

In the NEWS



In an environment FILLED WITH LIES

ordinary Chinese are taking to the internet to ridicule the communist regime's weak position in the US-China trade war. Here are some of the jokes circulating behind the scenes.

CHINA | A6

Child SEX OFFENDERS

are facing the reality of having their names and offences published in a public register after the Coalition's shock win.

NATION | A2

Will the PALESTINIANS

and Israel be able to see eye to eye as the Trump administration prepares to unveil its "peace to prosperity" plan for the Middle East?

WORLD | A3



NO KFC,

McDonald's, or iPhones, Chinese employees told as Beijing turns its anti-US propaganda up a notch in the trade war.

CHINA | A7

TRUMP

says he is pro-life except for cases involving rape, incest or when the life of the mother is at risk.

US | A8

The FBI IS INVESTIGATING

corporate giants Johnson & Johnson, Siemens, General Electric and Philips for allegedly paying kick-backs to secure contracts for medical equipment sales in Brazil.

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Traders and financial professionals work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) ahead of the opening bell on May 8, 2019.

CHINA ECONOMY

Investors Flee Chinese Stocks at Fastest Pace Since 2015

More than US\$6 billion in capital has left Chinese equities during recent trade tensions

EMEL AKAN

WASHINGTON—The recent U.S.–China trade dispute has prompted the biggest capital outflow from Chinese equities in nearly four years. More than \$6 billion of capital has fled China's stock market since May 6, according to data compiled by the Institute of International Finance (IIF).

Tensions escalated between the United States and China when Trump wrote in a tweet on May 5 that he would increase tariffs on \$200 billion Chinese goods to 25 percent from 10 percent. Trump accused Beijing of backtracking on its commitment to deliver structural reforms.

The dispute revealed the vulnerability of China's stock market, with the Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index falling nearly 6 percent on May 6, the day after Trump's tweet. The stocks haven't recovered since then.

The total outflow from Chinese stocks by nonresidents since tensions escalated reached \$6.2 billion, according to IIF, which has tracked capital movement in emerging market equities on a daily basis since 2010.

Trump's tweet and the intensification of the trade conflict came as a big surprise to investors, according to Jonathan Fortun,

an economist at IIF.

"This last round of outflows is a knee-jerk reaction to everything that has been happening," he said.

Chinese stocks saw net outflows of \$2.6 billion and \$2.8 billion for the weeks ending May 10 and May 17, respectively. These weekly exits were the largest since the Chinese stock market crash in 2015. The largest weekly capital outflow occurred during the week ending July 10, 2015, when the Chinese stocks plunged 30 percent in three weeks.

Significant outflows in the past two weeks were triggered by the unexpected nature of the flare-up in trade tensions, Fortun said. Investors were building up their exposure to the Chinese stocks with the expectation that the conflict was de-escalating, he explained.

Outflows have continued into the week of May 19, where a total of \$0.9 billion in capital fled Chinese equities on May 20 and May 21.

"I think the outflows are going to continue, at least until we have a little bit more clarity on the path forward for the trade

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ANTHONY WALLACE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Pedestrians stand in front of a stocks display board that shows the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong on Oct. 11, 2018.

Chinese stocks saw net outflow of \$2.8 billion for the week ending May 17, the largest since the Chinese stock market crash in 2015.

US-MEXICO BORDER

The Billion-Dollar Business of Human and Drug Smuggling

CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON

WASHINGTON—Huge amounts of money are flowing straight to the coffers of the Mexican cartels and smuggling organizations off the backs of illegal immigrants. And as the numbers reach new heights ev-

ery month, the profits continue to roll in. Border Patrol has apprehended 460,294 illegal aliens during the first seven months of the 2019 fiscal year.

The lower estimate of what illegal immigrants pay to smugglers is \$1,500 per head, which would indicate a total of

\$690,440,000. Meanwhile, illegal immigrants from some countries, such as China, pay up to \$15,000 per head.

On top of that, the \$690 million figure doesn't include those who evade capture.

In Texas's Rio Grande Valley alone, 25,000 illegal aliens avoided being apprehended in the first five months of fiscal 2019, while 103,000 were captured.

Applying the ratio—for every 103 captured aliens, 25 get away—suggests a total southwest border estimate of 88,500 "got-aways" during the first seven months. If each of them paid the basic fee of \$1,500, that's an additional \$132,750,000.

The conservative estimate is now at \$823 million for the first seven months of fiscal 2019.

Former Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen estimated that 1 million illegal immigrants will be apprehended this fiscal year. That puts the low estimate at \$1.8 billion, including "got-aways."

Add the Drugs

The profits that cartels are reaping from drug trafficking are likely also on the rise. While up to 40 percent of Border Patrol resources are tied up with large groups, car-

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CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON/THE EPOCH TIMES



Apprehended illegal immigrants from China after crossing the Rio Grande near McAllen, Texas, on April 18, 2019.

NATION

A Welcome—But Predictable—Victory

DAVID FLINT

Commentary

The election result surprised pollsters, punters, and most commentators. But as I argued early last Wednesday on the Spectator Australia site and then on 2GB, the defeat of Shorten and the return of Morrison government was predictable.

Apart from the 'shy-tory' problem where voters do not reveal who they are voting for, the pollsters underestimated how the approximately 15 per cent voting for small conservative parties sent their preferences to the Coalition.

Most pollsters relied on how this was done in the 2016 election. They concluded that 47 per cent of their preferences would still go to Labor.

But the circumstances at the election were very different from 2016. A Shorten government would confiscate self-funded retirees' tax refunds on franked dividends and would vastly increase property

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AAP IMAGE/DEAN LEWINS/VIA REUTERS



Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison and family after winning the 2019 Federal Election in Sydney, Australia, May 18, 2019.

WORLD

Over 10,000 Attend Falun Dafa Conference to Hear Stories of Self-Improvement

ANNIE WU

NEW YORK—As speakers stepped up to the podium and shared their journeys of self-improvement, many in the audience quietly wiped away tears.

Many felt inspired to become better versions of themselves.

"It's so moving to see someone who is prepared to be so vulnerable," said Mark Hutchison, an entrepreneur from Perth, Australia.

Hutchison and more than 10,000 other practitioners of the spiritual discipline Falun Dafa convened at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn on May 17 for a day-long conference.

Attendees came from all over the world, as evidenced by the variety of languages for simultaneous translation of the speeches, including Chinese, Spanish, German, Korean, Japanese, and Italian.

Falun Dafa, also known as Falun Gong, is a traditional Chinese self-improvement discipline whose practitioners live accord-

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JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES



A copy of George Orwell's novel "1984."

OPINION

'Thoughtcrime' Is Becoming a Reality

JOSHUA PHILIPP

Commentary

In several Western countries, people are receiving visits from the police to question them about their political views, and some have been arrested.

Cases in the UK and New Zealand have involved people who made comments against mass migration and Islamism. In a May 4 viral video posted on Facebook, a New Zealand man is questioned by police for his alleged posts about the mosque shooting in Christchurch.

Of course, the real issue isn't about religious "intolerance." It's publicly accepted for people, including public leaders, to openly condemn religions such as Christianity. This is very specifically a political issue, related to

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New Zealand Shooting Suspect Also Charged With Terrorist Act

New Zealand police have charged the man accused of murder at two Christchurch mosques with engaging in a terrorist act, according to a May 21 police statement.

In an attack broadcast live on Facebook, a lone gunman armed with semi-automatic weapons targeted Muslims attending Friday prayers in March, killing 51 worshippers and wounding dozens more.

The May 21 charge under terrorism suppression legislation was filed against Brenton Tarrant, according to the statement.

“The charge will allege that a terrorist act was carried out in Christchurch on 15 March 2019,” Commissioner of Police Mike Bush said.

Tarrant is next due to appear in court on June 14, after being remanded in custody in April and ordered to undergo psychiatric assessment to determine if he was fit to stand trial.

Police notified roughly 200 family members of attack victims and survivors about the additional charges at a meeting on May 21, the statement added.

49 Murder Charges, 39 Attempted Murder Charges

Tarrant was charged with an additional 49 murder charges as well as 39 counts of attempted murder on April 5, according to New Zealand Police.

He was charged with one count of murder on March 16 after he allegedly gunned down 50 people and injured dozens more in the mass shootings on March 15.

Police added that further charges also are being considered.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern called the shootings an act of terrorism in her address to the media on March 15, and the worst-ever peacetime mass killing in the nation’s history.

Tarrant announced on March 16 that he was firing his legal representative, Alpers & Co—Northwest Law Office senior associate Richard Peters, and said he was planning to represent himself in court, as he “thinks the job would be done better himself,” Peters said on March 16.

Media access and reporting on the court proceedings are usually tightly restricted by New Zealand’s debated suppression laws, which aim to protect the defendant’s right

to a fair trial by avoiding tainting the views of potential jurors by early and at times incomplete news reports. But Tarrant didn’t apply for name suppression or bail after his arrest on March 15.

Peters said in March that he suspected Tarrant may want to use the high-profile trial as a platform to spread his views and the trial judge would have to manage the risk of the courtroom becoming a “political soapbox.”

Some media have decided not to publicise Tarrant by his name to avoid giving him a platform for his extremist views. Ardern has also argued against giving the accused gunman notoriety.

“Look after one another, but also let New Zealand be a place where there is no tolerance for racism,” she told students at Cashmere High School in March. “That’s something we can all do.”

Tarrant released a 74-page manifesto before the attack that he called “The Great Replacement,” referring to the replacement of white Europeans by Islamic and other immigrants, in which he identified his political and social values as closest to the People’s Republic of China, a leftist communist regime. However, countless media reports following the terrorist attack labelled Tarrant’s views as “far-right.”

Tarrant wrote that “China [is] set to be the worlds most dominant nation in this century (sic)” because the country is “lacking diversity.”

“Were/are you a supporter of Donald Trump?” he also wrote in his question-answer style document. “As a symbol of renewed white identity and common purpose? Sure. As a policymaker and leader? Dear god no.”

According to The Associated Press, the manifesto purportedly penned by Tarrant is similar to the one written by Norwegian mass killer Anders Behring Breivik.

Police have said they are certain that Tarrant was the only gunman, but are still investigating whether he had support from others.

Tarrant allegedly said in the manifesto that he had been planning the attack for two years and had already identified Christchurch as the attack location three months prior. New Zealand security analyst Paul



Brenton Tarrant, the suspected shooter in the New Zealand mosque shootings on March 15, 2019.

Tarrant released a 74-page manifesto before the attack that he called “The Great Replacement,” in which he identified his political and social values as closest to the People’s Republic of China, a communist regime.

Buchanan told Radio New Zealand’s Checkpoint program on March 15 that Tarrant could be working with as many as 10 people.

“There are a whole bunch of white supremacist groups. We’re talking maybe a dozen groups of this sort mainly concentrated in the South Island,” Buchanan said. “It’s very possible this individual is still on the loose. There could well be some support network that’s actively trying to hide him.”

Philip Arps, 44, appeared in a Christchurch court on March 20 on two charges of distributing the killer’s live stream video of the attack on the Al Noor mosque, the first mosque that was attacked, a violation of the country’s debated publications law. Each charge carries a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison.

Arps, heavily tattooed and dressed in a T-shirt and sweatpants, hasn’t entered a plea. He remained expressionless during the hearing, his hands clasped behind his back.

Judge Stephen O’Driscoll denied Arps bail. Charging documents accuse Arps of distributing the video on March 16, one day after the massacre.

Most details of bail hearings were suppressed under New Zealand law. The judge made an additional suppression order regarding the police summary of facts in the case, limiting reporting of the accusations to the charges themselves.

With reporting by Reuters, The Associated Press, and Epoch Times staff members Jack Phillips and Melanie Sun.

Public Register For Child Sex Offenders Could Become Reality After Coalition’s Shock Win

TOM OZIMEK

Following Coalition’s shock election victory, a public sex offender register posited by the political alliance in Australia could soon become reality.

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton suggested in a January news release that information about the crimes of pedophiles would be added to a national child sex offender registry—including the perpetrators’ names, aliases, and photos.

“It would have a strong deterrent effect on offenders and ensure that parents are not in the dark about whether a registered sex offender has access to their children,” Dutton said at the time.

Now that the Coalition has clinched a victory, the prospect of a pedophile register is that much closer.

“The abuse and exploitation of children is a global epidemic that is becoming more prevalent, more organized, and more extreme,” Dutton, a former police officer, said in the release, which accompanied the announcement of a period of consultancy regarding the register.

Some states and territories in Australia already publicly release information about child sex offenders.

Dutton said, “A nationally consistent approach would afford nationwide community protection and ensure offenders cannot evade public scrutiny.

“It will send a clear message that Australia will not tolerate individuals preying on the most vulnerable members of the community—our children,” he added.

The register was announced as a funding commitment in the second budget paper on April 2.

In the budget announcement, the Liberal Party stated, “Protection of our most vulnerable—our children—remains one of the highest priorities of the Morrison government.”

It added that the register would be hosted by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC), a national crime-fighting body.

“Last year’s Budget provided funding to initiate the Australian Centre to Combat Child Exploitation (ACCCE) in Brisbane.

“This Budget provides \$7.8 million over four years for the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission to develop and implement a National Public Register of Child Sex Offenders, which will provide information on convicted offenders residing in the community.”

Questions About Effectiveness

A review by the Australian Institute of



Peter Dutton at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, on July 15, 2014.

Criminology (AIC) revealed that there are many factors to consider in designing a register that will work as advertised.

In a paper published in May 2018, the AIC analyzed research on public sex offender registers in the United States. The study concluded that while public registers “may have a small general deterrent effect on first-time offenders, they do not reduce recidivism.”

The AIC noted, “Nonpublic sex offender registries do appear to reduce reoffending by assisting law enforcement.”

The report cited U.S.-based research that said public registers releasing personal and offending information could act as a catalyst for reoffending due to added psychological and financial stress for the convicted sex offender.

“For example, research has found that being placed on a public sex offender registry can result in exclusion from neighbourhood or residence, job loss, anxiety, and other psychological problems, all of which are counterproductive in terms of reducing reoffending,” the report said.

But research offering an alternative explanation was also cited. That research indicated that the publicising of offenders in a public register meant additional monitoring, which led to a greater chance of detecting reoffences.

Australian senator and former broadcaster Derryn Hinch has come out in strong support for a public pedophile register, Australia’s ABC News reported.

“I can die happy, this is the only reason I got into politics,” Hinch said of Dutton’s January announcement of the proposal for a public sex offender registry.



Former senator and founder of the Justice Party Derryn Hinch

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and other taxes and costs. The leader most of them disliked, Malcolm Turnbull, had gone and Scott Morrison proved a vastly superior and popular campaigner.

Finally, Clive Palmer funded a campaign, which became more anti-Shorten after the preference deal. If it didn’t encourage people to vote for him, it certainly encouraged small party voters to avoid preferring Labor—even if they had usually or occasionally voted that way in the past.

I used two sets of statistics as indicators as to how small party voters would allocate their preferences. I assumed they would vote according to self-interest—the very basis of our economic system. One indicated whether the average income from franked dividends was above the national median. The second was the number of people claiming a loss on rental property. I then made a common-sense judgment balancing these against the 2016 allocation.

I assumed that anyone falling into either of these groups would be more likely to direct their preferences to the Coalition than they did in 2016.

To answer this possibility one or two pollsters actually asked small party voters where they would send their preferences. The trouble with that was that the sub-sample would be so small the margin of error would be too large to be meaningful. Assuming the preferences directed to the Coalition would be significantly higher than in 2016, it was a matter of making a common sense judgement as to whether this would result in the Coalition retaining or taking the seat.

Take for example Herbert held by Labor on an 0.002 margin with Newspoll reporting 28 per cent would vote for small parties. There are 9,532 families involved in negative gearing no doubt outraged over Labor’s property taxation changes. That is with husbands, wives, partners, and adult children probably at least 20,000 voters. I concluded that this—with disaffected tradesmen and farmers, Adani, self-funded retirees, the religious, free speech advocates and so on—should swamp the margin and hand the seat to the LNP. The result on Saturday evening was that the Liberals were leading 58:42.

Or take the NSW Labor seat of Lindsay held on a 1.1 margin. There are 8,147 families engaged in negative gearing, that is about 17,000 voters. The Liberals were leading 55:45 on Saturday evening. Or take the NSW Labor seat of Reid held on a margin of 4.69. The average franked dividends received are higher than the

Most pollsters relied on how this was done in the 2016 election. They concluded that 47 per cent of their preferences would still go to Labor.

PROFESSOR DAVID FLINT AM
Emeritus Professor of Law, former chairman of the Australian Press Council and the Australian Broadcasting Authority

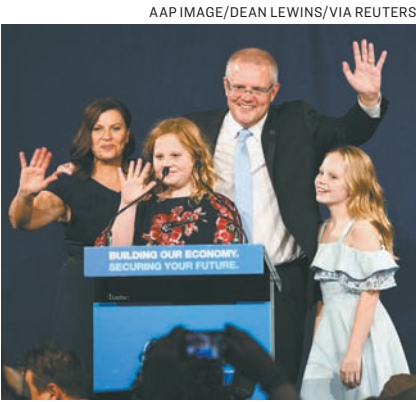
national median and there are 15,316 families engaged in negative gearing, that is about 31,000 voters. The Liberal was leading 55:45.

Accordingly, I predicted the Coalition should do better than either the polls or the betting markets say. With the impact of the above factors, I concluded the Liberals should hold most of their seats and win more. I never expected I would be right on all seats, just on the overall result.

And that is precisely what happened. The mainstream media was surprised as they were with the 1999 referendum, Brexit, and Trump.

David Flint AM is an emeritus professor of law. He was chairman of the Australian Press Council as well as the Australian Broadcasting Authority.

This article was first published on Spectator Australia.



Australia’s Prime Minister Scott Morrison with wife Jenny and beloved daughters Abbey and Lily after winning the 2019 Federal Election at the Sofitel-Wentworth hotel in Sydney, Australia, May 18, 2019.

EDWARD DYE/THE EPOCH TIMES



An audience of more than 10,000 attend the Falun Dafa conference at Barclays Centre in Brooklyn, N.Y., on May 17, 2019.

Over 10,000 Attend Falun Dafa Conference to Hear Stories of Self-Improvement

CONTINUED FROM A1

ing to the moral principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. They also do five sets of meditative exercises.

In China, spiritual practices were often passed down from master to student, across the generations. Falun Dafa, an ancient practice, was introduced by Mr. Li Hongzhi to the public in May 1992 in the northeastern Chinese city of Changchun.

Since then, it has spread to millions of adherents in more than 70 countries.

The conference was also a celebration of the 27 years since Falun Dafa's introduction.

Hutchison said that after learning Falun Dafa, he became a calmer person and gained a deeper understanding of one's purpose in life. "We fill our lives with so much busy-ness...but why are we human?"

Persecution

Falun Dafa reached enormous popularity in China, with 70 million to 100 million adherents by 1999, according to Western news outlets, citing official estimates.

The then-paramount leader of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Jiang Zemin, feared that the practice's traditional moral teachings would prove more attrac-

One attendee, Mark Hutchison, said that after learning Falun Dafa, he became a calmer person and gained a deeper understanding of how to find one's purpose in life.

tive to the Chinese people than the Party's atheistic ideology.

On July 20, 1999, Jiang launched a nationwide campaign to eradicate the practice. Adherents were rounded up and thrown into prison, labor camps, brainwashing centers, and other facilities, where they were often tortured in an effort to force them into giving up their faith.

The website Minghui.org, which serves as a clearinghouse for news about the persecution, has confirmed the number of deaths from torture and abuse as 4,304. The real number is believed to be far higher, due to the difficulty of getting information out of China.

In addition, large numbers are believed to have been murdered through the pillaging of their organs. Since The Epoch Times broke the story of forced organ harvesting in China in 2006, independent researchers and journalists have investigated and confirmed allegations that the Chinese regime is extracting organs from living prisoners of conscience, mainly Falun Dafa practitioners, for use in the country's organ transplant system. Researchers have called this a "cold genocide." As an integral part of this campaign of persecution, the CCP's propaganda apparatus launched a campaign to vilify the practice and its adherents.

Many of the speakers spoke about their efforts in raising awareness about the persecution in China, and the difficulties they experienced while doing so.

One young woman currently living in Tokyo, Japan talked about her experiences telling visiting mainland Chinese tourists about the persecution of Falun Dafa.

Many had believed the propaganda by the Chinese regime and held negative feelings toward Falun Dafa, sometimes yelling or cursing at her and other Falun Dafa volunteers who tried to speak with the tourists.

But the young woman realized that she should be kind and patient toward them despite their hatred. After telling them about how the Chinese regime disseminated hateful propaganda about Falun Dafa, many tourists changed their attitudes.

Rob Gray from the United Kingdom talked about his efforts to appeal to government officials about the issue of forced organ harvesting from Falun Dafa practitioners in China.

Gray spoke about his efforts to raise awareness about this issue in both the UK Parliament and the European Union, and how he persevered in the difficult, tiring task of coordinating outreach efforts due to his belief that more people needed to

hear about these atrocities, which are still occurring in China today.

Founder of Falun Dafa Makes Appearance

Mr. Li Hongzhi came to speak to the conference.

In Chinese, Mr. Li is often referred to as "shifu," a term of respect for a great teacher. Upon his appearance on stage, Mr. Li was greeted by a standing ovation.

Mr. Li spoke for about two hours, discussing challenges Falun Gong practitioners face in their efforts to raise awareness about the persecution. After his address, which was delivered without the use of notes, he answered questions from the audience.

For William Wang, 42, this was his first time attending a major Falun Dafa conference since immigrating from Beijing to the United States in 2018.

Hearing Mr. Li speak in person stirred deep feelings of gratitude and wonder in Wang.. "In the first 15 minutes, I didn't even realize that it's real that I can listen to Shifu in person," Wang said.

Wang said he was also very excited to meet with so many Falun Dafa practitioners and listen to their speeches.

Nicole Hao contributed to this report.

First Stage of Trump's Middle East Peace Plan to Encourage Investment in West Bank, Gaza

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

The Trump administration will unveil its peace plan for Israel and the Palestinian people during an international conference in Bahrain in June, the White House announced May 19.

The plan will emphasize a path from "peace to prosperity" by encouraging investment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to a joint statement from the United States and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Government and business leaders from the Middle East will flock to the conference, in an effort to start the economic stage of the peace plan, senior U.S. officials said. The plan also includes proposals for resolving political issues at the core of the decades-long conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

"I look forward to these important discussions about a vision that will offer Palestinians exciting new opportunities to realize their full potential," said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. "This workshop will engage leaders from across the entire Middle



President Donald Trump visits the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City on May 22, 2017.

East to promote economic growth and opportunity for the people in this important region."

President Donald Trump has called the plan the "deal of the century." Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and regional envoy Jason Greenblatt are leading the Middle East team.

"We think this is an opportunity to take the economic plan that we've worked on for a long time now and present it in the region," a senior Trump administration official said.

The Palestinian Authority has boycotted Trump's peace efforts since Trump decided to move the American embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv, and recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Trump became the first president to follow through on a promise many have made to relocate the embassy, earning widespread praise in Israel.

Despite the Palestine Liberation Organization's boycott, Palestinian business leaders "have shown a lot of interest" in the conference, the senior U.S. official said.

Despite the Palestine Liberation Organisation's boycott, Palestinian business leaders "have shown a lot of interest" in the conference, the senior U.S. official said.

Philippines Recalls Envoys From Canada Over Escalating Garbage Dispute

MARGARET WOLLENSAK

The Philippines has recalled its ambassador and consuls to Canada due to a growing dispute over containers filled with garbage that were shipped from Canada to Manila six years ago.

The containers, which were shipped by a private company, are labelled as recyclables but were discovered to be filled with garbage, and have been sitting, rotting, in Manila ports ever since.

The diplomats were recalled after Ottawa missed the May 15 deadline that the Philippines had set for shipping the garbage out of Manila, Filipino Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr. tweeted Thursday.

"At midnight last night, letters for the recall of our ambassador and consuls to Canada went out. They are expected here in a day or so. Canada missed the May 15 deadline. And we shall maintain a diminished diplomatic presence in Canada until its garbage is ship bound there," the tweet reads.

Canada's foreign ministry said it is disappointed by the move, and that the Canadian government was committed to removing and disposing of the garbage in the containers.

"Canada is disappointed by this decision to recall the Philippines ambassador and consuls general," the department said in a statement. "However, we will continue to closely engage with the Phil-

ippines to ensure a swift resolution of this important issue."

Over 100 containers labelled "plastics" from Canada are sitting in two Manila ports. They were shipped there during 2013 and 2014 for recycling, but once inspected, it was determined that over half the containers were actually filled with regular trash, including household waste, electronics, and non-recyclable plastics.

Shipped out of Vancouver by a private company, 34 of the containers were disposed of locally, but the other 69 have been rotting in Manila ports for the past six years.

Filipino environmental activists wear a mock shipping container to protest the 50 containers of garbage that were shipped from Canada to the Philippines nearly six years ago.



Celebrating World Falun Dafa Day



ALL PHOTOS BY THE EPOCH TIMES



(From top L-R) **Peder Giertsen** from Norway holds his national flag ahead of the World Falun Dafa parade celebrating the spiritual teachings of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance in New York City on May 16. **Sofia Dreverno** from Sweden participates in the parade. **Women** wearing traditional Korean attire wave to onlookers as they walk through the streets of Manhattan. **Thousands of Falun Gong practitioners** form the Falun Dafa emblem consisting of ancient symbols: the yellow srivatsa representing Buddhism and the red-black and red-blue Taiji symbols representing Taoism. **Parade-goers** hold placards bearing images of Falun Dafa practitioners who have died from the persecution in communist China where there is no freedom of belief. The **Celestial Marching Band** marches through Times Square. A **young Falun Dafa practitioner** shows off her traditional Peruvian attire in the parade. A **child** holds a flier with information about the Falun Dafa spiritual practice.



Documenting Persecution: Videos of Torture Victims Smuggled out of Chinese Prison

JENNIFER ZENG

Since the persecution of Falun Gong began in 1999, astonishing accounts of torture inside Chinese labor camps, detention centers, and jails have been reported, but taking photos or video footage inside these places has never been possible, much less smuggling out such material.

A Falun Gong practitioner named Yu Ming changed that.

Yu recorded videos inside the notorious Masanjia labor camp, Benxi Prison, and the prison's hospital, and he managed to smuggle the footage out.

In Benxi Prison, Yu used hidden cameras to document the death of one practitioner due to torture, and worked to seek justice for another. These are their stories.

Death by Torture

Falun Gong, also know as Falun Dafa, was first introduced to the public in China in 1992 and spread rapidly by word of mouth. A traditional spiritual practice, Falun Gong involves living according to the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance and practicing five sets of meditative exercises.

The then-head of the Chinese Communist Party, Jiang Zemin, feared the popularity of Falun Gong and, in particular, how its traditional moral teachings might prove more attractive to the Chinese people than the CCP's atheist and materialist ideology.

In July 1999, Jiang ordered a campaign to eradicate the practice.

In 2017, Yu was detained in the hospital of Benxi Prison, in Liaoning Province, for practicing Falun Gong; it was his fourth imprisonment. There, he met fellow practitioner Hu Guojian, a 45-year-old Falun Gong practitioner from Fushun City in northeastern China's Liaoning Province. Hu was rearrested on July 7, 2015, five years after he was released from a 10-year sentence. This time, he was given a four-year sentence.

On May 4, 2016, Hu was transferred to Benxi Prison, where he was subjected to hard labor and deprived of food and sleep. When his wife visited 19 days later, she was alarmed to find that he had lost more than a third of his body weight, going from more than 200 pounds to less than 110 pounds.

On May 26, Hu was taken to the washroom by inmate-in-charge Wang Xingang, and inmates Yuan Dejia and Yu Changlong. They stripped off his clothes, poured ice water over his head repeatedly, and forced him to sit on a small bench. They didn't allow him to sleep.

At about 10 p.m., Hu lost consciousness and fell to the ground. The inmates kicked him in the head and berated him harshly. When this didn't revive him, he was rushed to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with a severe brain hemorrhage that required surgery.

Hu lapsed into a coma, only 22 days after his transfer to Benxi Prison. He never regained consciousness. After eight months in the hospital, despite his vegetative state, Hu was discharged and taken back to the prison to finish his sentence.

It was at this point that Yu was able to secretly shoot some footage of Hu lying comatose in bed.

After Yu served his four-year term, he was released on Oct. 31, 2017. He contacted Hu's family and began to try to seek justice for Hu.

Early on May 14, 2018, Hu's family was suddenly notified by prison officials that Hu



Yu Ming.



MINGHUI.ORG



YU MING

(Top) Benxi Prison in Liaoning Province, China. (Above) Hu Guojian's family cries over him as he dies.

had been taken to Benxi Central Hospital, in critical condition.

It was already midday by the time Hu's family and Yu reached the hospital. Understanding the importance of video documentation, Yu started to secretly shoot footage as soon as they arrived.

There were more than a dozen policemen at the scene, and, eventually, it was discovered that Yu was recording. The policemen immediately sought to confiscate the camera. Yu eventually had to let go, as his hands were cut and bleeding from the scuffle with the police over the camera.

What the police didn't realize was that Yu actually had two hidden cameras. While the one clipped on his shirt was confis-

cated, they failed to notice another one on his waist.

Hours after his family's arrival at the hospital, Hu died, at the age of 48.

To this day, his body is still frozen and stored in the mortuary. His family—in their quest for justice—has refused to cremate the body, believing that it should be kept as evidence to prove that his death was caused by the prison beating.

The authorities once offered to pay Hu's family 100,000 yuan (\$14,866) to "settle" this matter and have Hu's body cremated. But his family declined.

Yu said that Hu's family has been suffering tremendously since his death. His mother was so upset that her cerebrovascular

disease worsened, leaving her a paraplegic. His son is studying at university. His wife, who doesn't have a full-time job, has had a difficult time supporting the entire family.

His mother had to be sent to a nursing home. She often wanted to commit suicide, as she didn't want to be a burden on Hu's wife.

Lu Yuanfeng's Death

Yu also documented the torture-induced death of Lu Yuanfeng, a 62-year-old farmer from Daxing Village in Shenyang City, Liaoning Province.

Lu was another practitioner Yu met at the hospital of Benxi Prison toward the end of 2016. Lu had just been severely tortured, including being shocked for 45 minutes with high-voltage electric shock clubs and being placed in solitary confinement. After a doctor found that he had dangerously high blood pressure, he was taken to a hospital.

When Lu was finally released on Nov. 19, 2017, his condition was so bad that he was virtually paralyzed, with broken legs and dull eyesight. He could no longer speak properly.

Lu died at home, 21 days later, at the age of 63.

Yu, after his release from the prison, began trying to contact Lu's family to see if anything could be done about punishment for the police guards who had tortured Lu. After searching for Lu's home for some time, he arrived, only to learn about Lu's recent death.

"I can hardly describe how I felt then," Yu said. "Apart from these two deaths that I had managed to document with videos, there were more than a dozen Falun Gong practitioners around me who had been tortured to death during the persecution. How many more lives do we have to lose before the killing is stopped?"

MINGHUI.ORG



Lu Yuanfeng before the persecution.

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Hong Kong Government Expedites Extradition Bill Process, as Observers Suggest Beijing Political Infighting at Play

NICOLE HAO

As the pro-establishment and pro-democracy camps within Hong Kong's legislature continue to battle over an extradition bill that would allow any individual to be extradited to China for criminal prosecution, the Hong Kong government announced that it would quicken the legislative process to bring the bill to a vote.

Meanwhile, China commentators have begun speculating whether factional infighting could be at play.

A Political Battle

Since Hong Kong government first announced plans to amend the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance, collectively referred to as extradition amendments, back in February, Hong Kong people have voiced strong opposition.

The amendments would allow criminal suspects from any region—including mainland China—to seek extradition without the Legislative Council (LegCo) signing off on the requests. The head of the city's government, the chief executive, would be able to approve the extradition requests directly.

On April 28, over 130,000 Hong Kongers flooded the streets to oppose this legislation. The parade was one of the biggest protests since the Umbrella pro-democracy movement in 2014.

Chief executive Carrie Lam restated on May 21 that she intended for the legislation to pass the LegCo before its July break.

She said that the Hong Kong government would bypass legislative procedure to expedite the passage of amendments. The bill will now be directly sent to the full legislature on June 12 for a second reading.

"The most serious issue is that we couldn't see a way forward, how to break this deadlock other than to force me to scrap this bill, but this is unrealistic," she told reporters on Tuesday.

Opponents had disrupted a succession of



KIRI COI/THE EPOCH TIMES

Over 130,000 Hong-kongers protest China Extradition Amendments in Hong Kong on April 28.

legislative sessions meant to scrutinize the bill, with brawls breaking out in the LegCo.

LegCo members are divided into two groups: the pro-establishment and pro-democracy camps. The former has 43 members, who generally support Beijing's proposals. The pro-democracy camp has 26 members. One member is a centrist.

The two camps tried to hold separate hearings on the bill earlier this month, with the democrats saying that the pro-China lawmakers breached rules in forming their own committee to try and ram through the legislation.

Party Infighting

A source close to Hong Kong Liaison Office, the representative office of Beijing in Hong Kong, told the Chinese-language Epoch Times in a recent interview: "It is a political task that the [Beijing] central government has commanded Carrie Lam, the chief executive, to do."

The insider, who wished to remain anonymous, outlined four reasons why the Chinese regime wants the extradition laws changed: as a measure to respond to changes in U.S. policy toward China; to target and charge groups that the Chinese re-

gime deems "hostile forces"; force mainland Chinese activists who strongly oppose the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and have sought refuge in Hong Kong to leave the city; and threaten Hong Kong pro-democracy activists into taking a more "moderate" route.

Ji Da, a U.S.-based political commentator, told the Chinese-language Epoch Times on May 3 that Hong Kong used to be controlled by a CCP faction loyal to former paramount leader Jiang Zemin. Since current leader Xi Jinping came to power in 2012, he has utilized an anti-corruption campaign to purge the Party of Jiang loyalists.

Many top Jiang faction officials have since been sacked, but there continues to be factional infighting between the two camps, with the Jiang faction hoping to usurp power from the current leadership.

Han Zheng, the current director of the CCP's China Central Coordination Group for Hong Kong and Macau Affairs, is an official aligned with the Jiang faction. The group is the highest authority to supervise and coordinate Beijing's policies towards Hong Kong and Macau.

Han succeeded the post from Zhang De-jiang, who retired in 2018. Zhang is a key figure within the Jiang faction.

Zhang Xiaoming (no relation), the coordination group's current office manager, is also a Jiang faction official. He had previously served as director of the Hong Kong Liaison Office from 2012 to 2017.

"Their [Jiang faction] purpose is stimulating people's grievances, tearing apart Hong Kong society, and seize power from Xi during the crisis," Ji said.

Hong Kong political magazine Chengming reported back in June 2013 that after Xi officially became CCP leader in March 2013, another top Jiang faction official (who has since retired from politics) Zeng Qinghong had told officials in Hong Kong and Macau: "Hong Kong should have political chaos. The key point is seizing the power... the more chaotic, the easier to achieve [the seizing]." *Reuters contributed to this report.*

Chinese Netizens Have Fun With the Trade War

JENNIFER ZENG

In communist countries, humor has been a weapon wielded by ordinary people to tell the truth in an environment filled with lies and to snatch some wry enjoyment, and even a measure of revenge, from ridiculing their masters.

When President Donald Trump responded with major new tariffs after Beijing backed out of a trade deal, netizens were ready to mock them in Chinese in posts that appeared on social media outside China, which those inside China can reach using special software.

One widely circulated dialogue vividly describes the back-and-forth nature of trade negotiations between the United States and China:

How the U.S.-China Trade Talks Evolved
Trump: \$10.
Vice Premier Liu He: \$5.
Trump: \$10.
Liu: \$6.
Trump: \$10.
Liu: \$7.
Trump: \$10.
Liu: \$8.
Trump: \$10.
Liu: \$9.
Trump: Deal.
New China negotiator: \$5.
Trump: \$25!!!

People who have closely followed the trade talks can't help but laugh at how this accurately summarizes the whole process.

Another joke goes like this:

"When do you think this feces-stirring stick of America will stop stirring?"

"When there are no more feces in the world!"

"Feces-stirring stick" in Chinese is used to refer to troublemakers in a very negative way, and in the Chinese Communist official media, the United States is often portrayed as a bully and a troublemaker. However, the author of this dialogue showed the problem wasn't the "troublemaker," but the trouble that had to be dealt with.

Here's a third joke.

"How is the trade war affecting us?"

"It causes us to stand in the middle of the river, without being able to reach the other shore."

"Why?"

"Because all the stones have been lifted by the Americans to smash their own feet, so there are no more stones in the river for us to 'cross the river by groping for the stones.'"

This dialogue not only ridicules the Chinese official propaganda about the trade war, but also former paramount leader Deng Xiaoping's famous description of China's "openness and reform" policy—the policy meant to bring a more capitalist economy to China. Deng said implementing this policy would be like "crossing the river by groping for the stones."

When the Trump administration first started to place tariffs on Chinese goods last year, Chinese official media said that by waging a trade war against the Chinese,

CHINA PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES



People surf the internet at a cafe in Chongqing, China, on Jan. 21, 2008

"Americans are only lifting stones to smash their own feet."

"China will win big, if it is a big war; China will win medium, if it is a medium-sized war; China will win small, if it is a small war," the state-run media said.

A fourth joke goes like this:

"I heard that Huawei has lost the case about the 5G patent, and has to pay 300 billion in patent licensing fees per year. Why did Huawei lose that case?"

"Because there isn't a Party branch in that court."

This obviously mocks how Huawei has the Communist Party's full support, but also how in China, all the courts must listen to the Communist Party's orders.

In another post circulated on Facebook:

"I hope we can start a war with the United States immediately. If we win, America will be ours, and we won't need a visa to travel to the United States anymore."

"If we lose, it is even better. We can become American citizens directly and enjoy the rights and benefits that a human being is entitled to."

"When will the war start? We ordinary Chinese people just cannot wait any longer!"

As for the Chinese propaganda that China will adopt "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" policy to retaliate against U.S. tariffs, Chinese netizens cleverly changed "a tooth for a tooth" to "a sprout for a tooth," as in Chinese, the pronunciation of "sprout" and "tooth" is the same, which is "ya."

With this clever twist of words, the Chinese netizens mock how the Chinese Communist Party isn't really able to retaliate against the United States, given its weak economic situation, its dependence on the U.S. market and U.S. technology, and the huge trade imbalance between the United States and China.

Chinese netizens are also creating memes based on official propaganda images, and rewriting the lyrics of official propaganda songs to praise Trump saying that "Trump Is the Great Savior of the Chinese People," "World Peace Relies on Trump," and similar kinds of rewrites.

Chinese netizens are also rewriting the lyrics of official propaganda songs to praise Trump, saying that "Trump Is the Great Savior of the Chinese People."

Global Investors Flee Chinese Stocks at Fastest Pace Since 2015

CONTINUED FROM A1

conflict," Fortun said. "We are not in the super worst part yet, but I think that this could potentially be an important outflow cycle for China."

China saw around \$1.1 billion of capital flight in October 2018 during the initial trade frictions between the United States and China.

Conflict Hit All Emerging Markets

The tariffs dispute has triggered a significant amount of capital outflow from emerging market equities as well.

Countries such as South Korea, India, Taiwan, Brazil, and Indonesia have mirrored China's trend, highlighting the risks to the broader markets from increased trade tensions. Outflows from emerging markets excluding China totaled \$8.4 billion since May 6.

According to Fortun, the U.S.-China trade conflict also will hit emerging market economies, since it involves the disruption of global supply chains spanning many countries.

Recent outflows are different than what was observed during the 2015 market crash. The capital that left China went to other emerging markets in 2015. However, this time, the money is flowing into developed markets, bonds, and crypto assets, Fortun said.

The Trump administration has used the threat of tariffs as part of a negotiation tactic to increase pressure on Beijing. And China has more to lose economically in a full-blown trade war, according to analysts.

The United States began imposing tariffs on Chinese imports in July 2018. Together with the previous two rounds of tariffs, a total of \$250 billion worth of Chinese goods now face a 25 percent levy.

This time around, tariffs are going to a wider range of goods.

Washington also is preparing to impose tariffs on the remaining \$325 billion in Chinese goods, which targets the majority of consumer goods imported from China. Beijing also announced it would boost tariffs on \$60 billion of U.S. goods in retaliation.

"This time around, tariffs are going to a wider range of goods," Fortun said, disrupting the global supply chain. Potential tariffs on autos and auto parts by the United States are making investors nervous, he added.

Despite renewed tensions, Trump said the talks with Beijing would continue. He said on May 13 that he would meet face-to-face with Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the G-20 summit in late June in Japan.

In a series of tweets, Trump accused China of backing out from "a great" and "almost completed" deal and urged China to strike a trade deal soon.

According to Fortun, the capital flows, especially in equities, are very dynamic and as the trade issue gets resolved, the capital will start to quickly flow back in China.

"Any sign of willingness to have a real resolution of the trade conflict will be positive not only for China but for the whole emerging market complex," he said.

Investors will return once the storm ends, he said, but until then, they will continue to keep their money offshore in different types of liquid assets.

PHILIP FONG/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Pedestrians walk in front of a stocks display board in Hong Kong on May 8, 2019.

Netherlands Probing if Huawei Spying for Beijing, Report Says

NICK GUTTERIDGE

BRUSSELS—The Netherlands’ national intelligence agency has begun an investigation into whether Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei is using “secret back doors” to access customer data, according to security sources.

Operatives at the General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD), based in The Hague, are looking into whether the firm has enabled spying on a mass scale by the Chinese regime, the Dutch newspaper Volkskrant reported.

In April, the intelligence agency warned it would be “undesirable for the Netherlands to depend on the hardware or software of companies from countries running active cyber programs against Dutch interests.”

In a report to the Dutch cabinet, spy chiefs identified China and Russia as threats, and said that “with regard to the telecom sector, one can think of the collection of customer, geolocation, and telephone traffic data” as risks.

They also recommended limiting the use of Huawei in the country’s 5G network and phasing the company—which works with three of the country’s biggest networks—out of much of the existing infrastructure for older 2G, 3G, and 4G mobile internet networks.

A spokesman for the AIVD declined to comment on the newspaper report, saying: “We don’t say if it’s right or if it’s wrong. We never respond to questions about possible ongoing investigations because that can complicate our work.”

Bart Jacobs, a professor of computer security at Radboud University in Nijmegen, Netherlands, said the news that an investigation had been launched “sounds like a smoking gun, with possible geopolitical consequences,” according to Volkskrant.

The report came as three key EU leaders,

Article 7 of China’s 2017 National Intelligence Law stipulates that Chinese “organisations and citizens shall, in accordance with the law, support, cooperate with, and collaborate in national intelligence work.”



Then-Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Lilianne Ploumen attends the inauguration of a new Huawei office in Voorburg, Netherlands, on March 25, 2014.

including the Netherlands’ Prime Minister Mark Rutte, jointly said they would not follow the decision of the United States to shut the Chinese firm out of the European market completely.

Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel and France’s President Emmanuel Macron also joined the pushback against the United States, saying that if Huawei passes the relevant security checks, it will be allowed to provide some 5G infrastructure.

The United States wants to see a total ban on Huawei equipment in 5G networks of allies, hinting that if allies allow Huawei into their 5G networks, there could be less intelligence sharing with them.

While visiting the UK recently, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the United States “has an obligation to ensure the places where we operate, places where U.S. information is, places where we have national security risks, that they operate within trusted networks and that is what we will do.”

Recent leaked reports indicate that the UK will allow Huawei to provide equip-

ment for non-core elements of its 5G network.

Europe has been divided over how to respond to the Chinese company’s involvement in the rollout of super-fast 5G networks, with some countries embracing it but others wary of the security implications.

The European Commission, which is the bloc’s executive arm, has urged member states to work together with global partners to thrash out a common position on the issue.

In a statement, Huawei said it was “surprised” by the allegations of spying, but that it wouldn’t respond to them because they were made by anonymous sources.

However, a spokesman for the company insisted it “keeps the door closed to governments or others who want to use our network for activities that would threaten cyber security.”

At an event in Brussels on May 21, the firm’s most senior representative to the EU institutions, Abraham Liu, insisted that it obeys the law in all countries across the

globe where it operates.

He said the company is still ready to sign contracts with European governments to supply 5G infrastructure despite U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to blacklist it, and vowed the company will “continue to persevere” on the continent.

Beijing has recently passed legislation that requires all Chinese citizens and entities to provide intelligence information if requested.

Article 7 of China’s 2017 National Intelligence Law stipulates that Chinese “organizations and citizens shall, in accordance with the law, support, cooperate with, and collaborate in national intelligence work.”

Article 14 of the law adds: “The state intelligence department has the right to ask any [Chinese] government, organization, and citizen to supply the necessary support, assistance, and cooperation.”

China’s 2014 Counter-Espionage Law also requires “relevant organizations and individuals” to “truthfully provide” information to security agencies during counterintelligence investigations.

Huawei Likely to Face Challenges in Using Own Operating System and Chips, Amid US Export Ban

NICOLE HAO

After the Trump administration blocked U.S. companies from supplying Chinese telecom giant Huawei with technology and supplies, company founder Ren Zhengfei said he was confident the firm could still survive with its own backup solutions.

However, experts are questioning whether Huawei’s self-developed HongMeng operating system and HiSilicon electronic chips can be adopted for production within a short period of time.

Western Suppliers Closing Doors

On May 15, the U.S. Commerce Department added Huawei, China’s largest manufacturer of telecommunication equipment, and its 70 affiliates to its “Entity List,” meaning the company can’t acquire components and technology from U.S. firms unless it receives special U.S. government approval.

Google announced that it would suspend its business with Huawei on May 19.

Due to the Chinese regime’s censorship of Google, Huawei phones for the Chinese market exclude many of the U.S. tech giant’s most popular apps, such as Gmail and Google Maps.

Instead, it would be Huawei’s phones in the overseas market that would be most impacted.

According to a Huawei company statement, Huawei sold 59.1 million cellphones in the first quarter of 2019, including 29.2 million, or 49.4 percent, sold in overseas markets.

Then, on May 20, German chipmaker Infineon Technologies was reported by Japanese media Nikkei to have suspended shipments to Huawei in order to comply with the U.S. ban.

The report cited two sources familiar with the matter who said that Infineon will hold meetings soon to discuss the situation, but it is unclear whether Infineon would resume selling to Huawei in the future.

Qualcomm, Intel, and other major U.S. tech suppliers would also not be able to sell chips, software, and other hardware to Huawei, which make up critical components within its products.

HongMeng OS
State-run China Business Network re-

ported on May 20 that Huawei began the development of its own operating system in 2012, with the purpose of replacing Google’s Android system for cellphones and Microsoft’s Windows for its computers.

The reason why Huawei hasn’t yet employed HongMeng OS is because the system can’t compete with Android and Microsoft; but Huawei believes that HongMeng OS is now ready to be used, according to the report.

Hong Kong Economic Times reported on May 20 that HongMeng OS has two major problems: data coding and decoding, and its incompatibility with current apps.

After many years of software development, Google and Microsoft can read and write text, photos, videos, and other files. However, Huawei’s operating system has not been able to code and decode such files.

Meanwhile, millions of apps are designed specially for Apple’s iOS, Google’s Android, and Microsoft’s Windows. But for HongMeng OS, popular apps aren’t compatible with it yet.

HiSilicon Chips

Li Bin, a Chinese chip designer who has worked in the United States for more than 20 years, wrote a blog post on May 19 explaining why it would be near impossible for Huawei to rely on chips developed by its chip-designing subsidiary HiSilicon to replace current U.S. suppliers.

“Huawei is a company that uses a large number of general-purpose chips,” Li wrote, much of which is manufactured in the United States.

Even if Huawei were to replace the U.S. chips with other suppliers or its own chips, the company would still need to redesign its circuit board, make a prototype, go through comprehensive tests, fix the bugs, and so on.

“To replace one chip on a circuit board, it takes two to six months—and that’s if you can find a similar functioning replacement,” Li wrote.

Li added that an electronic device is composed of numerous chips and components, and U.S.-manufactured parts dominate the global market. Replacing all the U.S.-made parts would be a complicated and time-consuming process.



A Huawei logo is displayed at a retail store in Beijing on May 20, 2019.

“Qualcomm, Intel, and other major U.S. tech suppliers would also not be able to sell chips, software, and other hardware to Huawei, which make up critical components within its products.”

Chinese Company Tells Employees to Boycott US Products, as Trade War Propaganda Heats Up

OLIVIA LI

A Chinese company recently notified all of its employees to boycott U.S. products and stop traveling to the United States, or face dismissal.

The announcement immediately triggered a public outcry, when a netizen posted in on the internet.

Chinese state-run media have begun ramping up anti-American propaganda, as the U.S.-China trade dispute recently escalated with tit-for-tat tariff increases. The company’s memo came to light shortly after the hawkish state-run newspaper Global Times in a May 13 editorial called on the Chinese public to “fight a people’s war” with the United States.

In an internal announcement issued May 16 by the Jinggang Motor Vehicle Inspection Station located in Donghai County, Jiangsu Province, the company echoed the propaganda, explaining that China’s developments in military, science, and technology have frightened and worried the United States.

As a result, the United States started the trade war with China. “To help our country win this war, company authorities have decided that all employees must immediately stop purchasing and using American products,” the notice read. The refrain that the United States is impeding China’s rise on the global stage has been repeated in much of Chinese state media lately.

The notice included a list of more detailed requirements:

“Employees are prohibited from purchasing or using iPhones; instead, they are recommended to use Chinese domestic brands of cell phones, such as Huawei.

“Employees are not allowed to purchase vehicles made by China-U.S. joint venture automakers. They are recommended to purchase 100 percent Chinese-made vehicles.

“Employees are forbidden to eat at McDonald’s or Kentucky Fried Chicken. They are not allowed to purchase P&G [Proctor and Gamble, a U.S. maker of household products], Amway [U.S. maker of health and beauty products], or any other American brands. Employees must not go to the United States as a tourist.”

The notice said the rules were in effect as of the day of its issuance, and that the company’s trade union would enforce them. Those who violate the notice will be dismissed from the company, without exception.

The notice attracted a lot of attention online.

“Computers should be banned as well, because it is a U.S. invention,” one netizen said ironically.

Many netizens thought it was ridiculous to ban U.S. products, as so many commonly used goods are made in the United States.

“Stop using the Windows operating system, everyone.”

“I am happy to see this notice, and I hope that airplanes are banned from operating as well.” Many Chinese airlines purchase Boeing aircraft.

China’s state-run media has recently pushed nationalistic propaganda to portray the United States as an adversary, blaming it for the lack of progress in negotiations.

A state-run channel recently aired three anti-American movies for three days in a row. The films were originally produced as anti-U.S. propaganda, in reaction to the Korean War.



People walk past a McDonald’s fast food restaurant in Beijing on Jan. 9, 2017.

The Billion-Dollar Business of Human and Drug Smuggling

CONTINUED FROM A1

tels are getting a free pass around them.

“Human smugglers choose the timing and location for these large group crossings strategically, in order to disrupt border security efforts, create a diversion for smuggling of narcotics, and allow single adults seeking to evade capture to attempt to sneak in,” said former CBP Commissioner Kevin McAleenan at a Senate hearing on March 6. “Even worse, these smugglers visit horrible violence, sexual assault, and extortion on some of the most vulnerable people in our hemisphere.”

The Rio Grande City Border Patrol station, one of nine stations within the Rio Grande Valley Sector in southeast Texas, is the busiest station for narcotics seizures and second-busiest for illegal alien apprehensions.

But, despite the station seizing 42,000 pounds of narcotics in the first five months of this fiscal year, “we’re not even probably catching about 10 percent of it,” said Raul Ortiz, former deputy chief Border Patrol agent for the Rio Grande Valley sector.

That would mean 378,000 pounds of drugs have made it across into the Rio Grande City area between the ports of entry.

“The cartels are starting to push alien traffic out here [where] there’s nothing [but] a little, bitty village,” Ortiz said. “And why are they doing that? Not because it’s a close proximity to a community. No, because the cartels are using that as a diversion so they can tie up our hands, so our agents can’t get to the narcotics or to smuggled alien traffic.”

Border Patrol Chief for Yuma, Arizona, Anthony Porvaznik said his sector is so overwhelmed with large groups from Central America, that he estimates 50 to 60 percent of his manpower is unable



CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON/THE EPOCH TIMES

▲ A smuggler paddles his raft back to Mexico after dropping a Guatemalan woman and her daughter on the U.S. side of the Rio Grande near McAllen, Texas, on April 18, 2019.

to focus on border security and national security-related issues.

“If you look at how many people enter the country and how many people we arrest, we’re very effective,” Porvaznik said. “But it’s the people that are getting away that are the problem.”

He estimates at least 20 percent of those who try to evade Border Patrol, “that we know of,” are successful.

And with more than half of his manpower dedicated to the family units, all three of the highway checkpoints he runs are closed.



CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON/THE EPOCH TIMES

◀ Border Patrol agent Carlos Ruiz apprehends 35 illegal aliens who have just crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico near McAllen, Texas, on April 18, 2019.

White House Provides Site to Report Social Media Complaints Related to Political Bias

PETR SVAB

The Trump administration has set up a website where people can file a report if they believe their social media accounts have been banned, suspended, or otherwise affected because of political bias.

“The Trump Administration is fighting for free speech online,” the White House stated in a May 15 tweet. “No matter your views, if you suspect political bias has caused you to be censored or silenced online, we want to hear about it!”

The website, wh.gov/techbias, asks its visitors a series of questions, including name, email address, what happened to their social media accounts, and on what social media, offering the options of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Other.

“SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS should advance FREEDOM OF SPEECH,” the site says. “Yet too many Americans have seen their accounts suspended, banned, or fraudulently reported for unclear ‘violations’ of user policies.”

If a specific social media post is involved, the website asks for a link to it. If the social media platform sent the user a notification, the website asks for a screenshot of it.

The site asks people to agree with a roughly one-page User Agreement, which outlines that people who submit their reports must be citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States and over 18 years of age. It also explains that the government can “use, edit, display, publish, broadcast, transmit, post, or otherwise distribute” all the information people provide.

President Donald Trump recently came to the defense of conservatives censored by tech companies, after Facebook banned several influential figures from its social media platforms in early May.

“This is the United States of America—and we have what’s known as FREEDOM OF SPEECH!” he said in a tweet. “We are monitoring and watching, closely!!”

The tech companies have denied that there is political bias in their content policing, but have increasingly cracked down on “hate speech”—a concept derived from the ideology of political correctness, which is shunned by a majority of Americans.

Only 36 percent of Americans would like the country to be more politically correct, according to a Nov. 28–Dec. 4 poll by NPR, PBS, and Marist.

LOIC VENANCE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Logos of Twitter displayed on computer screens on Nov. 20, 2017.

Moreover, Americans significantly diverge on what “hate speech” is.

Democrats are much more likely to call a variety of statements “hateful,” while Republicans are more likely to call them “offensive, but not hateful,” a 2017 Cato survey showed.

Conservatives have been reluctant to call for government intervention into how social media polices content, but many worry that social media’s silencing popular, albeit controversial, conservative commentators could sway the results of the 2020 presidential election.

“Everyone Facebook has banned was instrumental in getting Donald Trump elected. This is punishment, this is political purge. This has nothing to do with ‘hate’ or ‘violating terms of service,’” said Paul Joseph Watson, chief reporter at InfoWars, in a May 2 YouTube video after his Facebook and Instagram accounts were deleted.

The most popular idea on how the government could push against social media censorship is to strip them of their designation as a “platform.”

Interactive computer service providers are shielded from liability for content created by their users under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996.

The argument is that if the tech companies want to excessively filter, sort, and restrict content on their platforms, they should be treated as publishers and thus face liability if the content is defamatory. The hope would then be that the companies would lay off the censorship in order to avoid being designated as publishers.

Americans significantly diverge on what “hate speech” is. Democrats are much more likely to call a variety of statements “hateful,” while Republicans are more likely to call them “offensive, but not hateful,” a 2017 Cato survey showed.

Trump Wants Exceptions for Rape, Incest in Laws Prohibiting Abortion

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

President Donald Trump restated his support for exceptions in laws banning abortion for cases of rape and incest by voicing his stance on Twitter on May 18, just days after Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed a bill prohibiting abortion without exceptions for rape and incest.

“As most people know, and for those who would like to know, I am strongly Pro-Life, with the three exceptions—Rape, Incest and protecting the Life of the mother—the same position taken by Ronald Reagan,” Trump wrote on Twitter on May 18.

While Trump has spoken about abortion and his support of the pro-life movement, he has not addressed the specifics of his position on abortion laws since before the 2016 election. Prior to his statement on May 18, the president’s most recent remarks on the rape and incest caveats appear to date back to January 2015.

While the pure pro-life position is that human life begins at conception and should be protected, the movement generally supports measures that include exceptions for rape and incest. While advancing the pro-life cause, such partial measures can’t be used to legally challenge the core holding of *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court ruling which recognized abortion as a woman’s legal right.

The new Alabama law stands out among the recent measures restricting abortion because it doesn’t include exceptions for rape and incest, uniquely positioning it for a nuclear challenge to *Roe v. Wade*.

Trump had changed his position from pro-choice to pro-life by 2011, when he revealed his new stance to attendees at the Conservative Political Action Conference. Since becoming president, he has delivered on a promise to appoint conservative justices to the Supreme Court and lower courts.

The Senate confirmed two of Trump’s nominees for the Supreme Court, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, shifting the court to a solid conservative majority.

Emboldened by the new conservative majority, Republicans across the nation moved to pass restrictions on abortion, most notably a series of “heartbeat bills” which ban abortion once the beat of a pre-born child’s heart is detected. Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, and Georgia have enacted such laws. A measure in Missouri is expected to follow.

In follow-up messages on May 18, Trump suggested that the recent gains may be lost if Democrats take over the White House in 2020.

“We have come very far in the last two years with 105 wonderful new Federal Judges (many more to come), two great new Supreme Court Justices, the Mexico

“As most people know, and for those who would like to know, I am strongly pro-life, with the three exceptions—rape, incest and protecting the life of the mother.”

U.S. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

City Policy, and a whole new & positive attitude about the Right to Life,” the president wrote on Twitter.

“The Radical Left, with late-term abortion (and worse), is imploding on this issue,” he added. “We must stick together and Win for Life in 2020. If we are foolish and do not stay UNITED as one, all of our hard fought gains for Life can, and will, rapidly disappear!”

The president’s mention of practices that are “worse” than “late-term abortion” is likely a reference to Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam’s defense of infanticide as a decision a mother can make in concert with doctors.

Earlier this year, Democrats in the Senate blocked a bill that would require doctors to afford the same care to children who survive abortions as they do to children who are born normally. Democrats refused to bring a similar measure up for a vote in the House.

ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES



President Donald Trump addresses the National Association of Realtors Legislative Meetings Trade Expo in Washington on May 17, 2019.

FBI Targets Johnson & Johnson, Siemens, GE, Philips in Brazil Graft Case

MIGUEL SCHINCARIOL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



RIO DE JANEIRO—The U.S. FBI is investigating corporate giants Johnson & Johnson, Siemens AG., General Electric Co. and Philips for allegedly paying kickbacks as part of a scheme involving medical equipment sales in Brazil, two Brazilian investigators have told Reuters.

Brazilian prosecutors suspect the companies channeled illegal payoffs to government officials to secure contracts with public health programs across the South American country over the past two decades.

Brazilian authorities say more than 20 companies may have been part of a “cartel” that paid bribes and charged the government inflated prices for medical gear such as magnetic resonance imaging machines and prosthetics.

The four multinational companies, with a combined market capitalization of nearly \$600 billion at May 16 market close, are the largest foreign enterprises to be investigated in an unprecedented anti-corruption push in Brazil in recent years.

Big U.S. and European companies found to have engaged in wrongdoing in Brazil could also face heavy fines and other punishment under the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). Since 1977, that law has made it illegal for American citizens, U.S. companies or foreign companies whose securities are listed in the United States to pay foreign officials to win business.

Foreign companies are the latest targets of government corruption probes in Brazil. Over the past five years, prosecutors have uncovered pervasive graft in state institutions and private-sector companies seeking to do business with them.

The sprawling investigations by prosecutors and federal police, including the famed “Car Wash” dragnet centered on Brazil’s state-run oil company Petrobras, have toppled business and political leaders across Latin America.

Authorities say plea-bargain testimonies obtained from suspects alerted them to other possible schemes, including alleged bribes paid by multinationals to obtain public contracts in Brazil.

‘Constantly Sharing’

Brazilian federal prosecutor Marisa Ferrari confirmed in an interview with Reuters that U.S. authorities from the Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission were assisting in the Brazilian medical equipment investigation she helps lead.

In 2016, U.S. and Brazilian prosecutors jointly negotiated the world’s largest-ever compliance penalty, a \$3.5 billion fine against Brazilian construction conglomerate Odebrecht SA for its part in the Car Wash scandal.

“We are constantly sharing information with the FBI on this (medical equipment) case. They ask for documents and we send them, and they are assisting our investigation in return,” Ferrari said. In addition, she said, “We’ve received a lot of material from the Department of Justice and from the SEC.”

She declined to name which companies U.S. law enforcement agencies were investigating.

Two Brazilian investigators with direct knowledge of the matter confirmed to Reuters

▲ The Petrobras refinery, involved in the famed “Car Wash” dragnet, in the city of Cubatao, Brazil, on May 28, 2018.



This first case is just a tiny sliver of what is to come.

MARISA FERRARI
BRAZILIAN PROSECUTOR

uters that Johnson & Johnson, Siemens, GE, and Koninklijke Philips NV were being targeted by the FBI for alleged bribery in Brazil. The people requested anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the U.S. side of the investigation.

The FBI would not confirm or deny the existence of any investigations. The SEC, which also investigates FCPA allegations, said by email that it declined to comment.

Boston-based GE declined to comment on any investigation related to its business in Brazil. It said in an emailed statement, “We are committed to integrity, compliance and the rule of law in Brazil and every other country in which we do business.”

Siemens, which is based in Munich, Germany, said in an emailed statement that the company “is not aware of any FBI investigation of the company related to cartel activity in Brazil.” It said its policy is always to cooperate with law enforcement investigations when they occur.

Amsterdam-based Philips confirmed in an email that it is under investigation in Brazil. In its 2018 annual report, Philips acknowledged that it “has also received inquiries from certain US authorities in respect to this matter.”

In its emailed response to Reuters, Philips said, “It is not uncommon for US authorities to show an interest in these matters and it is too early to draw any conclusions.”

New Brunswick, New Jersey-based Johnson & Johnson said in an emailed response on May 17 that in an SEC filing last October it disclosed that the Depart-

ment of Justice and the SEC “have made preliminary inquiries to the company” in regard to a raid by Brazilian federal police on its Sao Paulo offices last year, and that the company is cooperating.

‘Truly Massive’

Ferrari, the Brazilian prosecutor, said the medical equipment investigation was in its early stages. Still, she said evidence points to widespread bribery and price gouging by firms looking to tap into Brazil’s public healthcare system, one of the world’s largest, serving 210 million people.

“Because the Brazilian government’s health budget is so huge, this scheme is truly massive,” Ferrari said. “This first case is just a tiny sliver of what is to come.”

In addition to paying kickbacks through intermediaries to secure contracts, some suppliers charged Brazil’s government inflated prices – up to eight times the market price – to help cover the cost of their bribes, according to court filings and plea-bargain testimony secured by prosecutors.

GE’s former chief executive for Latin America, Daurio Speranzini, and 22 others were charged last year in the first case stemming from the alleged scheme.

Prosecutors say that in that case, which focused on Rio de Janeiro state, Brazilian taxpayers were bilked out of at least 600 million reais (\$149.38 million) between 2007 and 2018 through padded contracts awarded to crooked medical equipment suppliers.

Lawyers for Speranzini, who left GE in November, said by email that he is inno-

cent.

GE said in a statement on May 17 that “allegations refer to a time period” when Speranzini was not working for the firm. “Based on our review, we believe there is no evidence of misconduct or any indication of GE being part of this cartel.”

However, prosecutors cite in court filings the plea-deal testimony of former Rio de Janeiro-state health secretary Cesar Romero as stating that GE was a member of the cartel, which he said was known by its members as the “International Bidding Club.”

“In fact, from the analysis of evidence collected in wire tapping ... it was possible to see that Daurio Speranzini Junior continued to close spurious contracts with the government,” prosecutors wrote in requesting the former GE executive’s arrest last year.

Prosecutors allege Speranzini first took part in the cartel as the head of the Philips Healthcare operation in Latin America from 2004 until the end of 2010. A whistleblower told Philips’ compliance office about the fraud, and Speranzini was fired after an internal probe, according to the documents.

He was hired by GE a few months after leaving Philips. Investigators say they have strong evidence that Speranzini continued with the scheme while at GE.

GE declined to comment on Speranzini’s hiring or exit from the company.

By Brad Brooks
From Reuters

FBI Has ‘Game-Changer’ Transcripts of Papadopoulos Interactions With Informant, Says Oversight Committee Member

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

The FBI is in possession of a transcript that may be a “game-changer,” even for Americans who “hate” President Donald Trump, according to former Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.).

Gowdy told Fox News on May 19 that the bureau has a record of a conversation between former Trump campaign adviser George Papadopoulos and an informant sent to target him. While several transcripts exist, one, in particular, “has the potential to actually persuade people,” Gowdy said, adding that the transcript includes exculpatory evidence that the FBI didn’t provide to a court.

“Very little in this Russia probe, I’m afraid, is going to persuade people who hate Trump, or who love Trump, but there is some information in these transcripts that I think has the potential to be a game-changer if it’s ever made public,” Gowdy said.

Gowdy, who was part of the joint House Judiciary-Oversight committee inquiry into decisions made and not made by the

Department of Justice and the FBI regarding the 2016 presidential election, said that “the government has to tell the whole truth to the court when you are seeking permission to spy, or do surveillance, on an American.”

“And part of that includes the responsibility of providing exculpatory information or information that tends to show the person did not do something wrong. If you have exculpatory information, and you don’t share it with the court, that ain’t good. I’ve seen it,” Gowdy said.

The New York Times revealed in April that the FBI sent a spy to target Papadopoulos after opening a counterintelligence investigation into the Trump campaign. The female spy, Azra Turk (not her real name), pretended to be someone else in a bid to draw incriminating information from Papadopoulos.

Turk is the second known spy who the FBI used to target the Trump campaign. In May 2018, Stefan Halper was identified as an FBI asset who targeted Papa-



CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

▲ Then-House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) leaves a closed-door hearing where his committee and the Judiciary Committee heard from former FBI Director James Comey on Capitol Hill on Dec. 07, 2018.

dopoulos and other Trump campaign associates.

On May 19, Papadopoulos wrote on Twitter that the FBI “illicitly” obtained a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) warrant to spy on him. He also suggested that declassification of transcripts would expose an international spy conspiracy to remove Trump from office.

“Get ready for the transcripts to be released outing the spies I detail in my book. The Comey FBI/Brennan CIA/MI6 had one goal: take down Trump through Papadopoulos,” he wrote.

“I guarantee you as declassification and the new investigations ramp up into DOJ/intel agency corruption, ALL the

bizarre assets who were running into me from 2015-2017 will try and discredit me. We already see a coordinated media strategy by the higher ups. Only a matter of time,” he added.

When Gowdy’s committee interviewed Papadopoulos in October 2018, he wasn’t aware that transcripts existed of his interactions with FBI assets. Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) asked a barrage of questions to determine if Papadopoulos was aware that the FBI had transcripts that could contain exculpatory evidence.

Meadows specifically asked if Papadopoulos was aware of transcripts of conversations he had with Halper, Australian diplomat Alexander Downer, and Maltese professor Joseph Mifsud.

Special counsel Robert Mueller charged and secured a conviction against Papadopoulos for lying about his interactions with Mifsud. Mueller portrayed Mifsud as having ties to Russia, but publicly available evidence reveals Mifsud’s extensive ties to Western intelligence and the FBI.

The conversation Papadopoulos had with Downer is the official reason the FBI claims was used to open the Russia investigation. Papadopoulos has alleged that Downer is an FBI asset.

Meadows told Fox News on May 20 that Trump intends to soon declassify a trove of documents related to spying on his campaign, including the Papadopoulos transcripts.

“I think the delay is over,” Meadows said. “I think the president is serious. I’ve spoken to him recently and I think declassification is right around the corner, and, hopefully, the American people will be able to judge for themselves.”



◀ Amy Vilela, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Janet Pierson, Rachel Lears, and Cori Bush attend the “Knock Down the House” premiere at the 2019 SXSW Conference and Festivals in Austin, Texas, on March 10, 2019.

OPINION

Netflix and Shill: New Documentary Pushes One-Sided Look at Progressive Politicians

Of the women who ran for Congress, a Netflix film profiled four, all of whom were Democrats, and three of whom lost. Really, Netflix?

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NICOLE RUSSELL

Recently, Netflix released “Knock Down the House,” a documentary directed by filmmaker Rachel Lears that follows Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and three other women as they campaigned for office as underdogs.

Their stories are inspiring and vivid. There’s only one problem: They’re all Democrats and only one of the women featured won.

This documentary demonstrates significant media bias, the kind that is content to spread political news based on false presumptions, while presenting only one side of the story to the public.

Who Are These Women?

“Knock Down the House,” which Netflix premiered on May 1, focuses primarily on showcasing women with few resources who challenged “big-money politicians” in the last midterm elections. With that narrow goal in mind, the documentary profiled four women, three of whom lost their races. The fourth woman—the now-infamous New York congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez—of course, won.

Taken individually, many of these women’s stories are compelling: Just a few months ago, Ocasio-Cortez was a bartender; now she’s barking at the CEO of Wells Fargo in a congressional hearing, even if she is embarrassing herself.

Amy Vilela has an incredibly moving personal backstory that explains why she was motivated to run in the first place. She lost her daughter to what seemed like a random, sudden illness. She believes her daughter didn’t receive adequate treatment because she thought she was uninsured, and ran her campaign on the idea of changing health care.

Paula Jean Swearengin is a single mother of four from West Virginia. She lost one of her grandparents and several uncles to black lung disease. She touted being associated with progressive groups such as Brand New Congress and Justice Democrats.

Cori Bush ran for Missouri’s 1st Congressional District. She is an ordained pastor and registered nurse who helps the less fortunate in St. Louis. Bush’s story seems particularly inspiring and she has a dynamic personality.

The only thing that resonates with me about this documentary is the way it showcases how grit can accomplish the American Dream—and Ocasio-Cortez’s success story is still inspiring. However, aside from the moving personal stories, it’s not clear why the documentary profiled any of these women, save Ocasio-Cortez.

Why Profile Them?

While Ocasio-Cortez is far left and her Green New Deal—among other absurd things—proved her hubris, she did at least win her race.

Vilela didn’t make it to election day, garnering little over 3,300 votes in the primary. Not only was Swearengin also defeated in the primary, but she also took home only 30 percent of the vote. She was soundly defeated by her lone opponent. The people of West Virginia either

didn’t like her, or preferred Joe Manchin more—I don’t know, you’d have to ask them—but either way, they made their voice known.

Bush came second in the primary vote in August 2018; although in losing, she did garner far more votes than her other opponents who lost.

While these women have incredible personal stories, and I’m sure the documentary makers will make the case that they lost because they didn’t have the “big money” their male challengers did, I think there’s another reason they lost: Their policy proposals represent a far-left ideology that it seems even the more liberal districts weren’t quite ready to adopt.

Regardless, why not balance the story a bit and mention a few Republican women who lost, or even better, who won? Female Republican candidates also face a fundraising challenge, perhaps even more so than Democratic candidates.

Of the 125 women who won congressional seats, only 19 were Republicans. I can see why Netflix wouldn’t promote a documentary entirely featuring female conservative politicians, since they didn’t even come close to representing the majority.

However, some of them did win and, of the ones who did, they too had remarkable stories; they too overcame obstacles and inspired voters. I’m no hater of the patriarchy or radical-feminist, but many of these women bested male opponents, just like the ladies in the documentary, um, attempted to do.

Conservative Women

In the almost-won category is Young Kim. She narrowly missed out on becoming the first Korean American woman elected to Congress in 2018—in California no less. She’s an entrepreneur and a Republican. On election night, she was winning by a good margin, but once all mail-in ballots were counted a week later, she had lost to her Democratic rival. Her race was hardly covered, even though she fits so well into the box of identity politics for which Ocasio-Cortez and Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) have become famous. Did she not overcome enough obstacles? Is it because her predecessor was Republican?

Tennessee voted in its first female senator, Marsha Blackburn. As with many of the other women who ran, Blackburn is a mother and businesswoman. She made history, despite singer Taylor Swift’s vocal last-ditch effort to encourage voters to cast their ballots for Blackburn’s opponent, a man, in the name of “women’s rights.” While many of my female friends and I haven’t forgotten that irony, apparently Netflix has: Blackburn didn’t get a well-deserved profile, either.

Kim Reynolds made history this last election, when she became Iowa’s first elected female governor. A Republican, Reynolds beat her male opponent as well. Similarly, Cindy Hyde-Smith became the first elected female member of Congress for Mississippi.

Kristi Noem, a Republican mother from South Dakota who lives on a ranch and likes to hunt, also snagged the governorship from a man to become the the state’s first female governor.

West Virginia Rep. Carol Miller, a grandmother, small-business owner, and bison farmer, was the lone freshman Republican woman elected to the House of Representatives. She, too, beat a male opponent.

Anyone else see a trend here? I see qualified, intelligent, history-making women who balance work, family, and the political spotlight—all while embracing conservative values. Their constituents honored this, and voted them in—yet, it’s not enough for Netflix to get a profile.

The Problem

As a woman raising two daughters who also happens to love politics, I don’t have a problem with Netflix featuring women who ran for office. In fact, I applaud it. Of course, Netflix isn’t required to be fair, equal, or unbiased in their political opinions. However, here’s what I do have a problem with: Netflix has a huge platform.

“In the fourth quarter of 2019, Netflix had over 158 million streaming subscribers worldwide. Of these subscribers, 61.97 million were from the United States,” according to Statista.

Yet with this gigantic platform, Netflix chose to be biased, to leave out the minority of female Republicans who challenged men in office—and won. They even left out incredible men who ran for office—men such as Dan Crenshaw, who lost an eye while serving as a Navy SEAL—all to make it look like progressive politics are paramount now.

Yes, liberals won and did take over the majority in the House. However, plenty of inspiring conservative women won. Why not add their stories? Why not show their courage, grit, determination, and values? Clearly their conservative beliefs have made them look like pariahs, untouchable even to profile in a simple Netflix political documentary.

In choosing only to focus on far-left progressive women—women who are so liberal most of them lost—they not only exclude incredible stories about conservative women (and men), they actually fail to make their point.

It’s hard to believe the mantra that these women lost to men simply because they weren’t “big-money politicians,” as the Netflix tag reads. Rather, a simple glance at their biography and constituent demographics demonstrate it’s likely they were ill-suited for the job, poorly prepared for the race, and the most important: their far-left ideas failed to represent their constituents’ viewpoints.

It’s unfortunate that Netflix failed to use its gigantic platform to tell a fair, accurate, description of women running for Congress in 2018. Presenting a lopsided, distorted view of women in U.S. politics doesn’t help anyone but Netflix’s bottom line.

Nicole Russell is a freelance writer and mother of four.

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

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Chapter Four

The communist cult’s spread across the world is powered by violence and deception. Violence is the quickest and most effective route for exporting communism from a powerful country to a weaker one. The failure of the free world to recognize the cultish character of communism leads it to take lightly the export of communist ideology, including via the Chinese regime’s Grand External Propaganda Program.

This chapter will focus on the expansion and infiltration of communist ideology in Asia, Africa, South America, and Eastern Europe. The manner in which Western Europe and North America are infiltrated is far more complex, to be expounded upon in the next chapter.

1. Exporting Revolution to Asia

The Soviet Union’s export of revolution was the real reason the Chinese Communist Party was able to usurp power. In 1919, the Soviet Union established the Third Communist International, which aimed to export revolution around the world. In April 1920, Grigori Voitinsky, the representative of the Third Communist International, traveled to China. In May, an office was set up in Shanghai to make preparations for the formation of the CCP.

Over the next 30 years, the CCP was merely an organ of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and Mao Zedong received a monthly stipend of 160 to 170 yuan from the Russians. (The average monthly salary of a worker in Shanghai at that time was around 20 yuan.)

The CCP’s seizure of power was in part connected with the Communist Party’s infiltration of the United States. This is one of the reasons U.S. President Harry S. Truman cut off support to Chiang Kai-shek while the Soviets continued to support the CCP. Truman also made the decision to exit Asia after World War II. In 1948, the U.S. Army left South Korea, and on January 5, 1950, Truman announced that the United States would no longer interfere with affairs in Asia. This included the cessation of military assistance to Chiang Kai-shek’s Taiwan, including in the case of a war between the PRC and the Republic of China.

A week later, U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson reiterated Truman’s policy and said that if war were to break out on the Korean Peninsula, the United States would not get involved.

These anti-intervention policies provided an opportunity for the Communist Party to expand its influence in Asia. When North Korea invaded the South, and the United Nations sent troops, the United States changed its policy.

In order to become the leader of communism in Asia, Mao aided Vietnam on a large scale despite tens of millions of people starving to death in China.

The CCP went all out in trying to export revolution. In addition to training guerrilla fighters in different countries, providing weapons, and sending troops to fight against legitimate governments, it also provided significant financial support for insurgents. During the heat of the Great Cultural Revolution in 1973, the CCP’s foreign aid spending reached its peak: 7 percent of the national fiscal expenditure.

According to Qian Yaping, a Chinese scholar with access to secret documents released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “10,000 tons of rice were shipped to Guinea and 15,000 tons of wheat were sent to Albania in 1960. From 1950 to end of 1964, the total foreign aid expenditure was 10.8 billion yuan, during which time the most expenditure was from 1960 to 1964, when the great famine was going on in China.”

During the famine from 1958 to 1962, tens of millions died of hunger. Yet foreign aid expenditures totaled 2.36 billion yuan.

If these expenditures had been used to purchase food, it would have saved 30 million people. All those people died because of the CCP’s Great Leap Forward movement, and they were simultaneously victims of the CCP’s attempts at exporting revolution.

a. The Korean War

Communism seeks to conquer the world in order to destroy mankind. It exploits the human hunger for fame and fortune to mislead people into spreading its evil ideology. Stalin, Mao, Kim Il Sung, and Ho Chi Minh were driven by such desires.

At a meeting with Stalin in 1949, Mao promised to send over a million troops and over 10 million workers to help Stalin’s expansion into Europe in exchange for Mao’s control over North Korea. On June 25, 1950, after extensive planning, North Korea invaded the South, and in three days, Seoul was taken. After a month and a half, the entire Korean Peninsula was occupied by the North.

The Soviet Union’s export of revolution was the real reason the Chinese Communist Party was able to usurp power.

Before the war broke out, in March 1950, Mao amassed a large number of troops near the Korean border to have them ready for war. The details of the war itself are beyond the scope of this chapter, but in short, the war stretched on because of Truman’s policy of appeasement. The CCP sent a “volunteer army” to the peninsula with another secret agenda: to get rid of the more than 1 million Kuomintang soldiers who had surrendered during the civil war. By the end of the Korean War, casualties on the Chinese side were over a million.

The outcome of the Korean War was a split peninsula. Since the CCP and the Soviet Communist Party fought for control of North Korea, the North benefited from both sides. For example, in 1966 when Kim Il Sung visited China, he discovered that a subway was under construction in Beijing. He then requested that an identical subway be constructed in Pyongyang—for free.

Mao immediately decided to halt the construction in Beijing and sent equipment and personnel—including two divisions of the PLA’s Railway Corps and numerous engineers, totaling several tens of thousands of people—to Pyongyang. The North didn’t spend a penny or use any of its own people in the construction, yet demanded that the CCP guarantee the safety of the subway in times of war. In the end, Pyongyang’s subway system became one of the deepest in the world at the time, with an average depth of 295 feet and a maximum depth of 492 feet underground.

After the construction was completed, Kim Il Sung told the public that it had been designed and built by Koreans. Moreover, Kim often bypassed the CCP and went directly to the Soviet Union for money and materiel. After the Korean War, the CCP deliberately left some people in North Korea with the mission of bringing the North closer to Beijing and prying it away from Moscow. Kim either killed or jailed the CCP personnel, and the CCP ended up losing on all fronts.

After the collapse of the Soviet Communist Party, the CCP decreased its aid to North Korea. In the 1990s, the North Korean people were starving. In 2007, the non-governmental organization Association of North Korean Defectors reported that in the 60 years of Kim’s rule, at least 3.5 million died of hunger and related diseases. This is another bloody debt of the communists’ exported revolution.

b. The Vietnam War

Before the Vietnam War, the CCP supported the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) to defeat France in 1954, resulting in the 1954 Geneva Conference and the confrontation between North and South

Vietnam. Later, France retreated from Vietnam. The invasion of North Vietnam into the South and the intervention of the United States made the Vietnam War more intense. It became the largest war in a single theater after World War II. The U.S. military participated in the war from 1964 to 1973.

As early as 1952, Mao sent advisory groups to the CPV. The head of the military advisory group was General Wei Guoqing of the PLA. The land reform advisory group dispatched by the CCP detained and executed tens of thousands of landlords and rich peasants in Vietnam, triggering famine and peasant riots in the North. The CCP and the CPV together suppressed these uprisings and launched rectification movements of the Party and army, similar to the Yan’an Rectification Movement launched by the CCP.

In order to become the leader of communism in Asia, Mao aided Vietnam on a large scale despite tens of millions of people starving to death in China. In 1962, Liu Shaoqi ended Mao’s frenzied policy at the 7,000 People’s Assembly, preparing to restore the economy to health and effectively marginalize Mao. But Mao refused to cede power, so he brazenly made China enter the Vietnam War, while Liu, who had no power base in the military, had to sideline his plans for economic recovery.

In 1963, Mao dispatched Luo Ruiqing and Lin Biao to Vietnam in succession. Liu promised Ho Chi Minh that the CCP would shoulder the cost of the Vietnam War itself. He said, “You can take China as your home front if there’s a war.”

With the instigation and support of the CCP, in July 1964, the CPV attacked a U.S. warship with torpedoes in the Gulf of Tonkin, creating the Gulf of Tonkin incident, which triggered the United States’ participation in the war. Subsequently, in order to compete with the Soviet Union for influence over Vietnam, the CCP spent treasure, weapons, and blood.

Historian Chen Xianhui wrote in his book “The Truth of the Revolution: The 20th Century Chronicle of China”: “Mao’s support for Vietnam brought disaster. It caused the death of five million civilians, led to landmines and ruin everywhere, and caused the economy to collapse. ... The support the CCP provided the CPV included the following: Weapons, ammunition, and other military supplies sufficient to equip more than two million soldiers in the army, navy, and air force; more than 100 production companies and repair factories; over 300 million meters of cloth; over 30,000 cars; hundreds of kilometers of railroads; over five million tons of food; over two million tons of gasoline; over 3,000 kilometers of oil pipelines; hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars. Apart from these goods and money supplies, the CCP also secretly dispatched over 300,000 PLA troops who then donned North Vietnamese fatigues to fight against the South Vietnamese and U.S. militaries. To ensure the secret was kept, numerous Chinese soldiers who died in the war were buried in Vietnam.”

By 1978, the CCP’s total aid to Vietnam reached \$20 billion, while China’s GDP in 1965 was only 70.4 billion yuan (approximately \$28.6 billion at the official exchange rate at the time).

In 1973, the United States compromised with the domestic anti-war movement, which was actually instigated by communists, and withdrew its troops from Vietnam. On April 30, 1975, North Vietnam occupied Saigon and took South Vietnam. Under the direction of the CCP, the CPV began suppressions similar to the CCP’s Campaign to Suppress Counterrevolutionaries. More than 2 million people in South Vietnam risked death to flee the country, becoming the largest refugee wave in Asia during the Cold War.

In 1976, the whole of Vietnam fell to communism.

See next week’s edition for the next installment.

‘Thoughtcrime’ Is Becoming a Reality

CONTINUED FROM A1

state policy on mass migration, which is often heavily from Muslim countries.

Condemning state policies has become synonymous with a double standard on “intolerance,” which is punishable by the state. And by latching their policies to social issues, political parties have found a way to silence people who are criticizing their policies, by using the powers of the state for harassment and intimidation.

Even in the United States, similar practices are now in place, only they’re being enforced by large corporations. Chase Bank is accused of canceling the accounts of some customers who have “right-wing” views; Twitter and Facebook are accused of censoring conservatives; and Google is accused of firing employees for questioning the company culture of “political correctness.”

British writer George Orwell warned about such systems with his depiction of a fictional “thought police” in his book “Nineteen Eighty-Four.” He envisioned this secret police force as being tasked with finding “thought criminals” and punishing them for “thought-crime.”

These “thoughtcrimes,” as Orwell imagined, referred to illegal thoughts, including unspoken beliefs or negative views toward the fictional ruling party under English Socialism (Ingsoo).

The ideal good citizen of this system, Orwell said, “is expected to have no private emotions and no respite from enthusiasm. He is supposed to live in a continuous frenzy of hatred of foreign enemies and internal traitors, triumph over victories, and self-abasement before the power and wisdom of the Party.”

‘Doublethink’

Of course, even in the time when Orwell published the book in 1949, examples of regimes like this had been seen under Hitler’s National Socialist German Workers’ Party, Stalin’s Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and Mao’s Chinese Communist Party. All three regimes had their own forms of “thoughtcrime,” and people risked



OLIVER BUNIC/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▲ People walk past a mural depicting British novelist George Orwell with the reading “Freedom is the right to tell people what they do not want to hear,” in Belgrade on May 8, 2018.

imprisonment or death for opposing the ruling regimes.

The deeper nature of the socialist idea is in the struggle, and much like Orwell’s depiction of a populace living under his fictional Ingsoo regime, people are expected to hold a “continuous frenzy of hatred.” The systems rely on the state identifying a “privileged” group, which is framed as taking advantage of the “oppressed,” and anyone who says otherwise is deemed guilty of ideological treason, for aligning with the “privileged.”

As Orwell imagined, people would go through a series of mental gymnastics to avoid committing “thoughtcrimes.” This in-

cluded acts such as “doublethink,” in which Party members simultaneously held two contradictory viewpoints. In today’s world, we’ve seen this in many cases; the leftist policy that any criticism of Islamism is “religious intolerance,” but criticizing Christianity is somehow fine, is among the many examples.

‘Repressive Tolerance’

Yet to understand the deeper logic behind this modern “doublethink,” we need to understand the root cause of these wild concepts. Socialists hold that their ideas are Utopian—the ultimate goal of “progress” toward their envisioned state—and anything

that opposes that “progress” is guilty of all the things they seek to destroy.

Under Mao Zedong, for example, people who opposed his 1967 theory of “political correctness”—which was used to guard his destruction of Chinese culture during the Cultural Revolution—could be labeled as a “counter-revolutionary” and be killed by the regime.

In the United States, the idea that anyone who opposes socialist goals should be attacked by any means comes from the Marxist Frankfurt School’s theory of “repressive tolerance.” The idea, from Herbert Marcuse’s “A Critique of Pure Tolerance” in 1965, held that only things that support the socialist cause should be tolerated, and anyone who opposes it should be met with intolerance.

It introduced a warped concept of “tolerance” that tolerates only its own views.

Self Censorship

The result of these policies, as Orwell imagined, was a state in which people censor themselves—not just in public speech, but even in their own minds. He referred to this as “crimestop,” which he described as “the faculty of stopping short, as though by instinct, at the threshold of any dangerous thought.”

He described this self-censorship as a form of “protective stupidity” that supports the totalitarian regime, even at the defiance of logic. Orwell called this concept “blackwhite,” which had two meanings: “Applied to an opponent, it means the habit of impudently claiming that black is white, in contradiction of the plain facts. Applied to a Party member, it means a loyal willingness to say that black is white when Party discipline demands this.”

We see the same thing today: Intolerance is bad, unless it’s intolerance of those who oppose socialist policies—then it’s encouraged. Attacks on religion are bad, unless they’re attacks on religions that the regime opposes. Racism is bad, unless it’s attacks on the “oppressive” races.

What we’re witnessing is the same theory of thoughtcrime that Orwell envisioned, with a similar thought police enforcement branch and the same doublethink, crimestop, and blackwhite tools to justify it.

Chinese Regime Only Cares About Preserving Its Grip on Power in US-China Trade Talks

XIA XIAOQIANG

Commentary

After U.S. President Donald Trump increased tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods to 25 percent from 10 percent, he warned Beijing on May 13 not to take retaliatory measures.

“There will be nobody left in China to do business with. Very bad for China, very good for USA! But China has taken so advantage of the U.S. for so many years, that they are way ahead (Our Presidents did not do the job),” one of Trump’s May 13 trade tweets read. “Therefore, China should not retaliate—will only get worse!”

In another tweet on the same day, President Trump said explicitly that China backed out from a great deal. “I say openly to President Xi & all of my many friends in China that China will be hurt very badly if you don’t make a deal because companies will be forced to leave China for other countries. Too expensive to buy in China.” He wrote, “You had a great deal, almost completed, & you backed out!”

At about the same time, the Chinese regime announced its retaliatory measures. Starting on June 1, China will increase tariffs on \$60 billion worth of U.S. goods, ranging from 10 percent to 25 percent.

In light of the current trade tension, it is very unlikely an agreement can be reached in the near future that satisfies both sides.

Some people may ask, Beijing’s habitual practice in negotiations, such as the trade agreements China signed to join WTO, is to play the game of signing the agreements first and then refusing to enforce them later. This time, when faced with a “great deal,” why did Beijing decide to back out?

One of the main reasons is that the Trump administration has implemented enforceable supervision and punishment measures in the agreements, which is very different from the practice of previous U.S. administrations when they negotiated with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). If these agreements are signed, the CCP hardly has the chance to act as a scoundrel as before. As a result, it will lose control of China’s economic growth.

When we take a look at the terms that made CCP reverse its promises, we will understand why the CCP did not dare to sign this agreement. China must:

1. Carry out tax reforms to allow fair competition between Chinese and foreign enterprises;
2. Break up the state-owned monopolies in electric power, telecom and oil industries to allow fair competition;
3. Reduce government intervention in markets, abolish various inspections, supervisions and fees;
4. Ensure freedom of the press and freedom of the internet;
5. Strengthen intellectual property protections: Stop forced technology transfer and trade thefts from foreign countries;
6. Respect human rights;

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES



U.S. and Chinese officials meet for negotiations in the Diplomatic Room at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 30, 2019.

7. Protect foreign businessman’s private assets, freedom and personal safety;
8. Halt all subsidies to state-owned companies and export-oriented companies.

If the Chinese regime indeed makes structural reforms according to these requirements from the United States, it is equivalent to giving up control of the Chinese economy; that is, these requirements are equivalent to asking the CCP to give up political power and control in China.

In the past several decades, all the actions that the CCP has taken in politics, economy, military and diplomacy come down to the bottom line of maintaining political power and political stability. Anything that jeopardizes the CCP’s rule and control, even if it brings great benefits to China and the Chinese people, the CCP will try its best to stop it.

If the U.S.-China trade war or trade agreement can ultimately lead to the structural reform of China’s economy and the disintegration of the Chinese Communist regime, from the long-term perspective, it will strip out the CCP—a vampire—from the Chinese economy.

Without the CCP, China’s economy will enjoy a sustainable and healthy growth, which is beneficial to China and the Chinese people.

With the escalation of the U.S.-China trade friction, the CCP does not care about other things, but holds onto its bottom line—preserving its grip of political power. Therefore, “maintaining stability” has become the main priority for the CCP.

The CCP is currently in the process of mobilizing all state machines and utilizing all resources to stabilize the political power at all costs. These include manipulating the depreciation of the Chinese currency yuan to offset the losses caused by the increase in tariffs; intensifying the plunder of Chinese people and private companies; and passing the losses from the trade war onto the Chinese public.

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

Without the CCP, China’s economy will enjoy a sustainable and healthy growth, which is beneficial to China and the Chinese people.

Like Reagan, Trump and The Economy Are Winning Over Millennials

THOMAS DEL BECCARO



The latest Zogby poll shows a majority of millennials now approve of President Donald Trump’s job performance. That is a stark change from re-

President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s, the rising economy is changing their mind. It has been 30 years since Reagan was president. Much has changed since then. The federal budget was a quaint \$590 billion when he was elected (about \$1.5 trillion in today’s dollars) and will be \$4.75 trillion in 2020.

The Soviet Union is gone and the European Union has been on the world stage since 1993. At home, social issues have taken center stage and the ideological dividing lines between us have hardened in this divided era. Voting patterns are not quite the same either.

According to polling, millennials and Generation Z (the demographic younger than millennials), are more liberal than older Americans. Pew Research’s January polling indicated that “members of Generation Z hold many similar views to Millennials, and both tend to be more liberal than older generations.”

A good deal of that relates to social views. For instance, 59 percent of Generation Z believe that “forms or online profiles that ask about a person’s gender should include options other than ‘man’ or ‘woman,’” while less than 40 percent of baby boomers hold that view. Half of millennials support the Generation Z view.

According to that same January Pew poll, few Gen Zers and millennials (30 percent and 29 percent, respectively) “approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president.”

If we fast forward to today, according to a May Zogby Poll, among voters aged 18–29, 51 percent approve and 46 percent disapprove of Trump’s job performance. That represents a marked improvement among those voters since January.

According to Zogby, Trump’s improved numbers are based on “[voters’] outlook on the economy the next four years.”

“Younger voters, especially those aged 18–29, who have been harsh critics of Trump and his presidency, are evenly split on how the next four years will be for the U.S. economy: 44 percent think things will be positive (excellent and good combined), while the same

Trump’s improved standing among millennials could be important long term because how someone first identifies as a voter tends to stick with them.

amount think things will be negative (fair and poor combined),” according to the poll.

Keep in mind that in the 2016 election, according to the CBS/New York Times polling, Hillary Clinton received 55 percent of that vote while Trump received only 36 percent of it. That was a 19 percent advantage for the Democrats.

All of which harkens us back to 1980. That year, Ronald Reagan faced off against Jimmy Carter. Despite a very weak economy and the view that Carter was an ineffective president, 18–29 year olds supported Carter over Reagan roughly 45 percent to 44 percent—with John Anderson receiving 11 percent of their vote.

Just four years later, however, amidst an economic revival, 18–24 year olds supported Reagan over Mondale 61 percent to 39 percent and 25–29 year olds did the same by a margin of 57 percent to 43 percent. That was quite jump for Reagan and played a role in his landslide victory over Mondale.

Trump’s improved standing among millennials could be important long term because how someone first identifies as a voter tends to stick with them. For instance, in 2008, 18–29 year olds went for Barack Obama over John McCain 66 percent to 32 percent. Now, millennials rate Obama as the best president of their lifetime while baby boomers still rate Reagan as the best. Next fall, if Trump can improve his standing from 36 percent among younger voters to a draw with the Democrat nominee, it could not only help decide the 2020 election, it could change politics for a generation.

Thomas Del Beccaro is the author of “The Divided Era” and is a former chairman of the California Republican Party.

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

What Makes Great Children's Literature?

Well, the book doesn't have to be old, and popularity isn't necessarily a requirement.

See B3

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CATHERINE CHANG/EPOCH TIMES



'Already Having a Plan in Mind'

This Chinese idiom has an unlikely origin: an artist skilled at creating paintings of bamboo.

See B12

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LIFE

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Parents can help their children think of ways to earn money.

Teaching Children to
MANAGE MONEY

BARBARA DANZA

Parents ask all the time, "Why don't they teach kids how to manage money in school?" It's a good question.

Money management is an important skill to have and there is a good bit to know. "The majority of your kids' financial education will come from you," said Kathy Longo, financial expert and author of "Flourish Financially: Values, Transitions, & Big Conversations."

I asked Ms. Longo what advice she'd give to parents who want to make sure their children understand how to manage money when they grow up.

THE EPOCH TIMES: Why do you think it's important that children learn to manage money?

KATHY LONGO: All parents want their kids to grow up to be happy adults, yet most parents don't realize how critical it is to teach their kids about healthy financial habits and values. Helping your children develop healthy money habits today will in-



COURTESY OF KATHY LONGO

Kathy Longo, financial expert and author of "Flourish Financially: Values, Transitions, & Big Conversations."

crease their chances for a happier life.

Finances play a critical role in life. We learn new lessons about money throughout our life, so it is important to build a strong foundation for children that will benefit them at all stages.

At a simple level money has four purposes: spending, saving, sharing with charities and others, and investing. How they decide to use money for these four purposes begins with the parents. Parents have a unique opportunity to exhibit healthy behaviors for their children at all stages of their development.

Building positive money habits partly requires talking about money, but it also requires using your actions to demonstrate how to manage it. Every day brings natural learning opportunities for parents to introduce and explain financial concepts to their kids.

Your children will benefit from these lessons throughout their life because finances can be very stressful when people are not able to take control over their money.

THE EPOCH TIMES: At what age do you think parents should begin teaching their children about money?

MS. LONGO: The sooner the better. Every conversation you have with your children about finances, regardless of their age, is a great opportunity to segue into a discussion about wants versus needs. Asking kids whether they want or need something before they make a purchase really gets them thinking about their own money values.

There are dozens of ways to start conversations with your kids about money. How you start them is less important than getting them started. From an early age, parents can be the role model as they make their own financial decisions in their life.

Using this example, we encourage parents to introduce budgeting concepts as early as possible. Parents constantly give kids advice to help them stay out of trouble, but they don't always provide detailed money advice.

Continued on B2

Teaching Children to MANAGE MONEY

Continued from B1

Although some parents initiate conversations about money, they don't include in-depth education about budgeting. Most teens don't naturally know how to manage expenses, balance a checkbook, or establish spending limits. It is important for parents to take the lead on introducing concepts about short- and long-term goals so kids can have a framework for making their own decisions.

Very few schools include these skills in their curriculum, so if kids don't learn money lessons at home they will not have the skills they need to manage finances on their own.

THE EPOCH TIMES: What are some simple lessons young children can grasp about money?

MS. LONGO: From grade school, it's important to teach kids about money in a tangible way. While they probably can't understand how a plastic card can buy groceries or pay bills, they will understand the connection between the money in their piggy bank and the new toy they've bought. Here are some key concepts for young children to learn about money:

Have conversations about needs versus wants.

Talk, as a family, about what you are saving for, such as an upcoming vacation or a house project.

Talk about charities that you support in terms of dollars and time.

Teach your kids how to give back by having them donate toys or items that they no longer use.

Use cash for some purchases to teach your kids how to count and use money.

Show how to comparison-shop, whether it is at the store or online, while discussing pros and cons relative to the price of the product.

Discuss how getting an education can affect future earning power.

Use an allowance to introduce the three primary purposes of money: saving, sharing, and spending.

Consider a piggy bank (physical or virtual) that has three slots to separate dollars for saving, sharing, and spending. You can pick the ratio between the slots. For example, one-third of the total dollars could go to each category, or it could be a ratio that aligns with your family values.

Introduce the experience of delayed gratification by helping your child set a saving goal for a future item.

Discuss the reasons why and when someone might want to borrow money.

THE EPOCH TIMES: Many parents use chores as a way to engender a good work ethic in their children. How

do you recommend parents set up a chore system in their home?

MS. LONGO: I recommend creating an allowance program that is not tied to chores. There is some debate here, but I prefer setting an allowance that is not tied to the daily chores that are expected of each family member. That doesn't mean that kids aren't expected to help out around the house! Allowances can be a powerful tool to teach money management skills such as budgeting and saving. Additional earning opportunities can be tied to occasional one-time jobs or projects such as cleaning out the garage or kitchen cabinets.

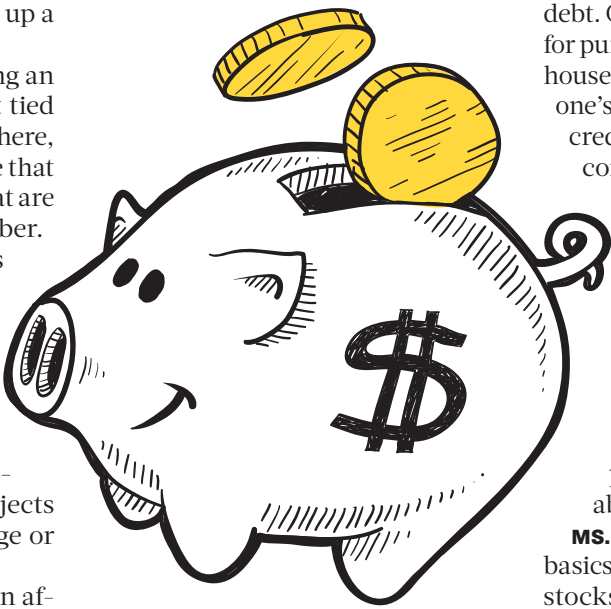
These days, many families can afford to buy more for their children than their parents were able to buy for them. However, teaching your kids to earn has tremendous value. If your child wants to go to an expensive summer camp, for example, set a reasonable amount that your child can earn toward the camp. Help your child think of ways to earn the money. This might include doing extra chores, babysitting, walking the neighbor's dog, raking yards, mowing lawns, washing cars, or helping a senior with basic house cleaning. Not only does this teach kids how to earn, it also increases their confidence that they can earn and complete tasks and achieve goals.

“
Parents constantly give kids advice to help them stay out of trouble, but they don't always provide detailed money advice.

Kathy Longo

THE EPOCH TIMES: How do you recommend parents teach their children to budget?

MS. LONGO: I recommend parents help their kids learn the concept of budgeting to continue the conversation of wants versus needs. Review the importance of daily budgets, including how and why they are created, along with tools to support staying on budget. Budgeting can be taught on a weekly basis or it can also be taught at set times. Take advantage of budget learning opportunities such as: give your kids a set amount of spending money for a vacation or a family outing and make them stick to it. This teaches responsibilities and, sometimes, consequences; and create



a one-time budget for back-to-school shopping, and work with them on getting ready for school.

Finally, another important budgeting conversation parents should initiate is the importance of setting money goals. Balancing short-term and long-term goals is not intuitive to most people, because short-term spending can eliminate the opportunity to pursue a wide variety of unforeseen long-term goals.

THE EPOCH TIMES: Do you think parents should openly speak to their children about the family's budget?

MS. LONGO: Yes! There are chances to talk about money every day. Our kids learn from what we do or don't do more than anything we tell them.

Do they see you donate time or money to charities? Do you talk about saving for a family vacation or other big-ticket items? Do they see you research for the best price/value on an item that you are looking to purchase, or do you buy the first one you see? Do you explain how you choose between similar products at the grocery store? Is it based on quality, or price per unit?

Kids not only learn how to make financial decisions from their parents but also tend to follow in their parents' footsteps. Once you become aware of the opportunities to create positive money conversations with your children, you will find opportunities to get kids involved in spending decisions, particularly for big-ticket items such as a new or used car, plus the complicated considerations that go into this purchase. These real-life situations will add depth and meaning to all of the other conversations you've created.

THE EPOCH TIMES: What should parents teach their children about debt?

MS. LONGO: Parents can teach their children about good debt and bad

debt. Good debt could be considered for purposes with a mortgage to get a house or student loan debt to further one's education. Depending on how credit cards are used, this may be considered bad debt when it is used to afford a lifestyle that one cannot really afford. Parents can explain credit cards and how they work, along with the importance of paying the monthly balance each month.

THE EPOCH TIMES: What should parents teach their children about investments?

MS. LONGO: Parents can teach the basics of investing for the future in stocks and bonds, along with the concept of risk and reward. Keep it simple and use real-life examples. Talk about your kids' favorite products and relate this back to the companies that make the products.

Describe how a stock is an opportunity to own a small part of that company and that the value can go up and down, but over the long term, you hope the company will be more valuable.

Explain that, with a bond, you are lending money that will get repaid in the future, but in the meantime you will receive interest.

This can be an opportunity to help kids go beyond the initial conversation by helping them make small investments using on-line tools like Stockpile.com. For example, our son decided to use his birthday money to buy some stock in Apple which we promised to match as an incentive to invest for the future.

THE EPOCH TIMES: What are the key skills kids need to master to be able to responsibly manage their own money?

MS. LONGO: The most important skill kids need to master is creating and maintaining a budget. Having a concept of what money is coming in relative to expenses for wants and needs is critical to keep finances under control.

Effective budgeting can help kids avoid taking on bad debt, living a lifestyle they can't afford, or making life choices without thinking about the consequences. These lessons can start in high school and college when kids start to think about what their career will be, putting that career into context about what the income opportunities are, and then leading into a conversation about what lifestyle that would have.

There are no right or wrong answers, but strong budgeting tools will lead to more informed and better-balanced financial decisions.

ALL IMAGES BY SHUTTERSTOCK



You can teach your children about saving, sharing, and spending.

LEST WE FORGET

What Makes Great Children’s Literature Great?

SUSANNAH PEARCE

When it comes to reading great children’s literature, I’m making up for lost time. I was not a voracious reader as a child, and my parents, though interested in our education, left it up to the schools that my siblings and I attended. They read to us at home when we were younger, but it did not endure as we became more active outside. We enjoyed the happy luxury of being young at a time when children could safely roam the countryside with friends for hours.

I am now a parent, homeschooling my own daughter, and enjoying the equally happy luxury of introducing her—and myself—to many great works of children’s literature. Led by other parents who have trodden the path before me, I have the pleasure and responsibility of curating my child’s literary world. And it is an immense and delightful world.

Children’s literature may be written off at first glance as not serious literature. It resides in the more colorful and potentially sticky section of libraries, which adults have outgrown. But, it only takes a moment of reflection to realize there is more to it than its entertainment value or ability to lull a toddler to sleep.

What Makes It Literature?

The word “literature” can refer to anything from leaflets and printed matter to all the works written for others to read. Among its definitions, Webster includes, “Writings in prose or verse, especially: writings having excellence of form or expression and expressing ideas of permanent or universal interest.” I think we can all agree on this. Mainly, I’m thinking about novels here.

Likewise, when I think of literature for children, I think primarily of longer fiction and exclude those shorter books that are meant for reading through in one sitting. However, there are always exceptions, as we shall see.

What Makes It Great?

Literature, to be great, whether written for juvenile readers or for adults, must be well-constructed. The writing must be good, not just technically but also crafted with a clarity of expression that elicits image, action, and emotion in the mind of the reader. It must be enjoyable to read and continue to please upon repeated readings.

A truly great work of literary art will draw the reader into the world of the story, rather than leaving him as an observer. The story involves a complexity that makes this world and its inhabitants believable and multidimensional. This world must reveal organic unity so that it not only makes logical sense but also involves multiple layers, nuance, and even surprise.

It will invite the reader to grapple with universal human problems, ideas, feelings, and experiences. Ultimately, great literature (and great art of any kind) puts the reader in contact with the good, the true, and the beautiful, even if it has to be teased out through contemplation.

What Makes It Children’s?

This may seem obvious because we generally know when a work is for children, as opposed to adults. But when you try to put a finger on it, you’ll find there’s more to it than just bright pictures or happy tales about kids. Just as I did, all the book-loving parents I consulted had to make a second attempt at this distinction. Much discussion helped us focus on those things that truly matter in distinguishing a work as children’s, versus general, literature.

It is often the case that a book written for children will have children as the protagon-

nists. But, they may also be animals, as in “Charlotte’s Web,” “Black Beauty,” or “Wind in the Willows.” Characters might also include mythical creatures, as is the case in “The Chronicles of Narnia.” What is crucial is that human adults are not the primary actors and the story world is not the real-life world of adult concerns.

I might mention, as contrast, a book in which the protagonist is a child, but which is decidedly not a work of children’s literature: Charles Dickens’s “Oliver Twist.” The point of view is that of the boy, Oliver, but the world is one of adult issues.

Another thing that distinguishes children’s literature from adults’ is that, while it must contain enough complexity to be interesting, it will be scaled down to the developmental level of the target audience without being trite. The themes should never be about matters inappropriate for children. The vocabulary may be more accessible to younger readers. This is somewhat relative, however, as may be noticed when older children’s classics are considered alongside even adult books of today!

While a great work will usually bring about growth in the young reader, those that become favorites are neither pedantic nor didactic. The author gets down to eye level with the child reader. What child would wish to open a book just to find another adult telling them what he must do and think? Children want to have adventures, contemplate great thoughts, and yes, be entertained—just as adults do. These are all possible in a truly good children’s book.

Can Children’s Literature Be Great?

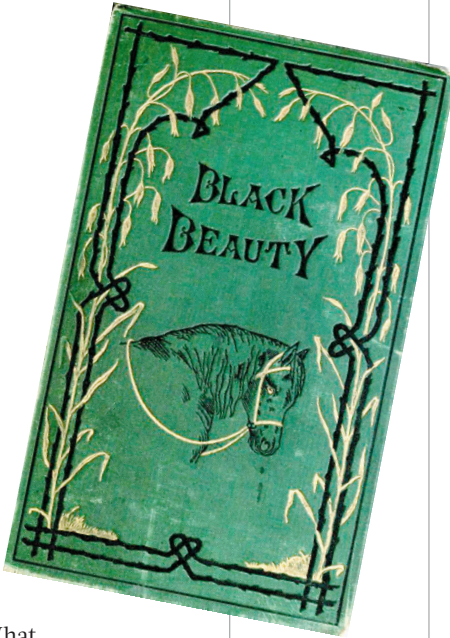
The greatness of some children’s books is apparent at the time of publication, but it is only confirmed over time. As the reader grows older, the book still speaks to her. It stands up to many readings (a mercy when parents are called on to read it again and again to children), remaining fresh and enjoyable each time. The title will remain beloved over many generations. A book that contemplates perennial human issues will always speak to us.

Some works of children’s fiction that have remained universally beloved over time include Louisa May Alcott’s “Little Women,” The “Little House” books by Laura Ingalls Wilder, “The Jungle Book” and “Captains Courageous” by Rudyard Kipling, Robert Louis Stevenson’s “Treasure Island,” J.R.R. Tolkien’s “The Hobbit,” and Hans Christian Andersen’s stories. The list could go on and on. And on.

Though I originally limited my definition of children’s literature to novels, several books and authors demanded exception. A.A. Milne’s “Winnie the Pooh” is truly a poetic, philosophical work that touches even adults with wonder. Robert McCloskey combined his illustrations and stories in picture books (“Blueberries for Sal,” “One Morning in Maine,” and others) that tenderly capture very real moments of childhood and seal them in the hearts of the children and adults who have read these books.

Another anomaly among great children’s

Cover of the novel Black Beauty, first edition 1877, published by London: Jarrold and Sons.



“A Little Girl Reading,” 1900, by Johan Gudmundsen-Holmgreen.

books is the series of “Freddy the Pig” books by Walter R. Brooks. In addition to people, the characters include talking animals. The writing is masterful. The plots are dizzyingly complex. The missing element is that there is a complete lack of grappling with big ideas. Yet, I can’t bring myself to drop them from the list. What they lack in philosophy, they make up for in comic genius. Brooks is the P.G. Wodehouse of children’s literature.

Time Will Tell

Not every book that makes a splash at the time of publication will endure. I consulted the list of all Newbery Medal winners (from the first in 1922) and noted that I was not familiar with the majority. They may have spoken to the voting committee of their time, but they failed to remain in the hearts of readers over the long haul.

A better indication of the best children’s books is parents who grew up with them and are looking forward to reading them to their children, not only to share them with the child but also to enjoy them again themselves. Great books never really get old and, in fact, can be enjoyed by adults, even without sharing them with children.

The parents I canvassed on this question described those books they would consider great, or classics, using phrases such as “perennially interesting,” “made a big impact,” “stood the test of time,” and “get more from it with each reading.” It is much the same with adult classics, but all the more remarkable that they can be both formative for a child and also meaningful to an adult.



A truly great work of literary art will draw the reader into the world of the story.



Susannah Pearce has a master’s degree in theology and writes from her home in South Carolina.

COURTESY OF BVI TOURIST BOARD



The Baths National Park at the southwestern tip of the Virgin Gorda.

RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

in The British Virgin Islands

TIM JOHNSON

THE SETTLEMENT, British Virgin Islands—We're a long way from the land—like a really long way—the sea forming a cyclorama of azure all around us, our catamaran coasting along somewhere halfway between the islands of Anegada and Jost Van Dyke. Slowing, and then stopping, we ready ourselves. Together with a small group of fellow travelers, we gather on the back deck, ready in bathing suits and towels.

And then, we all jump in. Striding to the stern, one by one, we leap into the flat-calm Caribbean waters, Markee Serecin, our young, female captain tossing out a long rope with a big buoy tied to the end. Treading water in the deep blue, we grab the rope at evenly spaced intervals and then hang on as Serecin puts the boat into gear. Seconds later we are skimming along, riding atop a glassy sea, feeling a little like a ride through paradise where, just a little more than a year earlier, two separate Category Five storms—just two weeks apart—had made this very place a living hell.

I'm in the British Virgin Islands (BVI), a territory comprised of some 50 cays, islets, and islands (15 of them inhabited) that remains, technically, part of the United Kingdom. About midway between Puerto Rico and Saint Martin, part of the Leeward Islands of the Lesser Antilles,

the BVI are lined with sugary beaches and surrounded by some of the clearest water you'll find anywhere. Both Jimmy Buffett and Kenny Chesney sing songs about this place. It's beautiful.

Recovery

But in the fall of 2017, the eye of Hurricane Irma, one of the strongest storms ever recorded, passed right over the BVI, followed soon after by Hurricane Maria. They caused casualties and blew apart communities, knocking out services—including power—for months. However, these islands, and their inhabitants, are rising again. I'm here for a few days to explore them in the best way possible—from the sea, on a Dream Yacht Charter catamaran, island-hopping through stories of recovery and resilience.

After landing on Beef Island, we board our boat, signs of the former devastation around us—including a sailboat, tossed ashore by the wind and waves, still set askew on a hillside. We take a short morning sail to Virgin Gorda, the second-most populated and third-largest island in the chain, first mooring and swimming around The Baths National Park, a series of boulders and rock pools and caverns accessed best from the water. And then we zip onto a dock on the catamaran's little zodiac, piling into a van driven by local guide Derrick Gumbs.

Winding across the spine of the island,

HODGE EXPLAINS THAT, CURIOUSLY, PUMPKINS WERE THE FIRST AND FASTEST VEGETABLE TO COME BACK AFTER THE STORMS. "WE ATE A LOT OF PUMPKINS," HE LAUGHS.

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An aerial view of Scrub Island Resort, Spa and Marina.

we stop for panoramic photos, at one point pausing at a hilltop restaurant called Hogg Heaven, which overlooks Necker Island—famously, the private refuge of Sir Richard Branson. Frequently hosting celebrities, it’s the place where those first post-administration photos of an ebullient Barack Obama were taken, smiling a million watts while kite-surfing. By all accounts, Branson has been an excellent resident, contributing a great deal to the storm-recovery efforts. Do they ever see him here in Virgin Gorda, I ask Gumbs? “Oh yes, he rides his bicycle through the hills every Friday,” the guide responds, stretching his hand out and tracing the route with his index finger.

And then, back on the boat, we continue to hop. On Anegada, a flat, earthy, palm-lined island three peaceful hours of sailing from Virgin Gorda, we anchor for a couple of nights, attending a local lobster festival and viewing their curious colony of flamingos as well as an iguana sanctuary. We also take a morning tour to see stingrays and mounds of pink conch shells, rising from the sea, tossed here by centuries of fishermen. We finish with a visit the former home of Theodolph Faulkner, whose activism in the 1940s helped return a constitution and a legislative assembly to the BVI.

Tortola

On Tortola, the most populated island, we go ashore for breakfast at Omar’s Cafe, whose owner, Omar Hurst, tells us he reopened just five weeks after Irma, truck-

ing in water and running a generator for electricity. He now enjoys an oceanfront location because the little line of tourist shops across from his patio was blown away by the storm, but he is rebuilding, slowly, and literally, running an excavator himself. We visit a shell museum and listen as the owner plays us a song on his ukulele, and a local artist teaches us to paint scenes of paradise right by the beach. And we take a tour and a tasting at Callwood Distillery, where they’ve made rum for 400 years—the young owner tells us they lost their roof in the storm, but the walls, in place since the 1600s, still stood strong.

“What you’re seeing here, it’s totally different ... We just said—thank God we’re alive.

Arvan Hodge

Jost Van Dyke

And on Jost Van Dyke (JVD)—an island with fewer than 300 residents named for a 17th-century Dutch pirate—we meet Foxy. Founding his now-famous beach bar in 1968, at the advent of yacht tourism in the BVI, Philicianno “Foxy” Callwood tells us that he never actually closed after the hurricanes, and is rebuilding his place piece by piece. He shows us photos of him receiving his Member of the Most Excellent Order of

the British Empire, a quasi-knightship, but seems even prouder of his photo with superstar country singer Kenny Chesney, who wrote and sings a song called Somewhere in the Sun: “Oh I wish I was there tonight on Jost Van Dyke/Sipping on some Foxy’s Firewater rum.” Pulling out a guitar, Foxy sings a song of his own, a slightly blue tune about Irma and Maria.

Around the corner, we moor at Great Harbour and see more of JVD, riding in a van with driven by Arvan Hodge, who works in tourism for the local government, and hails from this island. He recounts the dire days immediately following the storms. “Communication was very difficult, and so was transportation—people would walk from the east end of the island to the west, 11 or 12 miles, with the hills,” he says. He adds that after the hurricanes, the vegetation was completely stripped, everything black and brown, like after a fire.

“What you’re seeing here, it’s totally different—when I came back for the first time, I had to fight back tears,” he remembers. “We just said—thank God we’re alive.”

While much has been rebuilt, he shows us the place where a ferry was literally lifted from the water and flipped over, onto the shore, as well as blown-out churches and more sailboats on hillside. Hodge explains that, curiously, pumpkins were the first and fastest vegetable to come back after the storms. “We ate a lot of pumpkins,” he laughs.

Soon, he will drop us at another famous beach bar, the Soggy Dollar—so-named for



Exploring amid the granite boulders at The Baths National Park.

the cash that came over the counter from the yachters that have long formed the core of their clientele—sitting on the sand and sipping a “pain killer,” rum and pineapple and coconut, a signature drink here in the BVI. But for a moment beforehand, Hodge is serious. Surveying the green-again paradise all around, he says, somber, “We persevered—we made it.”

When You Go

Starting with just six boats in Seychelles, Dream Yacht Charter now runs a fleet of more than 1,000, making it one of the largest yacht charter companies in the world. They were one of the first tourist operations to resume business following the storms, with yachts back in operation in November of the same year. Yachts vary in size—ours had six bedrooms, and plenty of room to lounge—and can be chartered with a crew (we had both captain and chef on board). DreamYachtCharter.com

Recently reopened after an extensive renovation, Scrub Island Resort, Spa and Marina acts as the base of operations in

the BVI for Dream Yacht Charter. All rooms here face the water, from suites to multi-room villas. Watch the sun set over the mountains and sea from their upper-level pool, then dine Caribbean style, either at one of the in-house restaurants or their regular on-the-sand North Beach barbecues. ScrubIsland.com

Plan your trip to the British Virgin Islands at their official tourism site, BVI-Tourism.com

Toronto-based writer Tim Johnson is always traveling, in search of the next great story. Having visited 140 countries across all seven continents, he’s tracked lions on foot in Botswana, dug for dinosaur bones in Mongolia and walked among a half-million penguins on South Georgia Island. He contributes to some of North America’s largest publications, including CNN Travel, Bloomberg, and The Globe and Mail.

He was a guest of British Virgin Islands Tourism.

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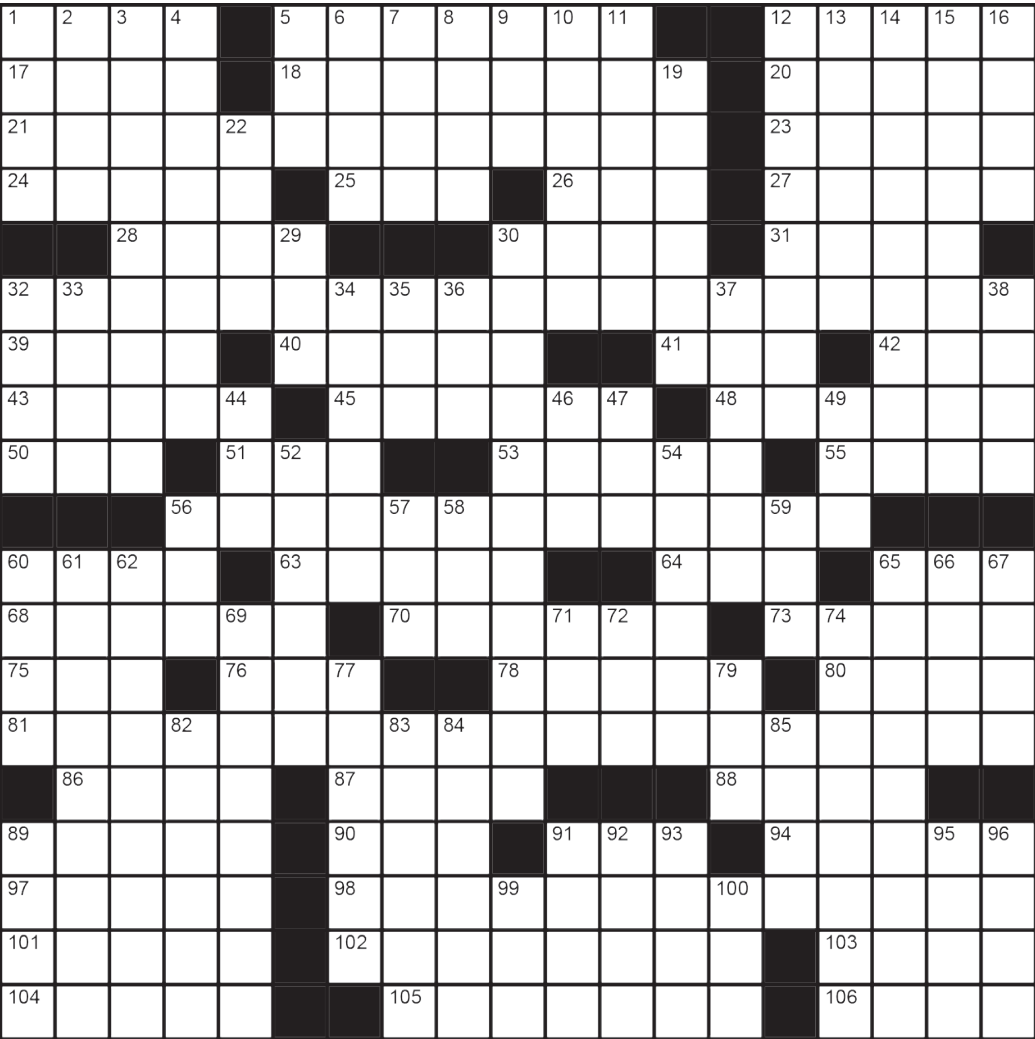
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CROSSWORD

CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON
EPOCH TIMES STAFF



- Across
1. Prefix meaning “left”

5. Illuminated from behind

12. Putdowns

17. Persia, now

18. Miser’s desires

20. Paramecium propellers

21. #2 on a ticket

23. Indigo-yielding shrubs

24. Related maternally

25. Hi-____ photo

26. “There ain’t no ____” (bygone-bird lament)

27. Requires

28. What’s expected
30. Divide

31. Whips

32. Inscrutability

39. Mint

40. Cut

41. Exclusively

42. Caribbean, e.g.

43. Show respect, in a way

45. Legalese term

48. Wellfleet, e.g.

50. “I agree”

51. Fish on many a sashimi platter

53. Tearful

55. Man, for one

56. Without predators, a species _____ an area

60. Kind of tissue

63. Pave an embankment

64. Tiller’s tool

65. “Breastwork”

68. Colorful bird

70. “The Charge of the Light Brigade” war zone

73. Sacred text

75. Table scrap

76. “Beverly Hills Cop ____”

78. Wagner work

80. “Get Rich or Die Tryin’” artist 50 ____

81. Computerese

86. Sea eagles

87. Spare parts?
88. Creme brulee ingredient

89. Fore-and-aft-rigged vessel

90. “____ Wednesday” (First day of Lent)

91. Tax pro, for short

94. “Mad About You” restaurant

97. Nigerian, perhaps?

98. End-of-season event

101. Storage room

102. Glass gardens

103. Bygone autocrat

104. Followers

105. “The First Cut is” this?

106. Bump on a lid

35. Meadow mother

36. Part of H.M.S.

37. Three sheets to the wind

38. Easily maneuverable, as a ship

44. “Facilities,” informally

46. Promise to pay

47. Goose egg

49. Bro’s sibling

52. Rupture

54. 2005 Matthew McConaughey movie

56. Tolkien creature

57. Plastic pipe material

58. “____ the fields we go”

59. “A rat!”

60. “Halt!”

61. Match up

62. Driving directions

65. A.M. repast

66. Buzzed

67. Add to the pot

69. Above a country

71. 18, for a ‘99 Park Avenue

72. Sushi fish

74. Eye doctors

77. “Sudden ____” (Eastwood film)

79. Whichever

82. Knowledge of essential truths

83. Deceived

84. “Come ____ at once!”

85. Horror film staple

89. Lively old dance

91. Junk

92. Peel

93. French cordial flavoring

95. Whip

96. Beyond dry

99. “The best things in life ____ free”

100. Tabby

4NUMBERS

CONSTRUCTED BY C. CHANG
AT4NUMS.COM

Use the four numbers in the corners, and the operands (+, − X, and ÷) to **build an equation** to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one “unique” solution but, there may also be “equivalent” solutions. For example: 6 + (7 X 3) +1 =28 and 1+ (7 X 3) + 6 =28

23

34

14

12

28

+

−

×

÷

Hard 1 - 1 Solution

27

36

18

16

35

+

−

×

÷

Hard 2 - 1 Solution

4

8

92

3

8

+

−

×

÷

Easy 1 - 1 Solution

4

5

43

2

5

+

−

×

÷

Easy 2 - 1 Solution

WORDSEARCH

CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON
EPOCH TIMES STAFF

Help with Today’s Crossword Puzzle?

I I N H E R E H E R N I A S C
R R E D E M P T I O N S S G O
G E E S E O R E H I R E A N R
Y P F L E E P I R G C D H O R
K O R A N S P E C I L I A S E
T A K M Y T T E R E A H R I L
E H B S S S A A S A M H A S A
R R L I Y X V U D T Y E W M T
R I O O C A S C T I A W N I E
A M T T R L R R O O A E I S R
R A T T I C H I U K R D N L E
I V O N M G A F C N O O U E V
A G A V E A U F A E N G U D E
L I N E A L S S N E E D S T T
B R E A K F A S T L E N A T E

ATTIC

AUTOROUTE

AVARICES

BREAKFAST

CILIA

CORRELATE

CRIMEA

DEEPEST

ENATE

GEESE

GNOSIS

HAUSA

HERNIA

HEWED

ICEMEN

INHERE

KNEEL

KORAN

LINEAL

MISLED

MOIST

NEEDS

OPERA

OYSTER

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RIFFS

SAHARA

SLAMS

STADIA

TENONS

TERRARIA

TOUCAN

ANILS

BLOTTO

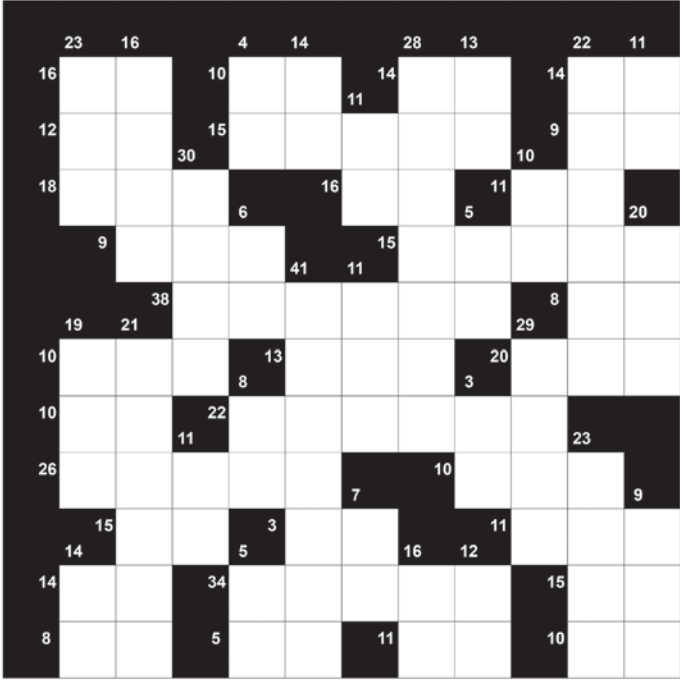
REDEMPTIONS

KAKURO

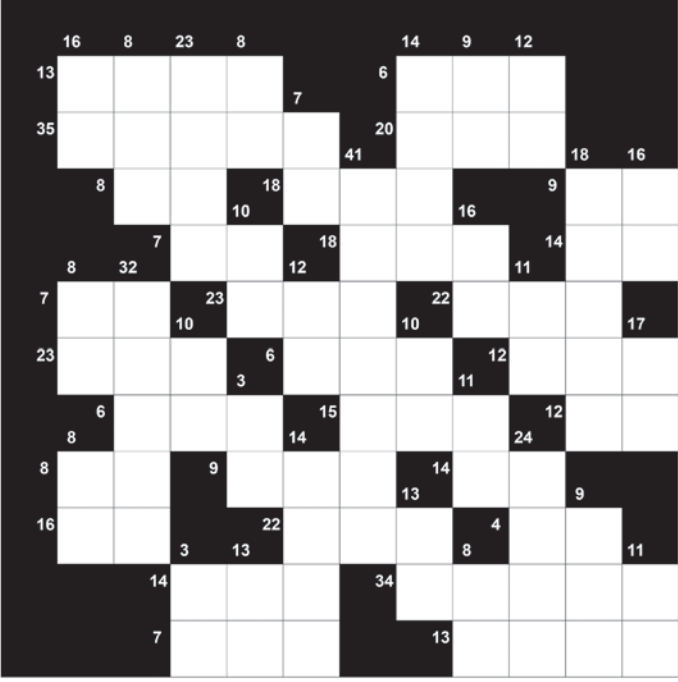
CONSTRUCTED BY EPOCH TIMES STAFF

Kakuro puzzles are like crosswords that use numbers instead of words. The goal is to fill the blank squares associated with a clue (called a “run”) with the numbers 1-9 so that the numbers add up to the corresponding clues. Like Sudoku, digits in a run cannot repeat. When the grid is filled, the puzzle is complete.

Large: Hard



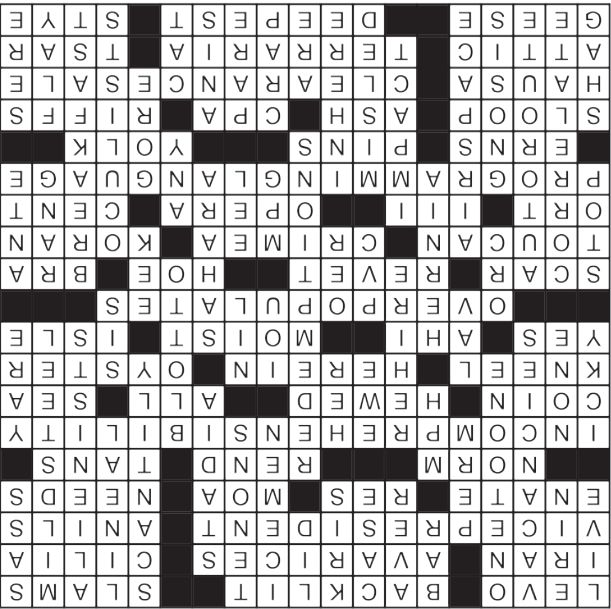
Large: Easy



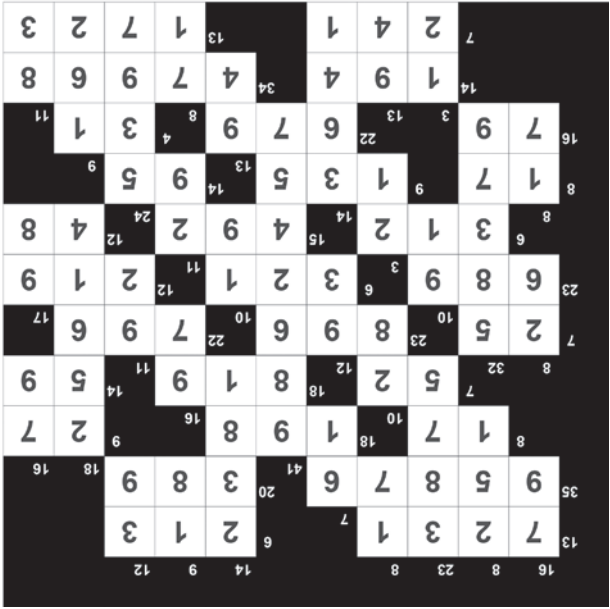
WORK SPACE

SOLUTIONS

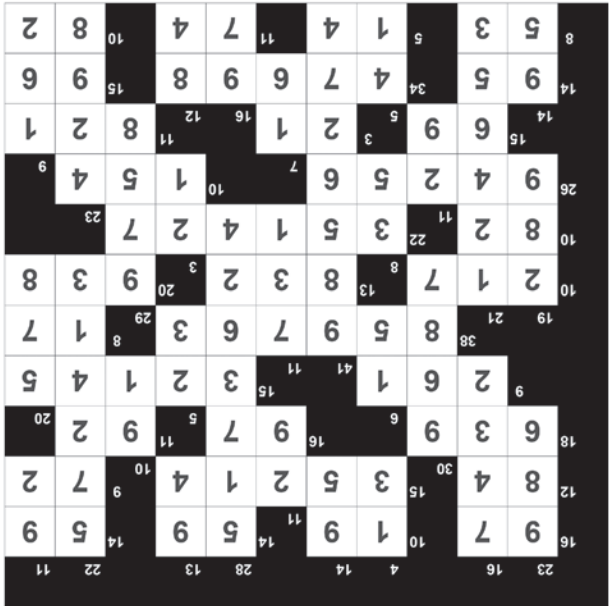
CROSSWORD



KAKURO LARGE: EASY



KAKURO LARGE: HARD



4 NUMBERS

- HARD 1

28 − 34 + 23 ÷ (3 + 12)
- HARD 2

(35 − 27) × 36 ÷ 16
- EASY 1

(8 + 3) × 8 + 4
- EASY 2

(5 + 4) × 5 − 2



There is something refreshing and life-giving about a clean, uncluttered kitchen.

Declutter Your Kitchen and Reclaim the Heart of Your Home

Clear your kitchen to get the flow that will fuel your life

JOSHUA BECKER

Picture your dream kitchen. I bet it’s not filled with clutter.

There is something refreshing and life-giving about a clean, uncluttered kitchen. It sets the tone and culture of the home. It communicates calm and order. It promotes opportunity and possibility. It saves time and ensures cleanliness. The kitchen truly is the heart of your home.

But it is definitely one of the more difficult places in the home to keep uncluttered. There are several reasons for this:

- The kitchen is usually a high-traffic area of the home.
- The purpose of the room requires messes to be made during use.
- The kitchen is often used as a collection area for odds and ends, such as mail.

When you think about your own kitchen, what kinds of clutter come to mind? Are you seduced by shiny gadgets or specialized tools that aren’t really necessary? Do you have several duplicates from when you got married and merged kitchen supplies with your spouse? Have you accumulated an extensive cookbook collection even though you use only one or two favorite cookbooks regularly?

If your kitchen is anything like most people’s, you can get rid of a lot there.

Set Your Kitchen Goals

Start by thinking about what you want your kitchen to accomplish. Is it to enable you to cook tasty, healthy meals for your family without too much fuss? Is it to be easy to keep clean so it offers you a sense of peace and doesn’t waste your time? Is it to serve as a comfortable space for family or friends to keep you company as you cook?

Being clear about your kitchen goals is essential. Why? Because your goals become your guidelines. You use them every time you ask “Do I really need this?”

For example, if your goal is to cook meals without a lot of fuss, do you really need the Bluetooth-enabled food dehydrator, pasta maker with four attachments, and airbrush cake decorating kit? What about the salad scissors, banana slicer, or corn silk remover?

At this point, if you fancy yourself a chef,

have spurts where cooking provides you with comfort, or just love good food, you may be nervous that minimizing your kitchen is going to ruin your workshop for culinary creation. Take heart!

Minimizing in the kitchen doesn’t take away from you—just the opposite. It is life-giving and home-enhancing.

Removing the possessions you don’t need will uncover what’s been obscured about the joy of cooking. Removing the excess clutter will clear distractions from your kitchen workspace.

But don’t take my word for it. Take it from professional chef Mark Bittman who decked out an entire kitchen for about \$300, including every cooking utensil someone would need to cook like a pro. He summarized his kitchen utensil philosophy this way: “It needs only to be functional, not prestigious, lavish or expensive.”

Clear the Kitchen Clutter

Pick a time—maybe start first thing in the morning—when you have at least a couple of hours for the project. I did it on a Saturday morning when I knew I had time to finish the project.

Make a cup of coffee or turn on some music to put yourself at ease. Clear space on the counters to set out items.

Start by thinking about what you want your kitchen to accomplish.

Follow This 6-Step Process to Reclaim the Heart of Your Home:

1. Relocate Anything That Does Not Belong in the Kitchen

Kitchens are notorious collection areas for odds and ends—mail, kids’ homework, purses, keys, and all that stuff in the infamous junk drawer. Identify a new “home” for each out-of-place item and move it there.

2. Notice Physical Boundaries

There are physical boundaries all over your

kitchen—drawers and cabinets that provide defined, limited spaces for storage. Rather than shoving as much as you can inside these spaces, use their limitations as helpful guidelines on how much stuff to keep.

3. Remove Duplicates and Little-Used Items

Evaluate all the items in your kitchen by asking yourself the right question. The right question is not, “Might I conceivably use it at some time?” The right question is, “Do I need it?” If you’ve rarely or never used a tool, bowl, or storage container, then it’s probably not really necessary to keep. Also, kitchens are notorious for duplicates (spatulas, coffee mugs, spoons, pots & pans, Tupperware). Remove unneeded duplicates, keep your favorites.

Here’s a pro tip: Keep one set of lidded plastic food containers that nest together and discard the others.

4. Give Every Item a Proper Home

Designate drawers for silverware and utensils; cupboards for plates, containers, pots and pans, and small appliances; and closets or shelves for food and larger, less-used appliances.

5. Clear the Counters

If your counters are routinely cluttered, there’s a good chance you’re storing too many daily use items there (toaster, coffee maker, teapot, can opener, spice rack, knife block, a canister of wooden spoons, cutting board, and the like). You’ve probably reasoned that leaving such things on the counters makes them easier to grab when you need them.

This is where the convenience fallacy comes into play.

The reality is that these items spend far more time as clutter than they do as needed instruments of food preparation. For example, if you make toast for breakfast, it will take you roughly three minutes to toast your bread. After that, the toaster will sit unused for the next 23 hours and 57 minutes.

Rather than allowing these appliances to take up counter space, find a home for them in an easily accessed part of the kitchen, such as inside a cabinet or on a shelf.

And don’t forget the kitchen sink. Put away any cleaning supplies (soap, scrub-

ber, and so on) that currently clutter up the sink area.

6. Purge the Pantry

The whole point of a kitchen is consuming food, so it makes sense that you’ve got a lot of consumables in cabinets or a pantry. But chances are that you’ve also got lots of things in there you can remove.

- Pull out everything and group items by kind.
- Relocate whatever doesn’t belong in the pantry.
- Clean the pantry.
- Put old and expired food items in the trash or compost.
- Put foods back into the pantry in logical groupings. Note where you need to reduce certain foods by “eating through” your supplies or by donating unopened packages to a local food pantry.
- Organize items with bins or transparent containers so you can see at a glance what you’ve got.
- Consider how to handle grocery shopping differently so you don’t have so much food sitting around in your pantry.

Identify a new ‘home’ for each out-of-place item and move it there.

When you spend less time taking care of a cluttered kitchen, you have more time to make nutritious, delicious meals for your family and linger in conversation at the dinner table. When you make room for loved ones in your kitchen, you prioritize relationships by expanding everyone’s opportunities for giving and receiving love. That’s what makes the kitchen the heart of the home. It’s where body and soul are fed simultaneously.

Joshua Becker is an author, a public speaker, and the founder and editor of Becoming Minimalist, where he inspires others to live more by owning less. Visit [BecomingMinimalist.com](#)

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CRAFTSMANSHIP

POUNAMU

New Zealand’s Beloved Greenstone

LORRAINE FERRIER

Slowly, slowly, years of erosion gently unlock pieces of greenstone into the Te Wai Pounamu: the greenstone waters of New Zealand’s South Island, the only place they’re found. This is how “pounamu,” the greenstone revered by New Zealanders, emerges before it settles in riverbeds, or along the coast after being swept out to sea. Steeped in Maori myth and tradition, pounamu, pronounced “POE-nah-moo,” refers to three different types of stone: nephrite, bowenite, and serpentinite.

The exhibition “Kura Pounamu: Our Treasured Stone,” at the Canterbury Museum in Christchurch on New Zealand’s South Island, explores the Kiwi fascination with pounamu, from the bare rock to the finished product, through a selection of historic and modern tools, weapons, and ornaments. The exhibition was organized by the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, which is New Zealand’s national museum, in association with the traditional guardians of pounamu, the Ngai Tahu iwi (tribe). It was first shown in Te Papa from

September 2009 to July 2011, after which it was adapted for an international audience, touring China from November 2012 to June 2014, and Paris from May to October 2017. “Kura Pounamu: Our Treasured Stone” is now at the Canterbury Museum, in the very area that pounamu originates from. As such, the exhibition can be seen until June 3, and also includes exhibits from the Canterbury Museum’s collection. Corban Te Aika, curator of Mataranga Maori (human history), tells us more.

Continued on **B10**

CANTERBURY MUSEUM



(Above) The Arahura River on New Zealand’s South Island is one of the greenstone waters where pounamu can be found. (Left) Running water flows over this touchstone in the exhibition, as it would in its natural environment.

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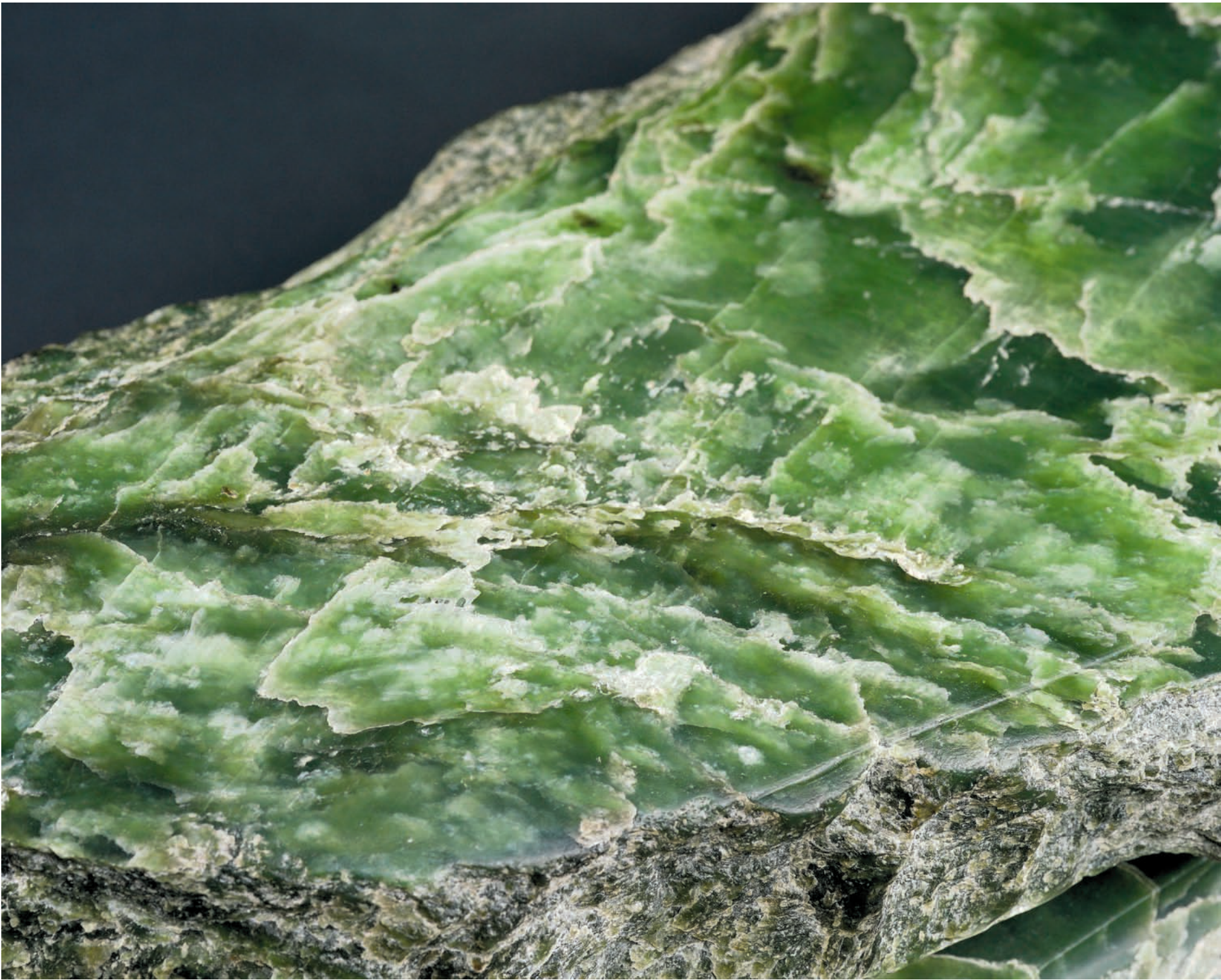
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MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE PAPA TONGAREWA



Detail of a pounamu “kohatu” or boulder, of the kawakawa variety. Maori classify pounamu by the environment. The kawakawa is a native tree.

CRAFTSMANSHIP

POUNAMU

New Zealand’s Beloved Greenstone

CANTERBURY MUSEUM



Corban Te Aika, curator of human history (Matauranga Maori), at the Canterbury Museum in New Zealand.

“It was seen as being a symbol of authority and prestige to have pounamu.

Corban Te Aika, curator of human history, Canterbury Museum

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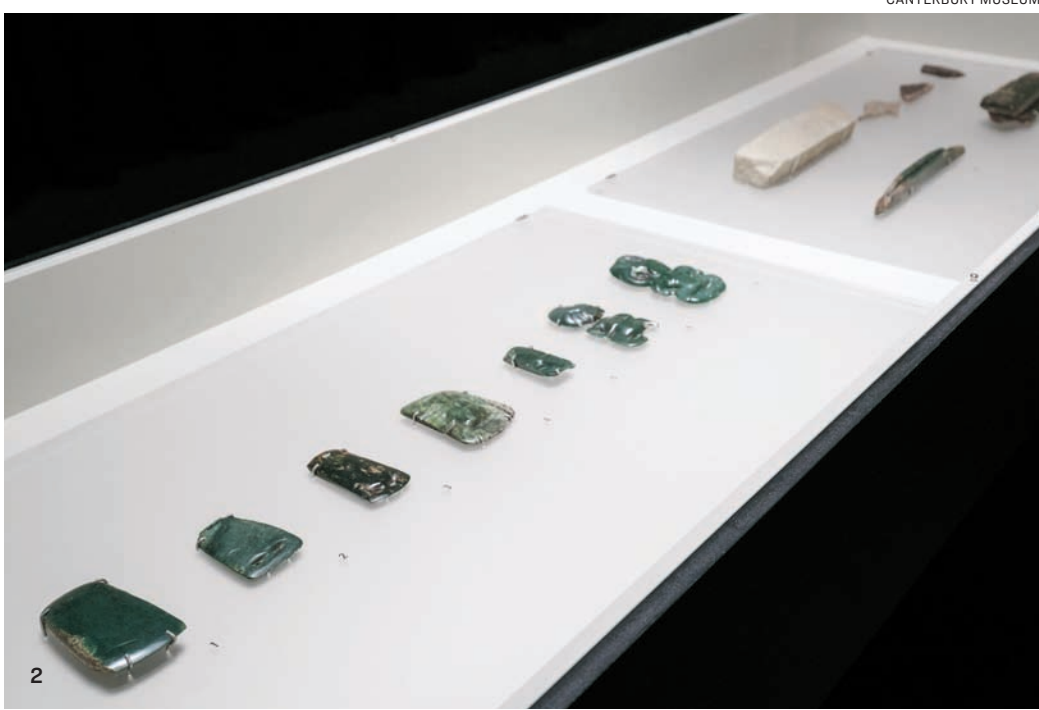
THE EPOCH TIMES: Why is pounamu so treasured in New Zealand?
CORBAN TE AIKA: A lot of that has to do with the fact that it served many purposes. And probably the most important aspect of pounamu is that it’s the strongest naturally occurring stone you can find in New Zealand.
Before pounamu was introduced to Maori, they were using things like basalt and argillite, and quite common rocks in the construction of tools and implements. All pounamu has a set of properties that are far superior to those other stones in terms of making tools and implements.
Not only did the stone have practical purposes, but it’s also a beautiful stone, so the construction of jewelry and other adornments was a natural progression for it.
It’s quite a hard stone to work and so very labor-intensive. Even the smallest kind of pendant can take quite a significant time to shape and polish, and so it was seen as being a symbol of authority and prestige to have pounamu.
THE EPOCH TIMES: Is it still seen that way?
MR. TE AIKA: Yes, definitely. I think globalization, particularly in our tourism industry, has had an impact on that somewhat, in the sense that it’s pretty easy now to buy pounamu. But generally, those items are made using modern tools and diamond saws, so that kind of preciousness of pounamu has been lost somewhat in its mass production.
THE EPOCH TIMES: What do you personally feel about the tourist industry around such a precious stone?
MR. TE AIKA: On some levels, I think it’s great that we’re able to share our culture with the world. But at the same time, though, I do think it’s sometimes a little bit—not tokenistic—but it’s tied up too much in our tourism industry. Now, it’s very hard to go to a shop or a tourist venture and not find pounamu for sale, or at least something that’s advertised as being pounamu.
Up until very recently, it was fairly common to find Canadian jade, or even Chinese jade, sometimes being shaped into things that were definitely Maori. But this misrepresentation of it as being genuine New Zealand jade, New Zea-

MAARTEN HOLL/MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE PAPA TONGAREWA



Hei tiki (pendant in human form). Te Aika whanau (family), Ngai Tuahuriri, Ngai Tahu.

land nephrite, or New Zealand pounamu, can be a little bit misleading.
There’s a big difference between buying something that has been mass-produced and something that has been shaped by an artist, a carver of pounamu. It’s very easy to produce a “hei tiki” figure, a pendant in a human form, but the story and symbolism behind it is a little bit different when it has come from somebody who has worked that particular stone using traditional methods, or even with modern tools.
I suppose it’s the idea that the life force of the artist or carver has been imposed on the particular rock that they have been shaping, and that’s a little bit different from something that has just been mass-produced.
THE EPOCH TIMES: My New Zealand friends who own a piece of pounamu say that every owner has a story behind their pounamu—it’s either that you’ve been guided to it or you’ve received it as a gift. Do you believe that?
MR. TE AIKA: Yes, I do think that’s quite accurate. Every stone has its own story.
There are a few well-known stories of the different greenstone clubs, called “pounamu mere.” There may be three or four that may be carved from the same boulder, and they might all be used in the defense of a particular fortified village, called a “pa site,” or things like that, historically. It’s that type of story that can often get lost in the mass-produced items.
Mass-produced items would usually have a label that describes the symbolism behind that particular shape or form, but I don’t think that’s giving you the same narrative that you might get when you are dealing with a carver and an artist, and you can hear the inspirations as to how that particular piece of art came to be, or the story around the stone. The stories are endless on that front, really.
THE EPOCH TIMES: There’s a geological way of classifying the pounamu and a Maori way of classifying the pounamu. Can you please tell us a little about that?
MR. TE AIKA: The Maori classification of pounamu basically comes down to the colors, the hues, and the variations that you get in each rock. No two boulders are ever identical across the six or seven major waterways where you can find pou-



namu; each river has a slightly different form of pounamu that emerges along it.

A lot of the traditional names of pounamu are determined by the attributes from within the stone that can be related back to the sort of phenomena within the environment or a species. As an example, there is a type of greenstone that actually isn't green at all. If anything, it is kind of gray or brown with a series of black dots on it, and the traditional name for that is "kokopu." A kokopu is a type of fish, which, if you look at its underbelly, is nearly always a brown-gray color with a number of black spots over it.

If the pounamu deems you worthy enough, the pounamu will reveal itself to you.

Corban Te Aika, curator of human history, Canterbury Museum

Another example is a type of pounamu which is almost translucent, a very pale light green, sometimes even blue. The traditional name for that is "inanga," and it takes its name from whitebait, or juvenile fish.

THE EPOCH TIMES: If I went to the areas where pounamu is found, how could I find some?

MR. TE AIKA: If you ask the traditional guardians of pounamu, Ngati Waewae and Ngati Mahaki iwi, they will tell you that you shouldn't go out looking for pounamu, but that the pounamu will reveal itself to you.

If you go out with the intent of "I need to find pounamu so I can make some money off of it," or whatever, you're not going to find any. You're better off interacting with the landscape, taking in the environment, and if the pounamu deems you worthy enough, the pounamu will reveal itself to you.

THE EPOCH TIMES: How is pounamu traditionally carved?

MR. TE AIKA: All of the knowledge of how to shape pounamu and work it is tied up, or at least recorded, in our oral traditions.

Sandstone is the main stone used to shape pounamu. According to the old traditions, the guardian of pounamu is fearful of the guardian of sandstone, and whenever sandstone and pounamu see each other, they take off in opposite directions. They don't like being near each other.

When shaping stone, you have to keep the surface of the pounamu moist.

You might have to go through several pieces of sandstone in order to get the general shape of a hei tiki, and then you are going to need smaller pieces of sandstone in order to do all the finer shaping. It's something that you wouldn't finish in a couple of days. You're probably looking at months, if not years, to shape them.

We have a saying in Maori that when translated into English says, "That which consumes sandstone, consumes people," and so that reiterates the idea that shaping with sandstone is a very labor-intensive process.

If you take a stock standard hei tiki that you would buy in an artist's shop, you're looking at upward of 3,000 or 4,000 New Zealand dollars (about \$2,030 or \$2,700) to purchase it, and so there's potentially upward of 60 or 70 hours of work that have gone into shaping that hei tiki.

THE EPOCH TIMES: The woodworking tools made of pounamu in the exhibition, called "toki," date back to the time New Zealand was settled, some 700 to 800 years ago. Please tell us about these adze blades.

MR. TE AIKA: The toki shape and form is found right across the Pacific, and so nearly every Polynesian culture has some sort of tool or implement that is similar, if not identical, to a toki. In fact, its general shape and style hasn't actually changed that much. There are a few different types of toki, but they're essentially, for the most

1. A selection of "hei tiki" at the Canterbury Museum in Christchurch, New Zealand.

2. The different stages of carving a pounamu "hei tiki."

3. A variety of pounamu touchstones show the beautiful marbling of New Zealand's greenstone.

4. Different shades and shapes of "pounamu mere," or greenstone clubs.

5. "Toki," or greenstone adze blades, on display at the Canterbury Museum's exhibition "Kura Pounamu: Our Treasured Stone."

part, one and the same: a large chisel-like tool.

A lot of the earlier toki that you'll find in archaeological sites and in museum collections are usually made of basalt or argillite.

After people discovered pounamu and its superior qualities, naturally they started to make tools and implements based on the cultural norms and their understanding to date, so they started to experiment with pounamu.

Generally, the wider and the bigger the toki, you're going to get a deeper groove on your carving, so the smaller toki, the finer ones, are obviously for finer details and intricate patterns. But eventually, it's a go-to tool that you find up and down the country in New Zealand and, in fact, right across the Pacific.

THE EPOCH TIMES: Please tell us about the pounamu touchstones.

MR. TE AIKA: Generally speaking, Maori view pounamu, or rocks and boulders of pounamu, as having a "mouri," a spiritual life force, within them, and so quite often, people will use pounamu as touchstones or mouri stones.

If a building has a mouri stone, the idea is that it's protecting the life force of the building that you are in. And so it kind of comes back to that idea of you can't find pounamu, the pounamu will find you; it's got this life force in it.

There are number of touchstones in the exhibition that people can touch and feel.

One of the touchstones is sitting in water and sandstone gravel, and so visitors can actually have a go at removing the outer rind of the stone and polishing the piece of pounamu. So it's that idea that if it has a life force, then there is more to it than just trying to chisel, or shape it, or work it.

We've had a couple of people who've taken a little bit of sandstone and they've literally stood there for half an hour going backward and forward on the same spot, and they've made the smallest indentation on the surface of the rock. And in doing so, they've started to expose the surface of the stone.

That particular touchstone is a really cool interactive exhibit for our museum visitors and the community as a whole, to contribute to shaping and polishing this particular stone.

This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

To discover more about "Kura Pounamu" at the Canterbury Museum, go to **Canterbury Museum.com**



MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND
TE PAPA TONGAREWA

Hei tiki (pendant in human form), 2008, by Lewis Tamihana Gardiner of the iwi (tribes) Ngai Tahu, Te Arawa, Ngati Awa, and Te Whanau-a-Apanui, New Zealand.

ESSENCE
OF
CHINA



CHINESE IDIOMS

Already Having a Plan in Mind

DUOYU ZHONG & TANYA HARRISON

Wen Yuke, also known as Wen Tong, was a master artist during the Song Dynasty (960–1279) and was famous for his bamboo paintings. His reputation became known far and wide, and many people sought to study under him.

When Wen was young, he was especially fond of painting bamboo. He planted a grove of bamboo in his yard so that he could observe its growth and appearance at all stages of development and under all kinds of weather conditions.

Over a long period of time, images of bamboo in different seasons and at different moments in its life cycle became deeply imprinted on his mind.

Each time he took up a brush to paint bamboo, he already had a suitable image in his mind. As a result, all of his paintings were unique, vivid, and lively.

When people asked how he could paint bamboo so well and so fast, he would answer with a shy smile, “I just paint the bamboo that appears in my mind.”

It is said that Wen was so skillful that he could hold two brushes in one hand and paint two different bamboo plants simultaneously.

When Wen passed away in 1079, Su Shi (1037–1101), one of Wen’s good friends, missed him very much. Su Shi is recognized as a master of literature from the Song Dynasty and famous

for his poems, essays, rhapsodies, and calligraphy.

In memory of Wen, Su wrote an essay about him and his bamboo paintings that included the poetic line, “When painting, there is already bamboo in Yuke’s mind.”

Poetic description from that line, literally “having a complete bamboo in mind,” later became an idiom.

The idiom originally described someone who is calm and cool-headed when dealing with different matters, already having the results in mind.

Today, it is used to indicate the state of already having a well-thought-out plan before setting out to achieve a goal. It also describes someone who looks at every angle before deciding to take action.



A painting of bamboo in monochrome ink by Wen Tong (1018–1079).

CHINESE IDIOMS

Fluffing Up the Pillows for Sleep With No Worries

The wisdom of always being prepared and ready to handle any situation that may occur

CINDY CHAN & DAVID WU

The Chinese idiom that translates as, literally, “high pillow, no worries,” refers to the calm and confident feeling of being able to fluff up one’s pillows to go to sleep without any anguish or concern.

The idiom originates from a story about the wisdom of always being prepared and having options so that one can rest easy and be ready to face any difficulty that may arise.

The story is about Meng Changjun, who was a prime minister of the state of Qi during the Warring States Period (475–221 B.C.), and Feng Xuan, who was a guest in Meng’s home.

As the story goes, Meng was a very generous man who constantly had houseguests staying at his residence, including many who stayed for long periods of time. Feng was one of them.

Unlike the other guests, Feng was not very vocal about what he could offer Meng in return.

One day, Meng sent Feng to the Xue region to collect rent from the local citizens. This opportunity let Feng find a way to repay Meng.

Feng showed the statements of accounts to the Xue residents, but instead of asking for payment, he burned the documents in front of the debtors.

Feng then hosted a banquet and told the locals that Meng had ordered all their debts to be forgiven.

“Meng is a good master. He is not concerned about this money and just wishes to help all of you improve your lives,” Feng said.

The people cheered, grateful for Meng’s generosity.

Feng thus helped Meng establish a good reputation in the Xue region and gain the residents’ loyalty and gratitude. However, Meng did not understand and was quite displeased instead. Nevertheless, he allowed Feng to continue staying at his home.

Later, the new king of Qi removed Meng from his post and sent him to live in the Xue region.

When Meng arrived with his family, he re-

ceived a warm and unexpected welcome from the local residents, who recalled his earlier generosity and wanted to repay his kindness.

Meng realized then the good that Feng had done for him. Yet, Feng told Meng that it was not enough. He wanted to help Meng win back his position in Qi.

Feng had a plan. He visited the king of Wei and told him that Meng was extremely capable and would be very useful to Wei. Meng was soon offered an important ministerial position in the Wei court.

When the new king of Qi heard the news, he was worried and promised to reinstate Meng in his former position in Qi.

With these two options in place, Feng advised Meng to politely refuse the Wei position.

Feng also suggested that Meng advise the Qi king to transport the memorial tablets for Qi’s ancestors to Xue and to build an ancestral temple in the Xue region, as the presence of such a sacred shrine would ensure the safety of the region.

After the temple was built, Feng told Meng: “You now have three places where you can live worry-free. Now, you can fluff up the pillows and sleep well.”

Feng’s words thus became the Chinese idiom “fluffing up the pillows for sleep with no worries,” conveying the idea of being able to live a peaceful life without anxiety.

The phrase also describes a situation in which all matters and concerns in one’s life have been attended to with great care and thoughtfulness, and thus one can rest easy and feel secure, with nothing to fear or worry about.

Additionally, the idiom suggests that it is wise not to be conceited or complacent in life, but to always be prepared and have options and contingency plans in place.

Note: This idiom originated from a story about Meng and Feng recorded in the “Intrigues of the Warring States,” a famous ancient Chinese historical work that sheds light on the historical and social characteristics of the Warring States Period.



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