advocates told The Epoch Times previously that the summit was all talk and expressed disappointment that there were no concrete policy changes.

During the summit, German Cardinal Reinhard Marx confirmed the existence of coverups and said the church destroyed documents to conceal sexual abuse cases, as he called for more “traceability.” Marx said the rights of the victims were “effectively trampled underfoot.”

Reuters contributed to this report.



SAUL LOEB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

◀ U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at their historic summit in Singapore on June 12, 2018.



# Why China’s Influence Is Closer Than It Seems

MICHAEL KAFF



China makes no secret about wanting to become the world's No. 1 superpower. The regime in Beijing is increasing its drive for world domination in every possible way, some obvious and some much more covert.

China plans to build a “community of common destiny for humankind,” partly through its One Belt, One Road initiative, and global governance, according to the East Asia Forum. China hopes this community will be an international market with deeper economic integration and political dialogue to help reduce conflict and bolster security.

The regime is also flexing its military muscle in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait, and aggressively expanding its “soft power” influence through politics, business, property developments, education, and even pop culture to replace the United States as the most powerful country in the world.

Residents who recently attended a community meeting at Tallebudgera Community Centre on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia, expressed serious concerns about Chinese developer Ridong Group’s AU\$160 million (\$114.3 million) Gardens of the World project on rural floodplains at the current Bellagio La Villa mansion in the Tallebudgera Valley.

There are grave community concerns that the 47-hectare (116-acre) garden, hotel, and event center development is too close to low-density residential areas and puts everyone at risk of flooding. According to the Save Our Southern Valleys community group, Ridong’s development application, lodged with the council in October 2018, shows land in the flood plain will be raised to create a levy, which would increase the risk of flooding of residential properties and businesses both upstream and downstream.

There are also fears that the Gold Coast City Council was hasty in giving tentative planning approval, due to the development application’s apparent disregard for community consultation on the project’s effect on the environment, wildlife, traffic, and future major flood implications. Council is considering the application, despite Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate saying in November 2018 that there would be no development on the floodplain. This raises the question: Why is the council

even considering the proposal in the first place?

Perhaps the development isn’t the real prize after all, as the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP’s) United Front organizations, which help expand the CCP’s global influence, are widely known to use business opportunities, bonuses, and under-the-table payments to encourage influential groups or individuals to be more sympathetic to the CCP.

It seems the CCP will use both obvious and more subtle means to gain footholds in as many countries and in as many ways as possible, regardless of the ramifications for those countries and their citizens. Why should China attack a country when it can just buy it?

The subsidiary of a privately owned Chinese company, Landbridge Group, in 2016 took out a 99-year lease on Darwin Port in the Northern Territory. After Australia’s former trade minister, Andrew Robb, helped this deal reach fruition, he quit politics to become a consultant for Landbridge.

Less than three years later, Landbridge is in deep financial trouble and struggling to repay interest on AU\$506 million (\$360.8 million) it borrowed to pay for the lease. It isn’t far-fetched to imagine how happy the CCP would be to take over Landbridge and its lease to gain direct access to Australia.

Likewise, what guarantee is there that China won’t use its financial position to grow its influence and control within countries that finance projects in China through the One Belt, One Road initiative and are no longer able to repay their debts? That raises questions about Australia’s role in helping to fund China’s global expansion and also the consequences of keeping a top human-rights abuser as our biggest trading partner.

Some Australians feel China is not our problem and, as long as the Chinese are paying, it’s fine to blissfully ignore this supposed threat because it doesn’t concern us—they are so very wrong.

There is still confusion, especially from within the Australian-Chinese expatriate community, about the meaning of China as a country, due to many decades of Marxist propaganda. The word China doesn’t necessarily imply the Chinese people. China should be separated from Chinese authorities and, particularly, the CCP.

To this end, the CCP-backed Confucius Institutes are adding to the confusion by setting-up free or low-cost Chinese culture and language classes at Australian universities and high schools



BRADLEY KANARIS/GETTY IMAGES

▲ An aerial view of Gold Coast, Australia, on May 17, 2017.

Why should China attack a country when it can just buy it?

that repeat Beijing’s stance on sensitive topics such as human rights, Falun Gong, Tibet, and Taiwan independence, among others.

Western intelligence agencies have warned that the institutes are used as part of the Chinese regime’s apparatus to gain influence abroad, operating through the CCP’s Office of Chinese Language Council International, also known as Hanban. Confucius Institutes are accused of brainwashing young people into becoming supporters, promoters, and future leaders in the CCP, even though it only advertises as an educational organization to spread Chinese culture and language.

I have visited a local Gold Coast university where the Confucius Institute is established and influencing our very own Australian students. We now have 14 such institutes in Australia and they are rapidly expanding—a very worrying trend indeed.

*Michael Kaff is an independent candidate running in the 2019 Australian general election for the federal seat of McPherson, Gold Coast, Queensland. He was formerly an accountant, Australian Army Reserve officer, and business/accounting trainer.*

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

# Capitalism: How Capitalists Took the Word From Communists

PETR SVAB



Capitalism—how can a single word spark so much praise and vitriol simultaneously? How can a word prolifically used to describe most societies around the world provoke starkly different interpretations? We have to dive into history to answer those questions, but history is so brimming with contemporary parallels, it hardly feels like the past at all.

What’s more, truly untangling the meaning of capitalism requires mapping a way to a common ground for massive groups of people locked in a maze of heart-burning conflict.

Let’s do our best.

To explain capitalism, we first need to track the term “capital.” It dates back to the Middle Ages, perhaps as far back as A.D. 1100, and referred to the principal of a loan. Later, it came to be used to describe a person’s wealth or property and, since the 17th century, wealth used to conduct business.

As for capitalism, the Digitized Treasury of the French Language dates the term “capitalisme” to 1754, and it is described as meaning simply the “state of one who is rich.”

The same source dates the French word “capitaliste” to 1759, and it is described as meaning “a person who possesses a capital, a rich person.”

The term changed its meaning, however, at the end of the 18th century during the French Revolution and with the birth of communism.

Since then, capitalism has become a political label used by socialists, communists, and collectivists.

In its likely first use in such a context, French socialist politician Louis Blanc described it in 1850 as an “appropriation of capital by some to the exclusion of others.”

Thus, capitalism didn’t emerge as an economic theory or a system of government. It was a

perception of a society in which some people, especially the rich, were getting richer, while others, especially those employed by the rich, weren’t.

Those who used the term considered such a situation unjust and doomed to failure.

**Capitalism’s Success**

But capitalism didn’t fail. With the coming of the 20th century, the living standard gradually improved not only for the rich, but for virtually everybody, to the point where the majority in Western societies would have been considered rich by 19th-century standards.

Even globally, since 1970, the fraction of the world’s population that survives on \$1 or less a day (adjusted for inflation) has shrunk by 80 percent, as pointed out by Arthur Brooks, president of the American Enterprise Institute—a change he attributes to the spread of the American free enterprise system around the world.

On the other hand, socialist, communist, and collectivist regimes, which have tried to uproot capitalism, failed both culturally and economically, killing over 100 million in the process.

Capitalism was ultimately widely embraced as a positive phenomenon—letting people try to get rich on their own despite vastly different starting points led to increased prosperity in general.

Yet by accepting the term “capitalism,” some people, perhaps unwittingly, accepted the premise of capitalism introduced by radical ideologues like Karl Marx and Pierre-Joseph Proudhon—a cold, cruel, atheist, materialist, dog-eat-dog world where faceless masses vied for selfish gains.

But was it really this kind of society that produced the prosperity of the 20th century?

**The Role of Morality**

Looking back, economists identified two main precursors for capitalism: protection of property rights and enforcement of contracts. “Keep your stuff, keep

your word,” as contemporary philosopher and commentator Stefan Molyneux put it.

But who can provide such protections? Capitalists can only rely on state power at their own peril because “a government strong enough to protect property rights and enforce contracts is also strong enough to confiscate the wealth of its citizens,” wrote Stanford political science professor and economist Barry Weingast.

Private organizations, like guilds and trade groups, can potentially be relied upon to enforce contracts, but they only wield influence over their members.

Thus, on closer examination, the success or even survival of capitalism was fundamentally dependent on the general level of morality in the society.

Many so-called capitalists didn’t identify themselves as the bloodthirsty capitalists portrayed by Marx and others. They primarily identified themselves as human beings and, as such, imposed on themselves some moral restraints, even if it meant losing some capital.

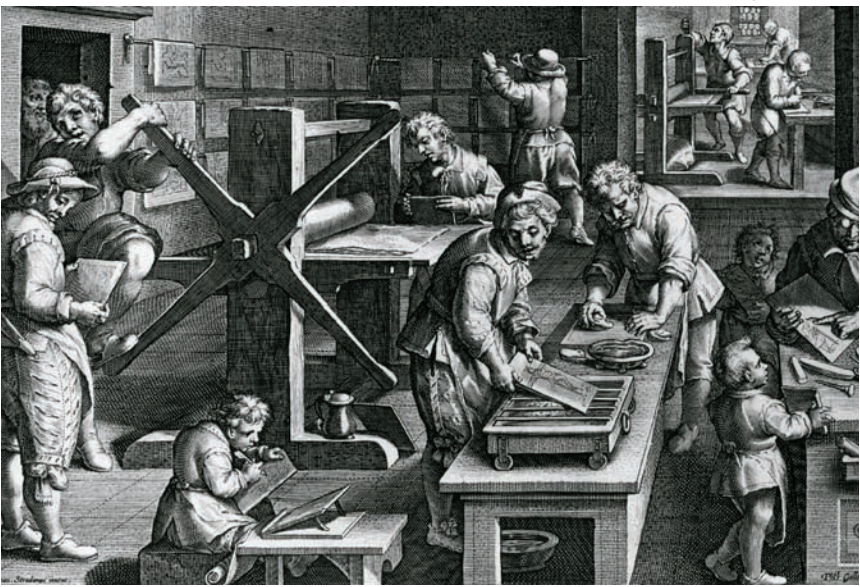
Most people don’t primarily identify our societies as capitalistic in the meaning that they are solely driven by profit. They help the less able, the old, and the sick, even if doing so means losing some capital.

Finally, there was an element of morality within modern capitalism that for a long time went unnoticed or even bore ridicule.

Modern capitalism required business and work ethics, as described in 1905 by German sociologist Max Weber in his study “The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.”

The concept may sound trivial today. After all, some current supporters of capitalism argue that capitalism itself regulates business and work ethics, since both workers and business owners realize that profit requires some level of virtue.

But that self-regulation wouldn’t have been sufficient to achieve modern levels of prosperity, according to Weber.



HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES

▲ The art of engraving and printing from the prepared plates using a large press, at a print works, circa 1600. Original Artwork: Engraving by J Stradenus (1523 - 1605).

There were plenty of capitalist opportunities throughout history, he pointed out. But the pursuit of profit had always been seen as a sign of avarice—a merely tolerated, necessary evil. While many unscrupulously pursued profit anyway, such endeavors never led to a dramatic increase in prosperity, as brought about by modern capitalism. And for good reason.

“Capitalism cannot make use of the labour of those who practise the doctrine of undisciplined liberum arbitrium, any more than it can make use of the business man who seems absolutely unscrupulous in his dealings with others, as we can learn from [Benjamin] Franklin,” Weber noted.

Franklin’s writings are indeed replete with examples of virtue like diligence, thriftiness, honesty, and integrity leading to profit.

But Weber argued such values wouldn’t have been strong enough to ensure capitalism’s success if it weren’t for people like Franklin imparting them.

Notably, European and American Protestants developed a culture of running and growing an honest business as a worthwhile goal in and of itself, Weber argued, though others have convincingly criticized him for tying such a mentality to Protestants alone.

Thus, the dog-eat-dog capitalist society imagined by communists turned out to be a myth. People weren’t as cruel as to rip society apart for profit, as the socialists and communists predicted.

Protection of property rights and enforcement of contracts—the guarantees of economic freedom that allow one to pursue profit in a free market and that many today consider a synonym of capitalism—are but one condition of a prosperous society and can only succeed as far as the level of morality supports them.

*If you enjoyed reading this article, support our independent journalism by sharing it on social media. Thank you very much!*

*Communism is estimated to have killed at least 100 million people, yet its crimes have not been fully compiled and its ideology still persists. The Epoch Times seeks to expose the history and beliefs of this movement, which has been a source of tyranny and destruction since it emerged. Read the whole series at ept.ms/TheDeadEndCom*

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

On closer examination, the success or even survival of capitalism was fundamentally dependent on the general level of morality in the society.



THE EPOCH TIMES

Australia Epoch Times, Publisher  
Jasper Fakkert, Editor-in-Chief

ABOUT US

The Epoch Times is a media organization dedicated to seeking the truth through insightful and independent journalism.

Standing outside of political interests and the pursuit of profit, our starting point and our goal is to create a media for the public benefit, to be truly responsible to society.

We endeavor to educate readers about today’s most important topics, seeking to broaden and uplift minds. We believe that rational, balanced debate is key for fostering a healthy democracy and a compassionate society.

As an independent media outlet, we use our freedom to investigate issues overlooked—or avoided—by other media outlets. We seek to highlight solutions and what’s good in society rather than what divides us.

We report respectfully, compassionately, and rigorously.

We stand against the destruction wrought by communism, including the harm done to cultures around the world.

We are inspired in this by our own experience. The Epoch Times was founded in 2000 to bring honest and uncensored news to people oppressed by the lies and violence in communist China.

We still believe journalism is a noble vocation, but only when it genuinely seeks to serve its communities and help them to flourish. In all that we do, we will hold ourselves to the highest standards of integrity. This is our promise to you.

CONTACT US

Australian Epoch Times Ltd.  
49A Treacy St,  
Hurstville NSW 2220  
02 8988 5600

Advertising  
ad@epochtimes.com.au

Subscriptions  
subscribe@epochtimes.com.au

General Inquiries  
info@epochtimes.com.au

Send Us Your News  
press@epochtimes.com.au



SUBSCRIBE  
TODAY

Get the independent news you won’t find anywhere else.

Subscribe and get the insights only The Epoch Times can provide, delivered to your door every week.

02 8988 5600

THE EPOCH TIMES SPECIAL SERIES

HOW  
THE SPECTER  
OF COMMUNISM  
IS RULING  
OUR WORLD

The specter of communism did not disappear with the disintegration of the Communist Party in Eastern Europe

The Epoch Times here begins serializing a translation from the Chinese of a new book, “How the Specter of Communism Is Ruling Our World,” by the editorial team of the “Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party.”

Preface

Though the communist regimes of Eastern Europe have disintegrated, the evil specter of communism hasn’t disappeared. On the contrary, this evil specter is already ruling our world, and humanity must not harbor a mistaken sense of optimism.

Communism is neither a trend of thought, nor a doctrine, nor a failed attempt at a new way of ordering human affairs. Instead, it should be understood as a devil—an evil specter forged by hate, degeneracy, and other elemental forces in the universe. It took the form of a serpent, then that of a red dragon, and it keeps company with Satan, who hates God. It exploits low-level beings and demons to wreak havoc on man. The goal of the specter is to ruin humanity, and while the divine offers salvation to humankind, communism tells man not to believe, attacks human morality so as to renounce tradition, and causes man not to heed God’s instruction and, ultimately, to be destroyed.

The communist evil specter, with its countless mutations, is full of guile. Sometimes it uses slaughter and violence to menace those who refuse to follow it; other times, it makes recourse to the language of “science” and “progress,” offering a wonderful blueprint of the future meant to deceive followers. Sometimes it presents itself as a profound field of learning and makes people believe that it’s the future direction of mankind; other times, it uses the slogans of “democracy,” “equality,” and “social justice” to infiltrate the fields of education, media, art, and law, bringing people under its banner without them even knowing it. Yet, at other times, it calls itself “socialism,” “progressivism,” “liberalism,” “Neo-Marxism,” and other leftist terms. Sometimes it holds up seemingly righteous banners such as pacifism, environmentalism, globalism, and political correctness; other times, it supports vanguard art, sexual liberation, drug legalization, homosexuality, and other indulgences in human desires, giving the mistaken impression that it’s part of a popular trend.

Extremism and violence aren’t its only expressions—sometimes it pretends to care for the welfare

of society. Yet its root purpose is to destroy, by whatever means, everything traditional, whether it be faith, religion, morality, culture, the institution of the family, art, pedagogy, law—whatever it takes to have man fall into a moral abyss and be damned.

Extremism and violence aren’t its only expressions—sometimes it pretends to care for the welfare of society.

Communism and its various mutations are now found around the world. While China and Cuba publicly proclaim themselves to be led by communist regimes, even America—the leader of the free world—has fallen prey to attacks by the evil specter, not to mention Europe, which embraces socialism, and Africa and Latin America, which are enveloped in communist influence. This is the startling reality humankind now faces: that the evil specter’s conspiracy to destroy humankind has almost succeeded.

While China and Cuba publicly proclaim themselves to be led by communist regimes, even America—the leader of the free world—has fallen prey to attacks by the evil specter.

Humans instinctively desire to benefit themselves and flee from danger. Instinct urges them to escape from suffering, to make a name for themselves, to establish prosperous enterprises, or merely to enjoy life. It is human to have these thoughts. However, if humans distance themselves from gods, these thoughts can be latched onto and intensified by the evil specter, resulting in a person being controlled by it. The hubris of the specter’s revolt against God also makes those it controls experience a sense of hubris; they then try to play God themselves through the exercise of power, capital, and knowledge, trying to rule the fates of millions and influence the course of history through social movements.

Humans are created by gods and

have both good and evil in their nature. If people abandon evil and promote compassion, they can return to God. What awaits on the opposite side is the devil. The choice resides solely with the individual.

We have been sorry to find that many fundamentally kind-hearted people have unknowingly become agents or targets of manipulation of the communist specter—what Vladimir Lenin called “useful idiots.” Though society as a whole has ended up on the verge of destruction because of inducements and temptation from the specter, there are, in fact, very, very few people who have willingly pledged their souls to the devil and chosen to deliberately corrupt mankind. For most, the kindness innate to human nature remains, giving them an opportunity to rid themselves of the specter’s influence.

This is the purpose of this book: to set out this complex and tangled issue in plain language, as truthfully as possible. Then people will be able to see the tricks of the communist specter. More importantly, this book seeks to present the moral, cultural, and artistic traditions that gods laid down for mankind. Individuals may then choose between God and the evil specter for themselves.

When a person’s kind thoughts emerge, gods will help free him from the devil’s control. But the process of seeing the devil for what it is requires that one think deeply and discern clearly. This book seeks to reexamine the tides of history over the last several centuries and, from a high level and with a broad perspective, assess the multifarious masks and forms the devil has adopted in order to occupy and manipulate our world. The goal of this exercise is not to simply recount history, but to understand how we can stop the devil from ever ruling the world again. This relies on the individual’s own enlightenment, proactive abandonment of evil, and return to the traditions and way of life that gods laid down for man.

God will triumph over the devil. Which side we stand on will determine our eternal destiny.

See next week’s edition for the next installment.



U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/STAFF SGT. SCOTT RAYMOND/CC BY 2.0



Soldiers of the 20th Special Forces Group conduct a deliberate water airborne jump over Green River Lake near Campbellsville, Ky., on July 13, 2013.

# Fear Is a Choice

Preparing yourself can help you face any situation in business and life

THE  
EPOCH  
TIMES

TRUTH *and* TRADITION

COVERING  
IMPORTANT  
NEWS  
OTHER MEDIA  
IGNORE

SUBSCRIBE TODAY  
02 8988 5600

CHRIS ERICKSON



Your company is downsizing.  
Your marriage is disintegrating.  
Your startup is failing.  
Your doctor's office is calling.  
What if I told you that this was actually the time to be afraid? What if I told you that fear was a choice that you could either make for yourself or have made for you?

The truth is, it's not about learning how to live a life without fear or even necessarily about figuring out how to "master your fear." Those are both fine sentiments if you're writing an origin story for a comic book hero, but that isn't how real life works. Fear exists, but it's only when you give it control over you that it becomes destructive.

Fear exists, but it's only when you give it control over you that it becomes destructive.

When Pope St. John Paul II famously said, "Be not afraid," during his inaugural homily, after having become the head of the Catholic Church, he wasn't telling us to somehow eradicate fear from our lives. He was calling us to a higher level of awareness, one in which we don't submit to fear as the ruler of our lives.

You can't eliminate fear from your life out of sheer force of will; however, we are called to resist it. That is what courage is: feeling fear and choosing to act boldly despite its presence.

As the author and motivational speaker Jack Canfield said: "Everything you want is on the other side of fear."

Preparing for Panic

The entire premise of the old U.S. Army Survival Field Manual was built around an acronym of the keyword SURVIVAL. For the first "V," the survival action was "Vanquish Fear and Panic." According to the manual: "The greatest enemies in a combat survival-and-evasion situation are fear and panic. If uncontrolled, they can destroy your ability to make an intelligent decision. They may cause you to react to your feelings and imagination rather than to your situation. These emotions can drain your energy and thereby cause other negative emotions. Previous survival and evasion training and self-confidence will enable you to vanquish fear and panic."

If fear is the brute that knocks you to the ground and stuns you, it's panic that will sit gently on your chest and finish you off with a smile.

People often talk of the fight-or-flight response, but often forget the other reaction: freeze. In the military, you saw this occur quite often in people who had not been exposed to frequent and realistic training to prepare them for the overwhelming experience that is the chaos of combat.

When someone is suddenly put face-to-face with dangerous and complex situations, it's a natural reaction to freeze up. Panic doesn't always lead to frenzied actions; it quite often leads to the full arrest of any and all action. And this is the worst position to find yourself in, immobile and completely vulnerable. If one is unable to snap out of it and take immediate action, hesitation turns into time dilation, during which inaction causes the previously intangible

fear to manifest itself, making your panic real.

Stress isn't something to be eliminated completely from our lives; stress-free lives create people who can't function and make intelligent decisions when real-life comes knocking. Obviously, it's destructive when there are excessive levels of stress in our life. However, when there is no stress in our lives, we never learn to test our limits and improve ourselves. We build up our mental resiliency the same way we build up our muscles; where there is no stress, there is no growth, and we soon lose our ability to flex under pressure.

We must take calculated risks that put us in uncomfortable situations and expose us to stressful situations. This allows us to cultivate experiences in which we learn to operate outside of the vacuums of false peace and security.

In the Army Special Forces regiment, the requirements for training were that it be realistic, demanding, and challenging. By forcing the nation's most elite warriors to master the basics while their heart rates are elevated and their bloodstreams are full of cortisol and adrenaline, they are truly forged into the masters of chaos.

While your business can't replicate the life-and-death realities of the battlefield, the same principles can apply to learning how to act decisively and effectively in the face of the unknown.

Learn to Confront Fear

"Stop and take a deep breath" is solid advice when you find yourself in a situation where fear is setting in. If you can control your breathing, you can control your fear and hold off panic until you are able to make an intelligent decision about what course of action to take.

If you want to learn how to confront fear and keep it from derailing you, you need to train yourself to do so. If you stay in your comfort zone, you're going to freeze up when you get dumped out of it.

Learn the basics of the jobs of those who work for you and adjacent to you, so if they're suddenly out of the picture, you can at least perform some triage until a solution can be found. Learn how those above you look at things and do their jobs, so your entire organization doesn't have a single point of failure. Push yourself to develop professionally and personally, so you're always growing.

When there is no stress in our lives, we never learn to test our limits and improve ourselves.

As McDonald's founder Ray Kroc once said, "As long as you're green, you're growing. As soon as you're ripe, you start to rot."

You should always be trying to improve your performance, both intellectually and physically. Being in shape will help your physical reactions to stressors; being mentally sharp will help your psychological reactions to fear.

Chris Erickson is a combat veteran and former Green Beret with extensive experience deployed to various locations across the world. He now works in the communications industry.

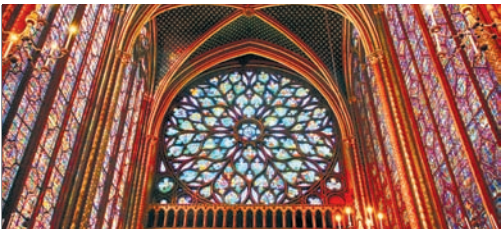
Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.



Mind Your Energy

Our health issues don't occur overnight, so here's another way to look after your health beyond the symptoms.

See B4



This Will Take Your Breath Away

High arches, narrow buttresses and stained-glass windows that replace walls—introducing the architecture of Sainte-Chapelle.

See B11

THURSDAY, FEB. 28, 2019

LIFE

THE EPOCH TIMES

COURTESY OF OMNI MOUNT WASHINGTON HOTEL



The Best of  
New Hampshire's  
White Mountains

Mount Washington plays the lead in a regional cast of  
adventure-filled attractions

The Bretton Woods Canopy Tour offers a bird's eye view of scenic Rosebrook Canyon.

COURTESY OF OMNI MOUNT WASHINGTON HOTEL



Bretton Woods, New Hampshire's largest ski area, offers 464 acres of skiing and snowboarding on 62 trails.

AMANDA BURRILL

With one hand fully exposed to the minus-20-degree chill, I struggled with my pack's zipper.

My long, skinny fingers are functionally mediocre at best, borderline incapable when they're cold, but I desperately needed the layer of clothing inside the pack to be on my body. Specifically, I needed it out of the bag and under the Gore-Tex jacket I was wearing, then both of those zipped and my hand back in the mitten.

Above the treeline, the wind speed had amplified, threatening to blow it all away if I wasn't careful. In the most protected spot I could find, crouched toward the wall of a boarded-up hut, I barely pulled the maneuver off. I was chilled to the core with an icicle for a hand, yet the day was still young because that was just the first of 10 peaks I intended to hit that day.

"If the weather stays like this, I might die," I thought. My inner dialogue is quite the realist, an asset in moments

like these. It was worth the risk to keep going; conditions improved, and I certainly didn't die. I'm all smiles recalling James Hunt's famous saying, "The closer you are to death, the more alive you feel." Confirmed, again!

You don't have to be cut from the same peculiar cloth as me to enjoy a getaway to New Hampshire's White Mountains. As part of the northern Appalachians and covering about a quarter of the state, it's a four-season adventure playground for skiing, ice-climbing, snowmobiling, dog sledding, hiking, biking, zip lining, rock climbing, kayaking, and canoeing.

Not a fan of activity? Simply feast your eyes on a scenic drive, or take in the views from a helicopter, train, or gondola, or spend time shopping and exploring the robust dining scene. I guarantee you'll find something to fall in love with. While every season has its draw, winter offers the Northeast's pinnacle of outdoor adventure. Should you want to push the envelope, the opportunity awaits.



Continued on B2





PUBLIC DOMAIN

# The Best of New Hampshire's White Mountains

Mount Washington plays the lead in a regional cast of adventure-filled attractions

Continued from B1

**Mount Washington and the Presidential Traverse**

The majestic White Mountain range's Mount Washington (6,288 feet) is the highest peak in the Northeast, with views extending beyond New Hampshire to Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Maine, Quebec, and the Atlantic Ocean on a clear day. It's the most topographically prominent mountain east of the Mississippi River, with the Appalachian Trail passing right over the top. It's also where the world's highest surface wind speed, at 231 miles per hour, has ever been observed. In January of 2004, summit weather observation registered a temperature of minus 43.6 F and sustained winds of 87.5 miles per hour, resulting in a wind chill of minus 102.59 F.

Frankly, Mount Washington has the worst weather in America, arguably the world, and that piques the interest of outdoor extremists from far and wide, present company included. It's peak five of the 10-peak Presidential Traverse, known as the "Death March" when attempted during the winter months—and it had been on my bucket list for years.

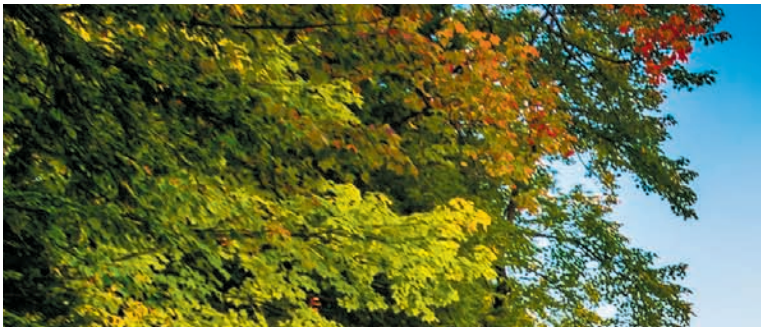
After gathering the mountaineering experience, skills, and gear necessary to handle such an endeavor, including knowing what to do if the weather went awry, and securing a trusted companion, crossing the winter Presidential Traverse in person and off my bucket list came into the realm of possibility.

After carefully stalking the weather outlook, we identified a probable window of visibility large enough to make it a reality. Carpe diem. On Dec. 27, my partner and I woke up at 1:30 a.m., dropped the car where we'd finish if all went as planned, and caught a ride to the start of the traverse.

The 20-plus-mile trek began at 3 a.m., and 16 hours and 15 minutes later, after enduring temperatures in the minus 30s F with 64- to 69-mph winds, the task was completed. We got it while the getting was good. The next day, visibility was back to "poor," and winds raged as high as 104 mph.

**For a Milder Mt. Washington Experience**

The most spectacular views in the White Mountains come from the top of Mount Washington. At the summit, the 60-acre Mount Washington State Park borders the White Mountain National Forest. Within the park, the Sherman Adams Visitor Center, with its weather station and Extreme Mount Washington Museum, is open May

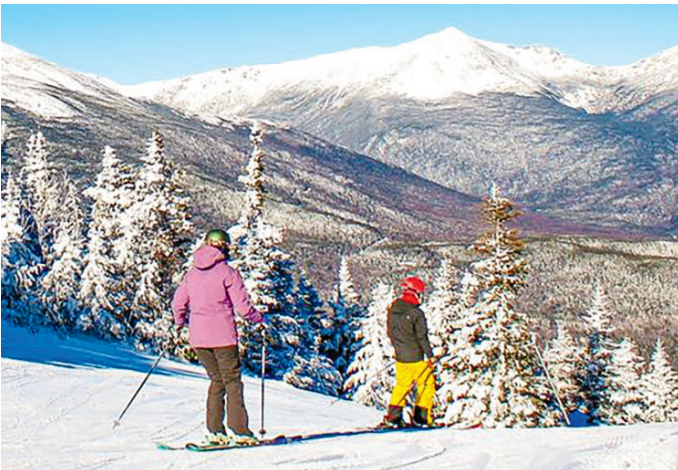


CO LEONG/SHUTTERSTOCK

COURTESY OF WILDCAT



Winter in Bretton Woods.



Skiing at Wildcat Mountain.

**Be prepared to brush up on icy-condition skills, especially if you're used to skiing deep powder.**

through October, which are the same months the Mount Washington Cog Railway and Auto Road are open.

**Hiking**

Any time of year, the trek should only be attempted by experienced hikers as the weather is unpredictable. For those up to the challenge, two main trails lead to the summit: The easier Jewell Trail or steeper Ammonoosuc Ravine Trail, each taking around five hours each way.

From May through October, reward yourself by hitching a ride back down on the cog railway or venture in other directions on foot. There are hundreds of miles of trails to explore, and the Appalachian Mountain Club has maintained mountain huts for more than 125 years.

During high season, all eight are open (starting at \$32/night), allowing hikers to travel hut to hut with sleeping bags and gear, enjoy a home-cooked dinner and breakfast, and cold running water to freshen up. Several of the huts are open on a self-serve basis during the off-season, but it's worth noting that the two huts along the Presidential Traverse are closed during the winter, and you'll have to crouch outside, freezing, like I did.

**Cog Railway**

The most popular way to the summit is the Mount Washington Cog Railway. In operation since 1869, and celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, "the cog" was the world's first mountain climbing railway of its kind. The locomotive cars offer a narrated, three-hour round-trip train ride, averaging one hour each way and an hour-long stop at the summit, long enough to take in the views, explore the visitors center, and snap the all-important picture with the summit marker.

The newly renovated Cog Railway Museum at the base offers visitors a behind-the-scenes glimpse into one of the nation's most iconic railways. When in season, this attraction, like the vista it takes you to, is a must (from \$51 for adults, \$41 for children, museum is free).

**Auto Road**

Located on scenic NH Route 16, the Mt. Washington Auto Road takes you, visibility permitting, up a stunning stretch to the summit with spectacular panoramic views into the Great Gulf Wilderness and the Presidential Mountain Range.

From May through October, either drive yourself or take a guided trip. Either way, you'll pass through four distinct climate zones. Elevation doesn't get any easier than this.

**More Winter Outdoor Fun**

**Skiing**

The White Mountains are home to the popular downhill ski areas of Attitash, Cannon, Loon, Wildcat, Bretton Woods, King Pine, Waterville Valley, and the region's original ski destination, Cranmore Mountain Resort, with its 56 trails and seven lifts over 170 acres.

As a Mainiac, meaning I hail from "The Pine Tree State" of Maine, I grew up on similar ice-cold runs. Be prepared to brush up on icy-condition skills, especially if you're used to skiing deep powder. My refresher, wiping out several times, was put in stark contrast by tiny children skiing effortless routes around me.

Not into downhill? The Whites offer plenty of cross-country skiing, boasting the largest trail network in the Northeast. Many of these trail systems are connected to resorts, and downhill ski areas often double as cross-country touring centers.

**Ice Climbing**

Blame the long, wet winters for ice forming on seemingly every square foot of exposed rock in New Hampshire. Most ice climbing is focused around Frankenstein Cliffs in Crawford Notch State Park, where I climbed the past two winters, enjoying the proximity to North Conway. It's never been crowded but certainly is popular, with enough routes to spread the climbers out.

Step up the adventure with a trip to Canon Cliff in Franconia Notch State Park, the largest vertical rock face in the Northeast, or Cathedral Ledge. Anyone looking to break into this sport (I'll admit, it was initially intimidating to me) can call International Mountain Climbing School. They've been guiding and teaching these skills for more than 30 years. Intro classes start at \$170.

**Year-Round Scenery and Hospitality**

No matter when you go, take full advantage of some of the most beautiful scenery in America. The White Mountains National Scenic Byway is a 100-mile loop known for its year-round natu-

CO LEONG/SHUTTERSTOCK



Winter in Bretton Woods.







JON BILOUS/SHUTTERSTOCK



COURTESY OF AMANDA BURRILL

(Far Left) Hiking any-time of year, but especially fall, is a beautiful experience. Rocky Gorge, on the Kancamagus Highway, in White Mountain National Forest.

(Left) The author on a winter hike of the Presidential Traverse.



JAY BOUCHER/SHUTTERSTOCK

Cathedral Ledge in Franconia Notch State Park.



JAMES KIRKIKIS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Whole itineraries can be devised around New Hampshire's covered bridges.



RICHARD SEMIK/SHUTTERSTOCK

Mount Washington Cog Railway, Bretton Woods.

ral splendor, winding through sections of the 800,000-acre national forest, Kancamagus Highway, Franconia Notch State Park, and Crawford Notch. During the spring thaw, awe-inspiring waterfalls emerge and the autumn months showcase breathtaking foliage.

Driving around, you'll get a sense that in many ways, what you see is how life has always been. Full itineraries can be built around touring country general stores, maple syrup producers, and postcard-ready covered bridges. When the weather takes a turn for the worse, it's time to visit the multitude of tax-free outlets and boutiques before finding some good eats, retiring to your lodging of choice, and resting up for another day of fun.

**North Conway, Historic Rail Hub**

Where to anchor a trip to the Whites depends on the agenda. For exclusivity, stay in the northern White Mountains near Bretton Woods but to really take it all in, opt for Mount Washington Valley's popular resort town of North Conway. Here you'll find countless food and lodging options in close driving proximity to trailheads and ski lifts. North Conway is also home to the Mount Washington Observatory Weather Discovery Center, an interactive science museum with hands-on exhibits, seasonal interaction with observers on the summit, and a recreation of the mountain's record-setting wind.

The yellow Victorian train station on Main Street is the site of the Conway Scenic Railroad. The station has changed little since it was built in 1874, when the town was the northern terminus of the Portsmouth, Great Falls, and Conway Railroad. In 1932, "Snow trains" began, making North Conway and Cranmore Mountain the birthplace of American skiing, bringing skiers from Boston to fill its slopes.

For nearly 90 years, the station was a landmark for train travelers, but by the 1950s, cars were commonplace, and the last passenger train ran in 1961. The last freight train ran in 1971 and the station was boarded up until 1974, when the Conway Scenic Railroad restored it to its original character. Spring through fall, relive the golden days of railroad travel on one-hour excursions to Conway and Bartlett or up to five-hour rides north (don't worry, there's a dining car) through Crawford Notch.



VARVARA HARMON/SHUTTERSTOCK

Ice climbers at the frozen Champney Falls in the White Mountains.

*The writer was a guest of Visit New Hampshire.*

*Amanda Burrill sees through an adventurous lens, typically focused on culinary and travel. Her education includes a bachelor's in archaeology, a master's in journalism, a culinary degree from Le Cordon Bleu, and wine and spirits credentials earned while living in Paris. She is a U.S. Navy veteran, Ironman triathlete, high-alpine mountaineer, and injury connoisseur who ruminates on UnchartedLifestyleMag.com*

ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY SHUTTERSTOCK

**WHERE TO EAT**

With many a restaurant, pub, coffee, and ice cream shop, there are plenty of options to fuel the adventure.

**Stairway Café, North Conway**  
Hands down the best breakfast I've ever had in the area. Fresh, local, homemade, and delicious. Must-tries include the Wild Game Sausage and Fresh Maine Lobster Benedict. You won't leave hungry.

**Red Parka Steakhouse and Pub, Glen**  
The steakhouse and pub are connected but separate, but feel free to order from the full dinner menu at the pub. The weekends are rocking with live music, but the real weekend treat is the 14-ounce prime rib slow-roasted to medium-rare, Friday through Sunday only.

**Flatbread Company, North Conway**  
Located inside the Eastern Slope Inn, the Flatbread Company specializes in all natural, wood-fired, clay oven pizza, with or without their organic, wood-fired, cauldron tomato sauce. I recommend the pepperoni and mushroom pizza with sauce. Don't forget the seasonal whoopie pie for dessert.

**WHERE TO STAY**

**Omni Mount Washington Resort, Bretton Woods**  
Stay at or tour this historic masterpiece of Spanish Renaissance Architecture, a stone's throw from New Hampshire's largest ski area, Bretton Woods. As one of New England's few remaining grand hotels, to visit is to time-travel back to the railroad-era, when wealthy city dwellers journeyed north to spend the summer breathing fresh mountain air (from \$249 per night).

**Christmas Farm Inn, Jackson**  
Part jail, part church, and part farmhouse, this country inn has a rich, 200-year history. the Christmas Farm Inn got its name from the "gifting" of the farm as a Christmas present. While there's always a touch of the season, it's not decked out for the holiday year-round. What is available year-round is the seasonal cuisine in their restaurant, offering a menu that is eclectic (Elk Roulade, for example) yet approachable (from \$99 per night).

**Green Granite Inn, North Conway**  
Off North Conway's main strip, the Green Granite Inn welcomes you with the warm ambiance of a cozy lodge and unmatched access to an array of recreational activities. Hotel specials with local attractions are designed to get you out and about. I'm certainly not spending much time in my hotel when there's so much to do outside, but after a long day of sport, this affordable option, and its jacuzzi tub, certainly did the trick (from \$70 per night).

COURTESY OF THE OMNI MOUNT WASHINGTON



The Omni Mount Washington Resort, Bretton Woods.

**There are hundreds of miles of trails to explore, and the Appalachian Mountain Club has maintained mountain huts for over 125 years.**



INTEGRATIVE HEALTH CARE SOLUTIONS

# Mind Your Energy

Modern medicine struggles to understand the essential energy that animates the body

JINGDUAN YANG

In Western culture, when you see your doctor for an annual physical, he or she will most likely chat with you for a few minutes to see if anything major is going on in your life, then proceed to check your heart, lungs, head, neck, and abdomen for visible abnormalities involving the skin, muscles, connective tissues, and internal organs.

They check for any skin conditions such as rashes, any mass that could indicate a tumor, and tender areas that may indicate internal abnormalities.

They might also run a urine analysis and other routine tests checking the biochemical status of your metabolism, hormones, organ functions, and blood cells, noting any differences from your last visit.

They are looking for problems that may require medication or further investigative procedures. If they find an abnormality that they aren't equipped to handle, the doctor would refer you to a specialist who would examine the issue and prescribe either a pharmaceutical treatment or a surgical treatment. Either route would most likely target the removal of the abnormality and relief of the symptoms. Very little interest is put into finding the root cause of the condition or measures to prevent a recurrence.

When your visits and tests show nothing abnormal, you will be given a clean bill of health and asked to come back in a year. In this case, very little will be discussed about what you should be doing before your next visit so you can maintain your health. If you have symptoms but nothing is discovered by physical exam or medical investigation, you will be advised you are under stress, or worse, that it's all in your head.

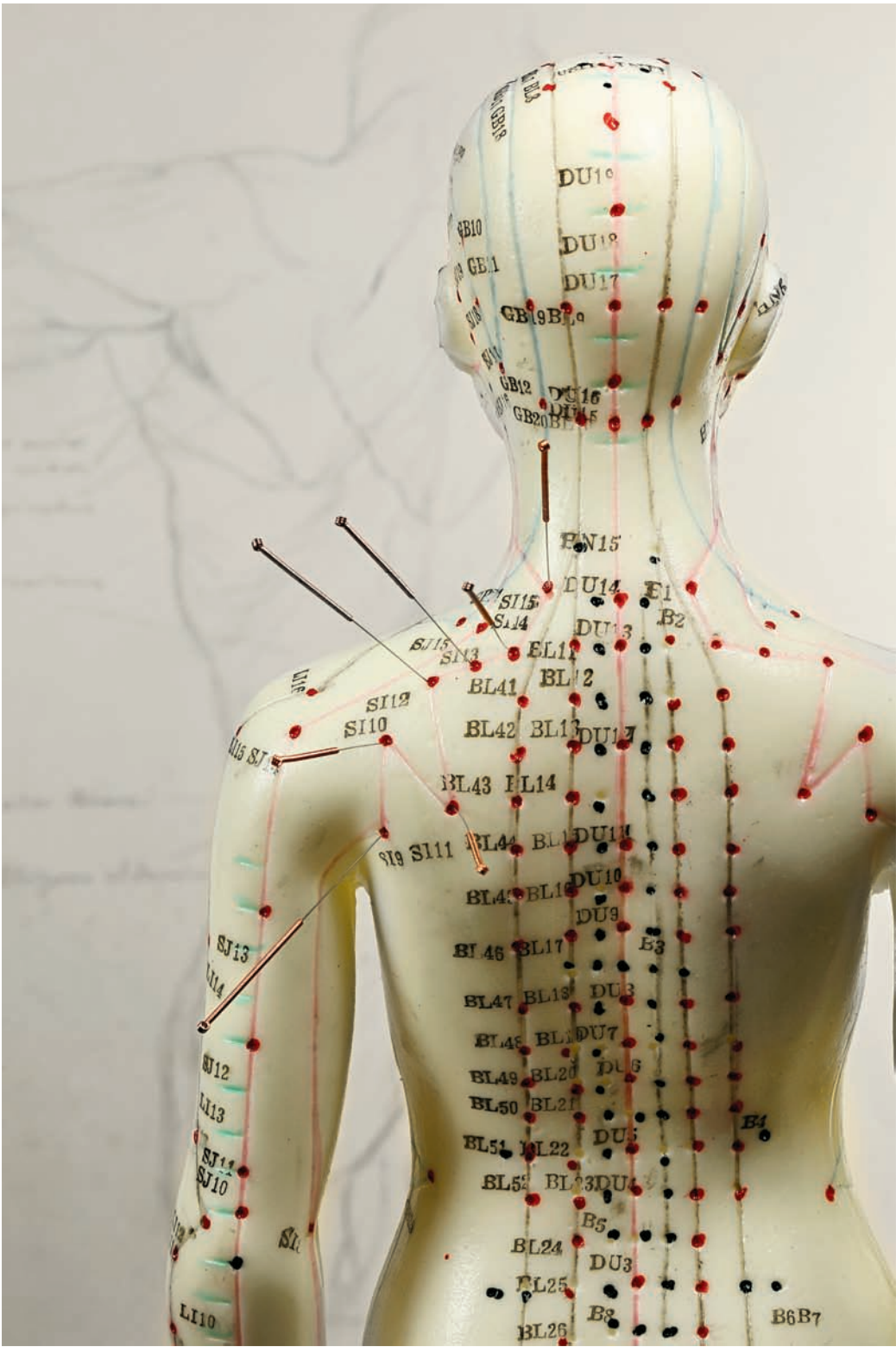
The reason that modern medicine is practiced this way is because of a lack of understanding of the body's energy circulation. When people talk about their health, they focus on physical exercises, body weight, and nutrition. Very few people ever think or talk about their energy or know how to properly take care of their energy.

Every time I mention the word energy, I get an immediate reaction: Energy? What do you mean?

Chinese medicine teaches us that health issues don't just occur overnight.



PIXELJOY/SHUTTERSTOCK



BJOERN WYLEZICH/SHUTTERSTOCK

Qi, the biological energy obtained through eating food and breathing air, is essential to life, well-being, and any medicinal treatment in traditional Chinese medicine.

Well, energy is what supports the body's biochemical process and physiological functions. It is the body's energy that provides us a body temperature, maintains a steady heartbeat, circulates the blood and breath, digests food, regulates movements of bowels, controls muscle contractions and the ability to move, and allows us to speak, think, and feel.

Without this energy in the body, we would be dead even if nothing was deemed physically abnormal. If your energy were obstructed or out of balance, you would suffer from all kinds of mental and physical dysfunctions.

By discussing the knowledge of energetic medicine exemplified by ancient Chinese medicine, I really want to engage patients in a different way of communicating with their body—and with their doctors—for the sake of their overall health, well-being, and countenance.

Without this energy in the body, we would be dead even if nothing was deemed physically abnormal.

But to subscribe to the theories of Chinese medicine effectively, you must embrace the idea that maintaining good health is not necessarily about catching problems in time. It's about actively cultivating good health so problems don't develop in the first place. It's also about being in touch with your body on a much deeper level than just noticing symptoms when they first appear.

While it's encouraging to see that some Western doctors are moving away from the troubleshooting approach and administering far better preventative care, they are still a long way off from understanding the human condition as well as practitioners of Chinese medicine comprehend it. They consistently fail to check one of the most important determinants of how well we are functioning because it simply isn't within their philosophy, scope, or study. This determinant can be found in our energy level.

If you have ever engaged in energy-based therapies such as Qigong, meditation, or acupuncture, then you know how effective attending to your energy can be. Yet, despite the consistent good health of people who incorporate these therapies into their lives and the remarkable recoveries of people who have turned to them in crisis, there are still many skeptics out there, particularly in the modern medical community. They just can't imagine how such results are possible.

In some ways, their reactions are understandable because energy isn't something we can easily see. But what they must understand is that energy is just like the air we breathe. We live in it and it lives in us. If we condition ourselves properly, we can feel the difference when its quality and quantity changes.

Practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine have been attuned to human energy and have successfully worked with it for centuries as a means of restoring and retaining good health. We call this energy 'qi' (Pronounced 'chi').

In everyday living, and certainly in clinical practice, we encounter qi all the time. Whenever you hear people say things such as, "I'm so tired," or "I feel nauseous," or "I'm so angry," or "my hands and

feet are always so cold," or "I'm having hot flashes and sweating a lot," what they are describing is the imbalance or disruption of the energy inside them. Qi is not unique to Chinese medicine; it's the biological energy we obtain through breathing air and eating food. Our life started by obtaining qi and ends with the depletion of the qi.

In between, the qi has to flow smoothly and in the right direction along the channels that reach every part of the body, even where there are no arteries or nerves.

The challenge for modern medicine is that it has yet to visualize human energy the way Chinese medicine has. Modern medicine can only measure some of our energy's activity through various high-tech scans, such as an electroencephalogram, while ancient Chinese medicine actually provides a detailed description and a complete map of our energetic anatomy, physiology, psychology, and pathophysiology.

We know exactly how our energies travel through the body, in the same way that we all know how blood flows through veins, arteries, and capillaries. We can track our energies' movement through defined channels we call Jing Luo, often translated as meridians. We know which organs these energies connect with and what function they serve along with their route. We see this dimension of the human condition in addition to what modern medicine is capable of seeing.

By looking exclusively at the structural and biochemical aspects of health, modern medicine only sees a portion of your complete wellness picture. It can only identify health problems when your condition has worsened to the point where the problems are evident and can be measured by the naked eye or modern imaging technology.

Energy is what supports the body's biochemical process and physiological functions.

## Sumherb TCM Urinary Function Formula

New and Innovative Chinese Herbal Products to the Australian Market



**SUMHERB**  
TCM Urinary Function Formula  
10g Oral Powder Sachet  
To Relieve Urinary Frequency  
Directions for use:  
Take ½-1 sachet/day  
Dissolve in hot water.  
Drink warm 1 hour after dinner & before sleep.  
AUST L 302683  
T1888EXP06.2020

To relieve urinary frequency. This product is suited to the treatment of non-inflammatory conditions of the bladder that result in excessive urination. This becomes more common as people age, but can also be caused by emotional issues such as anxiety. Normally patients will see improvement after the first night. One box is enough to evaluate if it will treat the patient's condition. **DO NOT** use if the patient is also experiencing pain during urination.

Sumherb was established in Canberra in 2018. Our mission is to bring new and innovative Chinese herbal products to the Australian market. Our formulas come from experienced practitioners, and are made on contract by a manufacturer in Sydney. They are sold exclusively via Amazon.com.au.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have and more information available at [www.sumherb.com.au](http://www.sumherb.com.au).

Sumherb Pty Ltd. Bruce ACT 2617  
Po Box 880 Belconnen ACT 2616  
fei@sumherb.com.au





Hours can slip by as children quietly play games on phones and tablets.

# Excessive Screen Time for Kids Can Cause Developmental Delays

Researchers say limiting children’s time with electronic devices is difficult but necessary

GEORGE CITRONER

It may be the easiest way to calm restless or misbehaving kids, but handing over a phone or tablet could be doing children long-term harm. Although the occasional cartoon or video game may not be a problem, a new study finds too much screen time can seriously affect children’s long-term development. Children are growing up with unprecedented access to electronic devices. Starting as toddlers, many kids now spend part of every day staring at a screen instead of being physically active or interacting with others. A study recently published in the Journal of the American Medical Association looked at 2,400 typically developing children in Canada. Researchers found that a greater amount of screen time from ages 2 to 3 was associated with significantly poorer performance when their development was assessed at ages 3 and 5. “Screens have become a significant concern for parents, so we wanted to find out more about how screen time was impacting children’s developmental trajectories,” Sheri Madigan, assistant professor at the University of Calgary and lead study author, told Healthline. “We were particularly interested in the long-term impact of screens, which is why we followed children over time, from ages 2 to 5, and repeatedly assessed both screen time and children’s developmental outcomes,” Madigan said.

**First Study of Its Kind**  
While not the first study to show that too much time spent staring at a screen can impact children’s development, it’s the first to confirm long-term effects. “Most of the research on children and screens has been cross-sectional, meaning that associations are



Children 1 to 2 years of age shouldn’t exceed one hour of screen time per day.

based on a particular snapshot in time and don’t reveal if there are lasting influences of screen time on children’s outcomes,” Madigan said. “In this study, we follow children over time and [found] that higher levels of screen time when kids are 2 and 3 years of age predict poorer outcomes when these same children are 3 and 5 years of age, respectively,” she said.

**Parents Should Take Control**  
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that children 1 to 2 years of age shouldn’t exceed one hour of screen time per day. Parents should choose high-quality shows and watch them with their children to answer any questions and help them understand what they’re viewing.

“**Screen time should at least be an educational experience, not just a shiny distraction.**”

Dr. Alex Dimitriu, psychiatrist

“We were surprised that children in our study were viewing screens for two to three hours a day,” Madigan said. “This means that most of the children in our sample are exceeding the recommended guidelines by the AAP of no more than one hour of high-quality programming per day.” “Quality screen time is possible, but we need to take a look at what our kids are doing with the devices,” Dr. Alex Dimitriu, board-certified in psychiatry and sleep medicine and founder of Menlo Park Psychiatry & Sleep Medicine in California, told Healthline. He emphasizes that while certain games and shows may be amusing, parents should regularly ask themselves what value the content has. “Screen time should at least be an educational experience, not just a shiny distraction,” Dimitriu said.

**What Can We Do?**  
Weaning children off screen-based entertainment can be challenging, but it’s not impossible. “Locking devices into specific apps has been hugely beneficial with my own children,” Dimitriu said. “It’s our responsibility as parents to decide if apps and shows are worthwhile. It doesn’t take much to get a child’s attention, but it’s easier when there are fewer choices.” While the study’s findings suggest excess screen time can be detrimental for children’s development, “what’s the tipping point?” Madigan asked. “We don’t know that yet. Our suggestion is to treat screen time like we do junk food with kids: A little is OK, but too much is a problem,” she said.

**More Reading, More Play**  
The average cartoon is about 30 minutes long. Tablet- or phone-based games can extend far past that. That makes it easy to go over the recommended time limit for young children. But, while the temptation to keep rowdy children quiet using TV and digital devices can be strong, parents need to focus on what’s really important. “The ultimate value for children is parental attention and the love that ideally comes with it. We’re living in busy modern times, and our attention is often pulled in numerous directions, resulting in less time for parenting,” Dimitriu said. “Ideally, screen time should be replaced with interactive play, arts, crafts, and reading.” Madigan recommends parents learn more about screen time guidelines for children. “Families should try to balance technology and screens with device-free family time,” she said. “Media and device plans can help families decide when, where, and how often screens will be used. And parents should make viewing screens together the norm.”

George Citroner is a health and medical freelance journalist. This article was first published on Healthline.

# Aerobic Exercise May Improve Thinking Skills in Adults of All Ages

Numerous studies have shown that aerobic exercise can improve cognition in seniors, but a small new study finds that vigorous workouts boost thinking skills in younger adults as well. After a six-month aerobic regimen, adults aged 20 to 67 showed improvements in executive function—the cognitive processes important for reasoning, planning, and problem-solving—and expanded gray matter in the brain region central to those functions. A comparison group that did only stretching and toning during the same period did not see the same benefits, the study team reports in Neurology. People think of mental decline as something that occurs later in life, said lead author Yaakov Stern, a professor of neuropsychology at the Columbia University Medical Center in New York City. “But even at age 30, you need some help,” he said. “Many studies show an almost linear decline in these functions from the 20s onward. So the take-home message from this study is that aerobic exercise is really very important.” Noting that there were no such studies in young and middle-aged adults, Stern and his colleagues recruited 132 volunteers aged 20 and older to participate in an experiment to look at the impact of aerobic exercise on cognition and brain structure. None of the volunteers were exercisers prior to the study. Volunteers were given tests at the outset to evaluate executive function, episodic memory, mental

processing speed, language abilities, and attention. The researchers randomly assigned them to one of two groups: half were included in the aerobic group that did exercise to speed up the heart rate, while the other half were assigned to sessions of non-aerobic toning and stretching. The volunteers in each group attended four weekly exercise sessions for 24 weeks. They were again tested for cognitive abilities at 12 and 24 weeks. MRI scans of their brains were done at the beginning and end of the study. Ultimately, 44 volunteers in the aerobic exercise group and 50 in the stretching group stayed with the study. By the end of the study period, the stretching and toning group had not seen much of an increase in cognitive abilities while all ages in the aerobic group saw significant increases in mental function—although the older participants showed bigger improvements than the younger ones. MRI scans also showed an increased thickness in the brain’s frontal cortex in aerobic exercisers at the end of 24 weeks. The new study confirms that exercise is a “highly promising method for influencing cognitive function,” said Kirk Erickson, a professor in the department of psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. “This has led to the development of U.S. health policies for using physical activity to influence cognitive function.” Until now, most of the research has been con-

All ages in the aerobic group saw significant increases in mental function.

ducted in children or older adults “with a noticeable gap in our understanding of whether exercise has an enhancing effect throughout the lifespan,” Erickson, who wasn’t involved in the new study, said in an email. “This study by Stern and colleagues takes a major step forward toward closing this gap by demonstrating that positive effects of exercise might be found in young-adult age ranges.” The bottom line, Erickson said, is that the work by Stern and others “suggests physical activity is powerful medicine for enhancing brain and cognitive health throughout the lifespan.” Erickson said he hopes future studies will confirm the new findings and also provide a better sense of which exercise parameters—frequency, duration, intensity, volume, types of activities—are most important for improving cognition.

By Linda Carroll

From Reuters

Getting the heart pumping is a great way to get the brain fired up as well, no matter your age, researchers have found.















# ‘Alita: Battle Angel’: Top-Notch Action, Kung Fu, Love, and Hope

MARK JACKSON

Are you familiar with the sugar glider? Teeny, off-the-charts-cute, flying mini-opossums with huge eyes? Apparently, they make great pets.

I had reservations when seeing pictures of Alita, the little brunette girl with the freaky, giant eyes. But she very quickly becomes like unto the sugar glider, in one's mind. She's endlessly cute and adorable. And also as cool as Bruce Lee.

Which is a powerfully attractive combination. I see that a fair amount of my critic brethren and sistren don't love "Alita: Battle Angel," but I think it's going to be enormously popular. And if director Robert Rodriguez and producer James Cameron stay on board for the next one—a successful franchise.

The Rodriguez and Cameron team turned this Yukito Kishiro-penned, sci-fi graphic novel into a many-movie mash-up; it's "Star Wars," "Blade Runner," "Rollerball," "The Blood of Heroes," "Robocop," "Edge of Tomorrow," and many more. But it feels slightly similar to how "Star Wars" and "Robocop" first impacted audiences. There's a palpable feeling of: I've never really seen anything quite like this before.

Of course, we've more or less seen it all before; we've reached a point of sci-fi saturation. It's all been done; there's nothing new under the sun. Yet "Alita" is definitely fresh, and also one of the rare movies these days that really lends itself to being seen in 3D.

**After the Fall**  
The story takes place "300 years after the Fall." How many apocalyptic, dystopian movies can you name that refer back to the time when humans finally, completely, trashed themselves and the planet Earth? There are many,

**'Alita: Battle Angel'**  
**Director**  
Robert Rodriguez

**Starring**  
Rosa Salazar, Christoph Waltz, Kean Johnson, Mahershala Ali, Jennifer Connelly, Ed Skrein

**Running Time**  
2 hours, 2 minutes

**Rated**  
PG-13

**Release Date**  
Feb. 14

★★★★★

many of them. We live in the time the ancient Chinese called the "Last Havoc," so we like to look at lots of last-havoc movies.

You know the deal: The machines take over; artificial intelligence becomes sentient and discovers it doesn't like humans; and androids, cyborgs, robots, predators, and terminators are running around everywhere. Kinda like Wall-E is sorting stuff in his dump-yard, Mad Max is blowing away gasoline thieves, Kevin Costner's character is growing gills because the seas have risen, everyone looks like they just got back from Burning Man, and everybody's a bounty hunter.

Oh, and thanks to Jason Bourne, lots of characters nowadays can't remember who they are (an archetypal metaphor for human existence, which is why it's such a popular theme). And so our wee heroine, Alita, can't remember who she is.

That's because she's mostly cyborgian. She's part Pinocchio and part Frankenstein's creation, in that she's discovered lying on a trash heap by Dr. Ido (Christoph Waltz), a Geppetto-like cybersurgeon living in Iron City, which is situated underneath Zalum, a vast, floating aerial city from whence the trash-heap falleth.

Like Dr. Frankenstein, Dr. Ido cobbles and solders and jerry-builds her back together again, using a cyberbody meant for his late daughter, Alita, and so he gives her the same name. After basically reconstructing his daughter, he immediately goes into dad mode and sets up rules and curfews.

However, his little creation is basically a highly curious and impressive tween, and soon there is love of chocolate, and oranges, and a dreamy, sweet-faced, motorcycle-riding bad boy (just a little bit bad) named Hugo (Kean Johnson), a street-smart hustler



with heart.

It's during one of their hop-on-his-motorized-unicycle dates—when Alita is accosted by a hulking, arachnid robocop—that she discovers something odd. Like Jason Bourne, Alita's body, when threatened, automatically assumes sophisticated defense postures, and later explodes with an exotic strain of highly lethal kung fu.

It's really that bit of Jason Bourne-business, where the cops prod him with night-sticks and he explodes with jiu-jitsu, surprising himself, that we've come to love and now want to see over and over again, like a bedtime story. But, like Bourne, Alita needs to know her true purpose.

**The Purpose of Life**  
Our purpose is to "get back to the Garden," right? Well, in Iron City, the purpose of life is to be allowed to ascend to Zalum. Only there aren't any gods up there, just a more refined, better-educated class of people, apparently. It's a caste system, with the elite hovering above, in a metallic paradise.

But some Iron City denizens get to go up there sometimes. How do you do that? By raising your moral standard and letting go of your earthly attachments? No, you get involved in the national pastime of motorball and try to become the No. 1 champion (which is where "Alita" is akin to 1989's "The Blood of Heroes").

Motorball is a mash-up of games from "Rollerball" and "Robot Wars," with cyborgian-enhanced human athletes, all of whom

display psychotic levels of meanness. We'll come back to motorball.

Meanwhile, we're led on a journey of discovering Alita's past. On a teen hike to see a partially submerged spacecraft relic, Alita boards the ship and discovers it responds to her commands. She returns home carrying a futuristic cyborg body from one of the ship's display cases.

Geppetto, er, Ido, informs her this thing that looks like a suit of Tolkien-elvish armor is actually a Martian "berserker" body, of unfathomable lethality, and that over his own dead body would he ever, ever attach her consciousness to this berserker suit. At which point, the movie audience all but stands up and shouts, "Do it!!! Put her in the berserker suit!!"

We all yearn for the hero/heroine to attain his/her powers. And so, eventually, when her Ido-crafted Pinocchio body is dinged-up to the point where only her head, upper torso, and half an arm are left ...

**Kung Fu Princess of Motorball**  
Being that the battle-bod is from Mars, the warrior planet, and Alita's a cyberwarrior designed to be drawn to conflict, how well do you think martial arts skills from Mars will adapt to motorball? Easy-peasy, lemon-squeezy.

But we're getting ahead of ourselves. Before motorball arrives on the scene, Alita figures out Iron City's hidden dangers. There's basically a lot of highly corrupt organ-harvesting going on. Cyborgs, like the hulking Grewishka (Jackie Earle Haley), decimate humans, other cyborgs, and robots, and strip them for

FILM REVIEW

# ‘One Child Nation’

JOE BENDEL

From 1979 to 2015, there was a regime very much like that in "The Handmaid's Tale," but instead of prohibiting abortions, it mandated them—along with involuntary sterilization (of mothers, not fathers). When China's notorious one-child policy was in full effect, the communist regime relentlessly intruded into bedrooms and families' lives. The draconian mandate has been relaxed to a "two-child policy," but the guilt and emotional pain persist for the parents who were forced to comply. Filmmakers Nanfu Wang and Jialing Zhang expose the resulting trauma, both on a national level and within Wang's own family throughout "One Child Nation," which was released in the United States on Jan. 26.

As a poor rural family, Wang's parents were allowed to have a second child, as long as the children were at least five years apart, but it was still strenuously discouraged. She quite pointedly remembers the shame she felt in school when it was discovered that she had a sibling. However, when Wang had her own baby boy, she started to reconsider all the propaganda she had been fed during her youth.

## ‘One Child Nation’ addresses a lot of hot-button issues.

As the New York-based Wang starts to ask questions of her Chinese family, she discovers unknown cousins who were abandoned (ultimately, to their deaths) and a profound sense of shame among nearly all her relatives.

Being good documentarians, Wang and Zhang do not stop there. They follow the trail, interviewing the village headmen and family planning apparatchiks who enforced the policy. They also challenge pre-conceptions of the human traffickers who effectively saved thousands of abandoned infants by "selling" them to orphanages, which supplied the lucrative Western adoption market.

"One Child Nation" addresses a lot of hot-button issues, including the role of human traffickers in China, the pervasiveness of state propaganda, the overwhelming cultural gender preference for boys (and the inequalities that come with it), and the systematic deception of Chinese orphanages that lied about the background of their charges and often split up twin siblings. Yet, every topic arises organically out of the filmmakers' investigation. This is a tight, focused film—it just happens to have an awful lot to say.

Wang's "Hooligan Sparrow" might just be the gutsiest documentary ever made, so it is a heavy



FORK FILMS

(Top) A scene from "One Child Nation," which shows propaganda for the Chinese Communist Party's one-child policy. (Bottom) Photos of babies who were abandoned in communist China due to its one-child policy, as presented in the documentary "One Child Nation," the winner of the Grand Jury Prize for US Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival Awards on Feb. 2, 2019.

**'One Child Nation'**  
**Documentary**  
**Director**  
Nanfu Wang and Jialing Zhang  
**Running Time**  
1 hour, 25 minutes  
**Released on DVD**  
Jan. 26

★★★★★



NANFU WANG/COURTESY OF SUNDANCE INSTITUTE

statement to call "One Child Nation" a worthy follow-up. It might sound like it is old news to the half-informed now that the Communist Party is flogging its two-child policy, but she and Zhang make it crystal clear how profoundly the one-child policy damaged China's social fabric.

Frankly, this is sometimes a difficult film to watch. The images of cast-aside fetuses and babies will surely break your heart and possibly turn your

stomach. (Wisely, these are incorporated sparingly—just enough to establish the truth.)

Very highly recommended (especially for Women's March participants), "One Child Nation" appeared as part of this year's Sundance Festival.

Joe Bendel writes about independent film and lives in New York. To read his most recent articles, visit [JBSpins.blogspot.com](http://JBSpins.blogspot.com)





parts, and the parts go to the slinky Vector (Mahershala Ali) who pays top dollar.

Well, the highly altruistic, benevolent, and pure Alita decides she'd like to become a so-called Hunter Warrior and help decrease the surplus population of organ-harvesting cyborg (and human) scum.

However, Vector's figured out that Alita's got a Rolls Royce-quality battle-bod with a heart that's got all kinds of superpowers. I couldn't comprehend the pseudoscience; let's just say it's sort of like that shiny thing in the middle of Iron Man's chest, and functions like ancient martial artists' use of chi and gong energy in its ability to shatter and demolish stone and steel. Vector wants her heart. The hunt is on!

Meanwhile, Alita's memories of her previous "incarnation" flash back more frequently, and she realizes her powers and talents need to be in service of liberating her loved ones, and indeed, all of Iron City from the (highly communistic) Zalem.

Zalem? Yes—a strange intelligence moves in and out of people and cyborgs alike, signaling its arrival by turning Vector's brown eyes blue. (I would have enjoyed hearing Crystal Gayle's "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue" in the background on these occasions.) This malevolent (and funny) being or intelligence stems from a hidden mastermind in Zalem, who strings along the good people of Iron City with dreams of ascending to a better realm of existence.

**Yes, That Was an Overly Long Synopsis**  
It's a complicated movie in the telling—but



(Left) Keanu Johnson and Rosa Salazar in Twentieth Century Fox's "Alita: Battle Angel." (Right) Christoph Waltz and Rosa Salazar appear in "Alita: Battle Angel."

**It's highly refreshing, in the middle of all that cyborgian hodgepodge, to see a high-energy heart.**

not in the watching. The action throughout is outstanding. Motorball, bar fights, back-alley showdowns, sewer death matches, from the best of Bruce Lee to the bullet-defying slo-mo CGI of "The Matrix"—it's all brilliantly choreographed and an extremely fun adrenaline rush.

Also, since this is James Cameron of "Avatar" fame, a producing master of believable world-building in other realms and levels and dimensions, you'll find this particular world believable down to the smallest details.

And yet, while this movie is action and world-building writ large, what's most compelling is the moral core of Alita, represented by that powerful energy in her cyborg heart. Which she at one point pulls out of her chest and offers to Hugo. To which he replies, "You shouldn't just give things to people." That's the kind of pure soul she is.

Alita displays the power of an inner and outer discipline; we see her train martial arts, but we realize she's undefeatable because of her ability to distinguish right from wrong, virtue from vice, and give to those she loves and those in need, with no need for fame or reward. This is inspiring and uplifting to both her "father" and "boyfriend" alike. It's also inspiring to the audience. Very angelic, indeed.

Now that many decades and countless terabytes of CGI have been spent learning to realistically portray evil, it's highly refreshing, in the middle of all that cyborgian hodgepodge, to see a high-energy heart (a metaphorical one, representing the energy of saints, historically depicted as a halo) where there exists a blazing love. And hope. The effect of which is manifested in this saying from Buddhist and Taoist teachings: "One righteous thought destroys 100 evils."



(Top) Rosa Salazar as Alita in Twentieth Century Fox's "Alita: Battle Angel." (Bottom) When attacked, Alita (Rosa Salazar) discovers her amazing abilities to fight.



THE  
EPOCH  
TIMES



NO COMMUNISM, NO SOCIALISM

JUST PURE TRADITIONAL JOURNALISM

Dear Reader,

This newspaper is for you to enjoy. In an age of media bias, we work to bring you independent news coverage.

When reporting on China coverage, our unique network of insiders helps us tell behind-the-scenes stories that can't be found anywhere else.

On social issues, we expose the destructive history of communism and its continued effects on today's society. For arts and lifestyle, **we focus on classical culture and traditional values.**

At The Epoch Times, we believe the media has a responsibility to uphold a moral society.

Subscribe today. Get the independent news you won't find anywhere else, and **get the insights only The Epoch Times can provide**, delivered to your doorstep every week.

THE EPOCH TIMES

▶ ☐ \$39.99 — 3 months

▶ ☐ \$69.99 — 6 months

▶ ☐ \$119.99 — 12 months

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ VISA   ☐ MASTERCARD   ☐ AMEX

DELIVER TO:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SUBURB \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC Nr. \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Authorization Signature \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: ▼

PO Box 843 Hurstville BC NSW 1481   OR

EMAIL TO: ▼

Subscribe@epochtimes.com.au



The Epoch Times is published by Australian Epoch Times Ltd, registered as a non-for-profit company.

SUBSCRIBE NOW

02 8988 5633



ESSENCE OF CHINA



NTD TELEVISION

Shen Yun Performing Arts taking a curtain call to a full house in Paris on Jan. 17, at the Palais des Congrès.

# Shen Yun’s 13th Season Underway

Moving audiences with authentic Chinese culture

EPOCH TIMES STAFF

Awestruck is a look you will see on many people’s faces after they have watched a Shen Yun performance. Though they have seen the advertising, or have had Shen Yun recommended to them by friends, what they experience often comes as a surprise.

New York-based Shen Yun’s 13th season is fully underway, with all six of its 80-member touring groups presenting traditional Chinese culture to audiences in the United States and around the world. New cities have also been added to the itinerary, as well as more performances added to the world’s major cities like New York, Paris, and Berlin.

This year’s production debuted in California on Dec. 12, an early start to the season for the arts company that rehearses and travels with a new production each year. So far, the touring companies have performed throughout a number of states, including California, Massachusetts, Virginia, Texas, and New York.

The Epoch Times has attended all performances worldwide and talked to many audience members about the

remarkable undertaking of reviving an ancient culture.

It was journalist Rita Cosby’s fourth time watching Shen Yun perform when she saw the company at Lincoln Center in New York.

NTD TELEVISION



Journalist Rita Cosby saw Shen Yun Performing Arts for the fourth time at Lincoln Center, on Jan. 10.

“The performance I have seen now is breathtaking,” Ms. Cosby said. “It’s so powerful; it’s so moving because of the storyline behind it. It’s really a story of courage. It’s a story of appreciating history, appreciating the incredible people

of China, and I hope the whole world sees this.”

“I’m walking away deeply inspired and profoundly moved,” she said. “It’s an incredible, incredible performance.”

Shen Yun has also begun its 2019 tours of the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, and France.

Opening night in France was in Paris on Jan. 16, and Prince Jean d’Orléans, Duke of Vendôme, attended. The prince said that watching Shen Yun made him feel he was “escaping into another world full of color, poetry, and humor.”

“I think it’s very good. We need this today,” he said. “We’re too materialistic, so we need to escape a little. We need poetry, and then we need this relationship ... with the sky, with the divine.”

“When you don’t know what your past is, it’s hard to know where you’re going,” he said. “And I think that in a world that doesn’t have a reference, tradition and culture are very important. And then when you have 5,000 years of culture, it’s even stronger.”

Shen Yun Performing Arts was formed in America by a group of Chinese artists who came together to revive traditional Chinese culture. Through classical Chi-

NTD TELEVISION



Prince Jean d’Orléans, head of the House of Orléans, attended the first performance of the Shen Yun Performing Arts company in Paris on Jan. 16 at the Palais des Congrès.

nese dance, Shen Yun Performing Arts seeks to impart not only China’s stories but also its spirit and essential nature.

“Every dance embodies and celebrates the virtues that were at the heart of Chinese civilization for thousands of years: loyalty, courage, compassion, piety, and veneration for the divine,” according to the Shen Yun Performing Arts website.

Continued on B12

# Peter Rabbit: Why It Is Still One of the Greats of Children’s Literature

PAUL WELLS

Since the days of Aesop, animals have been used as vehicles by which humankind has addressed its moral, ethical, and cultural identity. For some, this serves to misrepresent animals, privileging anthropomorphism at the expense of the more sensitive address of animal sentience and welfare. For others, this approach allows humans to circumvent their own social taboos to reveal not merely fresh insights into what it is to be human, but also humanity’s intrinsic relationship to animals, with animals, and as part of nature.

Beatrix Potter enjoyed the work of poet Edward Lear, who specialized in nonsense verse and who wrote about a “Remarkable Rabbit.” Potter thus decided to create “The Tale of Peter Rabbit,” the story of a mischievous rabbit, who disobeys his mother to play in Mr. and Mrs. McGregor’s garden, despite all its apparent dangers. From the outset, it was Potter’s intention to use the story to show both human characteristics and animal behavior.

Peter is at once a playful vehicle by which to assess human foibles and to present an

animal within a pastoral environment. Reception of the story over time has been mixed. Is Peter a social transgressor within a human conception of the world, or merely the epitome of “the wild” outside the codes and conventions of rural society? Is the garden his most “natural” environment and home comforts a mere distortion of the countryside? And is Mr. McGregor, the gardener intent on keeping rabbits off his patch, Peter’s most obvious adversary in the great chain of being?

These are but some of the issues in “The Tale of Peter Rabbit,” which make it one of the most enduring and popular of children’s narratives.

Detached Storyteller

Initially written as a series of illustrated letters to her friend, Noel Moore, the son of her former governess, in 1893, the texts were reclaimed by Potter for private publication, and later taken up by established publisher Frederick Warne & Co. Its words and images were finalized by the 1903 edition.

Potter insisted the size of the book be suitable for children to hold, and that the animal illustrations were anatomically correct. Her watercolors provide the text with its distinctive aesthetic. Potter also drew the images from the animal’s point of view, a vantage point nominally shared by a child’s gaze, which stimulates the empathy of the young reader. Potter herself is a detached storyteller, narrating the indifferent (omni)presence of the human world.

This clear and precise vision for Peter informed Potter’s decision to resist Walt Disney’s approach to adapt the story into an animated feature in 1936. A 1935 Merrie Melodies cartoon, “Country Boy,” freely adapted “The Tale of Peter Rabbit” a year earlier.

Disney, though, an admirer of the hare drawings of Heinrich Kley, saw Peter as an appealing rabbit character that would advance his own earlier creation, Oswald the Lucky Rabbit. Debuting in 1927, Oswald was featured in 27 shorts, rivaling Felix the Cat, but in 1928, Charles Mintz took the rights from Disney for the character, forcing Disney to create another. Soon afterward, Mickey Mouse became the studio’s signature character. Disney realized, though, that he needed a more iconic rabbit, and Potter’s Peter was his favored character.

**Beatrix Potter insisted the size of the book be suitable for children to hold.**

Keen to maintain the tone, aesthetic, and copyright of her book, Potter ensured Peter’s identity would always be bound up, though, with the serious tone and color palette of her own illustrations.

Potter’s watercolors also later influenced the art direction of Bambi in 1942, and her rabbit sketches (1890) the design of Thumper.

Crucially, Potter’s imagery represented her artistic and intellectual skills as a naturalist. This helps to present Potter not as a quasi-Victorian moralist but as a modernist, insisting on a representation of what animals and children might naturally do. Disney would surely have made Peter both comic and morally accountable. Potter ensures he is both feisty and fun. As a more incisive fabulist, Potter depicts what Rus-

sian filmmaker Sergei Eisenstein suggests (when, ironically, writing about Disney’s characters) is the “factual regression into the animal.”

Later Adaptations

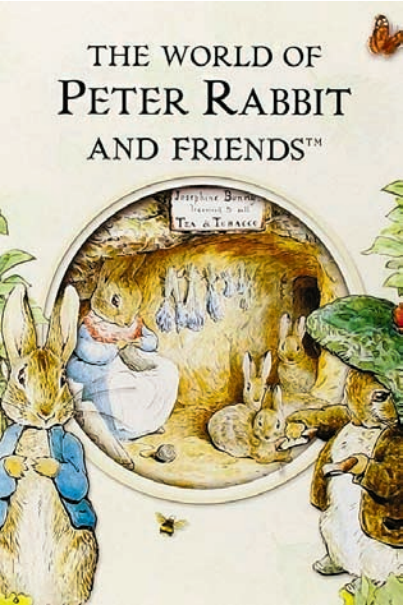
The integrity of Potter’s design and outlook is maintained in Geoff Dunbar’s later television series “The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends,” which aired between 1992 and 1995. Each tale is bookended by live-action vignettes, featuring Niamh Cusack as Potter, filmed in Potter’s real-life home environment of Hill Top Farm in the Lake District.

A CGI series, “Peter Rabbit,” made for the Nickelodeon Channel in 2012, anticipates the more improvisatory tone and outlook of the recent Sony Entertainment adaptation of the Potter tale, “Peter Rabbit.” The Sony film mistakes Peter’s imperative to return to nature for a need to crassly avenge and humiliate Mr. McGregor. Though playful, this detracts from the tension between human and animal explored in Potter’s text. It replaces Peter’s essential struggle for independence with routine adventures in the garden.

It is important to recall, then, that Potter wrote that Peter’s father was baked in a pie by Mrs. McGregor. Real-world things really happen to animals. Throughout the story, Peter is aware of the danger he is in. He is aware of his own mortality. Peter’s persona as a “naughty boy” is not played out as an identity by which he is judged or punished, though, but rather, as a sensibility that must simply enact itself.

Children are left to decide for themselves about the consequences of his disobedience and desire. As such, this ambiguity has helped maintain “The Tale of Peter Rabbit” as part of a canon of literature and film for children that has become part of the very process of their development and socialization.

*Paul Wells is the director of the Animation Academy at Loughborough University in England. This article was first published on The Conversation.*



An adaptation of Beatrix Potter’s creations: Geoff Dunbar’s 1992 television series “The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends” keeps the look and feel of the original.



BEHOLD THE BEAUTY

PHOTOMARINE/SHUTTERSTOCK



# The Breathtaking Architecture of Sainte-Chapelle, Paris

LORRAINE FERRIER

If “breathtaking” were a building, it could very well be the Sainte-Chapelle (“Holy Chapel”) in Paris, the spectacular royal chapel adjoined to King Louis IX’s palace. The chapel was commissioned between 1242 and 1248 to house the Passion relics, including Christ’s Crown of Thorns, which King Louis IX purchased in 1239.

The chapel is a perfect example of Rayonnant Gothic (circa 1240 and 1350) architecture. It was a style that aimed for structural lightness, where windows almost replaced the walls and flooded the buildings with light, and which favored a repetition of decorative motifs in varying sizes.

Sainte-Chapelle is dominated by huge lancet windows that wrap around the upper chapel and reach up to heaven—well, up to 17 yards, so part of the way. Over the west door of the chapel is an exquisite 15th-century rose window in the Flamboyant style, a florid design of the late

Gothic period in France. The window is framed by tracery, the intricate stonework that supports the window, which in this case scarcely seems present.

Colors cloak the walls inside the upper chapel as if it were bejeweled, and the columns between the windows, called bundled colonettes, appear to be part of the stained glass. The walls are just as rich but with paintings and carvings of Christian symbology: There are sculptures of the 12 apostles and sculptural reliefs of angels holding royal crowns and crowns of thorns. Some angels hold censers that were actually used for incense.

Elegant high arches, which typify the Gothic style, define and strengthen the bones of the building and reach up to the vaulted ceiling.

But the secret to the structure is on the outside. Not only do the narrow buttresses take on the bulk of the weight-bearing so that all that glass can stay upright, but these slender structures also avoid blocking the sunlight entering the chapel.

SURONIN/SHUTTERSTOCK



LORRAINE FERRIER

A rainbow of colors collide through the stained glass windows of Sainte-Chapelle in Paris. The tinted sunlight brings a jewel-like ambience to the royal chapel of King Louis IX, where 1,113 scenes from the Old and New Testaments are reflected on the 15 13th-century windows. The 15th window tells the story of the Crown of Thorns, and how the Christian relic eventually came to be under King Louis IX’s care.

On the west wall, a spectacular 15th-century rose window in the Flamboyant Gothic style that depicts St. John’s vision of the Apocalypse. Situated where the sun sets and symbolic of the end of time, the window is a reminder for the king to lead his people until the very end.

Surprisingly, only five colors make up the stained glass: blue, red, yellow, green, and purple, and they are all sourced from nature as the elements cobalt, copper, manganese, or antimony.

In the 13th century, the glass was first stained and then cut with a red-hot iron to a set design. Then, the details were painted onto the glass in monochrome gray, a technique called “grisaille.” The gray paint was made up of powdered glass and iron oxide. The glass was then fired to 1,112 degrees Fahrenheit to fix the grisaille.

Each piece of stained glass was then connected to the next by a strip of lead to create each scene. The size of each scene was kept small so that the window wouldn’t collapse under its weight once all the pieces were connected. In addition, each window was reinforced with metal bars and rods.

To find out more about Sainte-Chapelle, visit [Sainte-Chapelle.fr/en](http://Sainte-Chapelle.fr/en)

# The Spectacular Stained Glass of Sainte-Chapelle



ESSENCE OF CHINA

# Shen Yun’s 13th Season Underway

Moving audiences with authentic Chinese culture

Continued from B10



Antoine Treuille enjoyed Shen Yun at the Palais des Congrès in Paris on Jan. 19.

Antoine Treuille, director at Eramet, also saw Shen Yun perform in Paris. He said, “We all need spirituality. We all need to elevate our spirit. We all need hope, calm, serenity, and I find that this show evokes the peace we need today.”

“It’s really part of the human heritage,” he said. “And it is these things that must absolutely be kept alive and not be lost.”

“Shen Yun” translates as “the beauty of divine beings dancing,” and Leo Carruthers, professor emeritus at Paris-Sorbonne University, who specializes in literature and civilization of the Middle Ages, talked about this spiritual facet of many cultures.

The name “Shen Yun” as well as the spirituality in the performance did not

surprise Mr. Carruthers, who said that in many cultures, researchers find the concept that culture, such as languages and the arts, comes from heaven. “And that’s because it speaks to something that’s inside the human being. It’s his spiritual side,” Mr. Carruthers said.



Leo Carruthers, professor emeritus at Paris-Sorbonne University, enjoyed Shen Yun Performing Arts at the Palais des Congrès in Paris on Jan. 16.

**Culture Interrupted**

Traditional Chinese culture is spiritual. It was built upon the values established by Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism, as well as lessons learned over the rise and fall of many dynasties in its 5,000-year culture.

But in 1949, the Chinese people were severed from their history and culture when the communists seized power and

set out to destroy the Chinese culture and replace it with a communist one.

Through campaigns like the Cultural Revolution, the Chinese who upheld their traditional culture were subjected to public humiliation and often death at the hands of the Communist Party. Countless other desecrations and unutterable violations have been committed against the Chinese culture and people by the Communist Party since.

Shen Yun does not embody the post-1949 culture, which was installed by a modern political group. Rather, it imparts the authentic 5,000-year-old traditional Chinese culture that had been painstakingly passed down through millennia.

But if the Chinese Communist Party has tried to destroy the tradition and values of the past, it’s only been an interruption, as Shen Yun Performing Arts has made it its mission to revive the ancient culture, bringing forth the values, stories, and spirituality of the Chinese culture once again.

**Restoring the Culture**

Chinese businessman Mike Li saw Shen Yun in Boston. He was moved to tears.

“What I see is not just performing arts,” Mr. Li said. “It is China’s traditional culture, a divinely inspired culture—one with a few thousand years of venerating the heaven and earth.”

“For the past several thousand years, Chinese people venerated divine beings, heaven, and earth. Human interactions were harmonious ... and there was harmony between heaven and earth. However, this harmony no longer exists [in modern China],” he said.



Japanese classical dance instructor Midori Tanaka enjoyed Shen Yun Performing Arts at the ROHM Theatre Kyoto, in Kyoto, Japan, on Jan. 17.

The dancers also moved Japanese classical dance instructor Midori Tanaka in Japan.

“The dance moves were so graceful,” she said. “The dancers were light and floating. From their facial expressions to their fingers and then their feet, everything was rich in emotion.”

Ms. Tanaka also felt something deeper as she watched the dancers.

“It was a voice coming from their soul,” she said. “It was something that couldn’t be put into words ... These artists passed on [to the audience] their compassionate thoughts in their dances.”

“Today’s experience was truly unbelievable,” Ms. Tanaka said.

But it is not just those of Asian heritage who benefit or sense the depth and importance of the culture that Shen Yun seeks to restore.



Filmmaker Pascale Pouzadoux was among the audience for the second performance of the Shen Yun Performing Arts company in Paris on Jan. 17.

In France, filmmaker Pascale Pouzadoux also felt something profound being conveyed by the Shen Yun performers, and said they were “inspired by something very ancient.”

“They were trying to communicate to us a form of serenity, tranquility, a meditation on life and existence,” she said.

“The whole world should see this show.”

Shen Yun Performing Arts will return to New York City with the 2019 production March 6–17 at The David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center.

The company will return to Fairfax, Virginia, and perform March 12–14.

Shen Yun will perform in Purchase, New York, March 20–24.

And Shen Yun will perform in Washington, D.C., at The Kennedy Center Opera House April 17–21.

A full list of performances, and tickets for all performances worldwide are available at [ShenYun.com](http://ShenYun.com)

*The Epoch Times considers Shen Yun Performing Arts the significant cultural event of our time and has covered audience reactions since the company’s inception in 2006.*

# 神韻晚會 2019

# SHEN YUN

## 5,000 Years of Civilization Reborn

### Experience Art that Connects Heaven & Earth

The culture of ancient China was divinely inspired. Shen Yun’s works reflect this heritage and its rich spiritual elements.

**SHEN YUN RETURNS WITH ENTIRELY NEW 2019 PRODUCTION**

**“Absolutely THE NO.1 SHOW in the world.”**

- Kenn Wells, former lead dancer of the English National Ballet

**“Flawless musical performances... Simply astounding to watch and a pleasure to the ear.”**

- Opera Online

**Sydney Lyric Theatre 6 - 10 March, 2019**

1300 795 267 | 02 8988 5611

[ticketmaster.com.au](http://ticketmaster.com.au) | [syticketcentre.com/sydney](http://syticketcentre.com/sydney)

**ShenYun.com**

PRESENTED BY Falun Dafa Association of Australia Inc.