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the NEWS

New South Wales is
EXPELLING

China's state-sponsored Confucius Institutes from public schools after a year-long review cited risks of foreign interference.

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If we allow this to happen, even for a couple of more years, Huawei is going to control basically the communications systems of the West and, therefore, will be able to control the West.

Former White House chief strategist Stephen Bannon on Huawei's take over of global technology networks.

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Hong Kong currently sits atop one of the largest financial time bombs in history.

Hedge fund manager Kyle Bass on the declining Hong Kong dollar.

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While sensational
REPORTS

of the burning Amazon Rainforest are stirring up climate fears, NASA says its satellite photos show total fire activity is "close to the average in comparison to the past 15 years," writes geologist Gregory Wrightstone.

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France's President Emmanuel Macron (L) and U.S. President Donald Trump attend a working session at the annual G7 Summit in Biarritz, south-west France on Aug. 25, 2019.

G-7 SUMMIT

G-7 Leaders' Support for Hong Kong Draws Fiery Criticism From China

Importance of Sino-British treaty on Hong Kong reaffirmed after China calls it 'historical document'

EVA FU

Beijing admonished foreign governments for "interfering" in Hong Kong protests a day after G-7 summit leaders expressed concern about the region and appealed for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing political crisis.

"I would like to say to the G-7 members, stop your impertinent

"The G-7 nations all want to support a stable and prosperous Hong Kong. And we remain collectively committed to the 'one country, two systems' framework."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

meddling in pursuit of a hidden agenda," Geng Shuang, China's foreign ministry spokesperson, said at an Aug. 27 press conference. He added that China "will manage [its] own affairs properly."

On Monday, seven industrialised nations, including Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States, issued a collective statement at the G-7 summit asking

China to abide by the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

The 1984 bilateral treaty was drafted to stipulate how Hong Kong's sovereignty would be transferred from Britain to China in 1997, whereby both sides agreed to retain the territory's autonomy and freedoms not afforded in the mainland, under the "one country, two
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Chinese warships are seen docked at Garden Island naval base in Sydney on June 3, 2019.

INDO-PACIFIC

Trump Responds to Think-Tank Report Warning of Rising Chinese Military Prowess

EVA FU

President Donald Trump has dismissed a new Australian study suggesting that the Chinese military has presented "an unprecedented crisis" for the United States' defense strategy. "We have the strongest military in the world right now," Trump said on Aug. 20 at the White House while meeting with the Romanian president. "Right

now, there's nobody that's even close to us, militarily. Not even close."

Trump's remarks were a response to an Aug. 19 study conducted by the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, which warned of an "increasingly uncertain" future for U.S. military interests in the Indo-Pacific region as the Chinese military expands its presence there.

Continued on A7

CHINA

Beijing Lawyer Threatened By Authorities After Travelling to Hong Kong and Attending Protests

NICOLE HAO

Beijing lawyer Chen Qiushi recently travelled to Hong Kong to witness the ongoing protests and shared videos from the site of recent demonstrations on Chinese social media. Soon after, Chi-
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Accuracy
& Integrity

The Epoch Times was founded in 2000 to provide honest and uncensored news coverage of China. Based in New York City, our newsroom is dedicated to restoring accuracy and integrity in media. We stand outside political interests and the pursuit of profit. And we stand against the systematic destruction of traditional culture by destructive ideologies such as communism.

NSW Scraps China-Sponsored Confucius Classrooms Over Concerns of Foreign Interference

MIMI NGUYEN LY

New South Wales is expelling China’s state-sponsored Confucius Institute from its education department, and scrapping the Confucius Classrooms program from 13 public schools following a year-long internal review sparked by ongoing public concern over foreign interference, it announced on Aug. 22.

The Confucius Institute (CI) program—administered by the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP’s) agency Hanban—currently provides classes to 15 percent of Chinese language students in New South Wales public schools, according to the NSW Department of Education.

In its report, the department acknowledged that there exists a “perception that the Confucius Institute is or could be facilitating inappropriate foreign influence in the department.”

“The NSW Department of Education is the only department of education in the world that hosts a Confucius Institute,” the report noted. “The other 13 Confucius Institutes in Australia are all located inside universities.”

It recommended that the department “take action to ensure that there is no perception of inappropriate foreign interference in NSW public schools and the department.”

The perceived risks included having CCP officials on the institute’s board of directors and operations which abided by Chinese laws.

The department admitted in its report that Chinese laws had the “potential to conflict with the department’s Controversial Issues in Schools Policy.” In China, open discussions on issues like the Tiananmen Square massacre, the Hong Kong protests, and the regime’s human rights abuses carry the risk of political persecution.

“Following the [review], the NSW Department of Education will be ending its Confucius program in 13 schools,” NSW Department of Education Secretary Mark Scott said in a press release.

Charles Sturt University’s public ethics professor, Clive Hamilton, a vocal critic of the CCP, said of the announcement, “This was always a no-brainer. Now the NSW Department of Education will not have to register as a foreign agent.”

According to the federal government’s Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme, which came into effect late 2018, the department’s arrangement with Hanban would equate to foreign interference in a government body.

China’s foreign ministry has since accused NSW of politicising a “normal exchange program.”

The agreement is to end with the school year, the department said.



Chinese leader Xi Jinping’s wife Madame Peng Liyuan poses for a photo with students during their lessons in Mandarin, calligraphy, paper-cutting and embroidery at Ravenswood School for Girls in Sydney on Nov. 19, 2014.

This was always a no-brainer. Now the NSW Department of Education will not have to register as a foreign agent.

Professor Clive Hamilton, public ethics expert and author of ‘Silent Invasion: China’s Influence in Australia’

It will be replaced by a \$1.2 million program that will be locally funded until at least the end of 2022.

The department added its investment will make sure the students of the 13 schools affected will continue learning the Chinese language from local Chinese-speaking teachers—something that more than 10,000 petitioners demanded of the department back in 2011.

A Unique Arrangement

The review highlighted several points of concern about the department’s arrangement with Hanban, which was approved by former NSW education minister Adrian Piccoli. Piccoli is now director of the Gonski Institute for Education at the University of New South Wales.

“The primary concern is the fact that NSW is the only government department in the world that hosts a Confucius Institute and that this arrangement places Chinese government appointees inside a NSW government department,” the review said.

“Having foreign government appointees based in a government department is one thing; having appointees of a one-party state that exercises censorship in its own country working in a government department in a democratic system is another.”

The report acknowledged that parents, academics, and politicians have questioned the transparency and appropriateness of the arrangement between the department and Hanban.

Hanban, which oversees CIs around the world, is also known as the Office of Chinese Language Council International. Hanban is directly affiliated to the CCP’s Ministry of Education. All

aspects of operations, from hiring teachers to teaching materials, are controlled by the CCP’s ministry.

“Under the agreement with Hanban, schools receive an establishment grant of US\$10,000 for opening a Confucius Classroom and also receive free teaching materials (books and audio-visual material) from Hanban,” the report stated. “The volunteer teacher is also a significant resource provided by Hanban.”

According to a 2010 People’s Daily article, Chinese minister of propaganda Liu Yunshan openly said to his comrades regarding CIs, “Coordinate the efforts of overseas and domestic propaganda, [and] further create a favourable international environment for us.

“With regard to key issues that influence our sovereignty and safety, we should actively carry out international propaganda battles against issuers such as Tibet, Xinjiang, Taiwan, human rights and Falun Gong. ... We should do well in establishing and operating overseas cultural centres and Confucius Institutes.”

Discriminatory hiring practices and espionage have also been reported.

“The fact that numerous questions have been raised ... speaks to the conclusion that some see this arrangement as potentially compromising the department’s governance,” the report stated.

“To informed observers, the placement of an institute with foreign government involvement inside a government department is both unwise and problematic within the good governance expectations of our democratic political system.”

Associate professor in China Studies at the University of Technology Sydney, Dr. Feng Chongyi, told The Epoch Times the latest move by the NSW Government is a positive one and that he had always been opposed to having CCP-appointed officials oversee classroom operations in NSW “for a little profit.”

“In Confucius Institutes, not only are you not allowed to talk about anything not in the CCP’s interest, you cannot even say anything bad about the CCP—you cannot make any critical comments about the government. This is harmful to the core value of our democracy, freedom, and legal system,” he said. “It’s not appropriate even between democratic allied countries, let alone between the CCP and Australia.”

Feng added that given the trend of U.S. and Canadian universities using subtle ways to close down CIs, like not renewing contracts, “I’d expect universities in Australia follow soon.” CIs are found in 13 universities across Australia.

He was right. A few days later on Aug. 28, the federal government announced that it will be launching a task force to investigate foreign interference in Australian universities, without directly naming the CCP’s CIs.

Education Minister Dan Tehan says the task force comprises half university staff and half government agency officials. It will also have a cybersecurity working group to protect university networks against unauthorised access and damage.

Henry Jom, Melanie Sun, Reuters and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

China Charges Australian-Chinese Writer With Spying

Foreign Affairs Minister Marise Payne has expressed disappointment and concern following the formal arrest of Chinese-Australian writer and democracy advocate Dr. Yang Hengjun in Beijing.

Yang’s Australian lawyer Rob Stary said the basis for the espionage charges was unclear.

“We think it relates to espionage on behalf of Australia, but it’s not specified on the charge sheet,” Stary told AAP.

“We’d obviously be disturbed by that if it was the allegation because there is absolutely no foundation for it at all.”

Yang has been held in Beijing for more than seven months.

“Since that time, China has not explained the reasons for Yang’s detention, nor has it allowed him access to his lawyers or family visits,” Senator Payne said on Tuesday.

“It is important, and we expect, that basic standards of justice and procedural fairness are met.

“I respectfully reiterate my previous requests that if Yang is being held

for his political beliefs, he should be released.”

Yang, a former diplomat with China’s ministry of foreign affairs who became a pro-democracy campaigner and an Australian citizen in 2002, was detained in Guangzhou after arriving from the United States in January.

Chinese language reports have also reported that Yang’s wife used to be a well-known “50 cent party” commentator, often praising the CCP and attacking Western democracy before her husband’s arrest. She has since been widely criticized by Chinese netizens for pleading to Western countries to save her husband, the reports said.

Fairfax reported in April that Yang had been previously questioned by a Chinese government official in Sydney back in 2018 about a classified report that former government security adviser John Garnaut had written for the Turnbull government on Chinese Communist Party influence in Australian politics.

Stary suspects the espionage charge relates to Yang’s activism.



Yang Hengjun, author and former Chinese diplomat, who is now an Australian citizen, displays a name tag in an unspecified location in Tibet, China, mid-July, 2014.

“He’s a blogger and that’s what he does, he’s an academic, he’s of a different ilk,” he told AAP.

“He had been active and he’s been politically active in promoting democratic values. That’s the basis of it, as we understand.

“If there is no real or proper foundation for those charges, then he ought to be released and repatriated.”

Payne has discussed his plight with China’s foreign minister twice, and has written to him three times.

Embassy officials have visited Yang seven times since his detention, most recently on July 25.

“I will continue to advocate strongly on behalf of Yang to ensure a satisfactory explanation of the basis for his arrest, that he is treated humanely and that he is allowed to return home,” Payne said.

Last month, China told Payne to stop “issuing irresponsible remarks” and interfering in Yang’s case and reiterated its displeasure on Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Yang’s case is being handled in accordance with China’s laws and that he is in good health.

“The Australian side should earnestly respect China’s judicial sovereignty and must not ... interfere with a Chinese case,” Geng said.

Yang is a dual Chinese and Australian citizen, but Beijing does not recognise dual citizenship.

The 53-year-old has a doctorate from the University of Technology Sydney and was living in New York as a visiting scholar at Columbia University before being detained.

Human Rights Watch director Elaine Pearson said the treatment of Yang is “absolutely chilling.”

She said the Australian government should work with other governments whose citizens are wrongfully detained in China in order to step up pressure.

*By Daniel McCulloch
From AAP*

African Countries Take Bold Step to Cancel Chinese Investment Projects

DOMINIC KIRUI

NAIROBI, Kenya—Some African countries are cancelling Chinese development projects and licenses as governments wake up to the potential risks of such deals.

Over the past few years, the regime in Beijing has played a huge part in African development projects. At the same time, there have been concerns about how it carries out those projects, often luring African countries into so-called debt traps with the potential to put national assets at risk in the event of a default on repaying their loans.

On Aug. 2, the Financial Times reported that “the government of Sierra Leone has cancelled and suspended the licenses of several mining projects, including the Tonkolili and Marampa iron ore mines.” Major companies operating in Sierra Leone include China’s Shandong Iron and Steel, which owns the Tonkolili iron ore project, and Gerald Group, which owns the Marampa mines.

Since he ascended to power last year, Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio has made considerable changes to the law and reviewed mining contracts to ensure the country benefits from its natural resources.

In October 2018, Bio cancelled another Chinese-funded project, construction of the Mamamah airport, at a cost of \$400 million.

The project loan agreement with China had been signed by the country’s former president, Ernest Bai Koroma, before his reelection bid failed in March 2018.

During that time, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) issued a warning to the effect that the project would impose a heavy debt burden on Sierra Leone.

The then-Chinese ambassador to Sierra Leone, Wu Peng, told the BBC at the time the project was cancelled that relations wouldn’t sour between the two countries. “I don’t think the airport project should affect our future bilateral relations,” he said.

Tanzania

In June, Tanzanian President John Magufuli suspended a project by the Chinese to build the Bagamoyo port at a cost of \$10 billion, after failing to agree on the terms of the project. The project agreement had been signed by then-President Jakaya Kikwete and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, during Xi’s visit to the East African country in 2013.

It included a 4,200 acres economic zone, and was to be built by the Chi-



JOHN LUKUWI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A technician with a Chinese company works at the construction site of a bridge at Kurasini area in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on March 23, 2013.

Those investors are coming with tough conditions that can only be accepted by mad people.

Tanzanian President John Magufuli

nese state-owned China Merchants Port in partnership with Oman’s State General Reserve Fund.

“Those investors are coming with tough conditions that can only be accepted by mad people,” Magufuli said, according to Kenyan news website Tuko.

“The investor told us once they build the port, there should be no other port to be constructed from Tanga to Mtwara south. You are not even allowed to go and collect revenue, and the TRA [Tanzania Revenue Authority] is not allowed to step onto the port to collect revenue.

“Apart from that, they want us to give them a guarantee of 33 years and a lease of 99 years, and we should not question whoever comes to invest once the port is operational. They want to take the land as their own, but we have to compensate them for drilling construction of that port.

“I am saying this so that we understand that as a country we have been played with, and we need to change.”

Echoing that sentiment, Anzette Were, a Kenyan development economist, recently warned in a Twitter thread that African governments need to be careful about how they borrow from China to spend on development projects.

“It is important that African gov-

ernments manage & define the quality of investment they seek to encourage into their countries,” she wrote.

“Are there FDI [Foreign Direct Investment] strategies being deliberately employed by African governments to ensure the private sector interests in the continent are leveraged strategically?”

International Concern

In August 2018, 16 U.S. senators wrote a letter to U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressing concern about how China, through its One Belt, One Road initiative (OBOR, also known as Belt and Road initiative), was lending money to countries in Africa and other parts of the world, sometimes more than they could repay, and therefore luring them into a debt trap.

In the letter, the senators pointed out that some countries were already requesting that the IMF bail them out from loans that they owe Beijing, citing the case of Sri Lanka losing its port to China.

“The Centre for Global Development has estimated that of the 68 countries currently hosting the BRI-funded projects, 23 countries are at risk of debt distress, and in eight of those countries future BRI-related financing raises serious concerns

about sovereign debt sustainability,” the letter states.

“It also found that Chinese behaviour as a creditor has not been subject to the disciplines and standards that other major sovereign and multilateral creditors have adopted collectively, and in the process, debt levels and dependence on China are rising. As financially strapped countries negotiate with China to free themselves of mounting debt, Beijing has extracted onerous concessions, including equity in strategically important assets. Further, Beijing has repeatedly used economic pressure to affect foreign policy decisions.”

Outside of Africa, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, during his first visit to China in August 2018, after winning the election, announced the cancellation of three OBOR projects: the East Coast Rail Link and two gas pipelines, the Multi-Product Pipeline and Trans-Sabah Gas Pipeline.

The projects had been signed by his predecessor, Najib Razak, whom Mahathir has always criticised for embarking on these ventures, saying that they were detrimental to the country and its fiscal health. During his election campaign, Mahathir pledged to reduce Malaysia’s rising debt levels, and the OBOR projects would only increase such debt.

G-7 Leaders’ Support for Hong Kong Draws Fiery Criticism From China

CONTINUED FROM A1

systems” model.

“The G-7 reaffirms the existence and the importance of the 1984 Sino-British agreement on Hong Kong and calls for avoiding violence,” according to a statement issued at the conclusion of the G-7 summit in France.

Also on Monday, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson delivered a speech at the G-7, where he stated that the seven countries had a “deep concern” for Hong Kong. Mass protests over a controversial extradition bill and police-civilian clashes have rocked the city in recent months.

“The G-7 nations all want to support a stable and prosperous Hong Kong. And we remain collectively committed to the ‘one country, two systems’ framework,” Johnson said.

Western governments have voiced their concerns about the Chinese regime’s recent threats of sending troops to quash protests in Hong Kong, and have called on the Chinese regime to honour promises

it made in the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence urged on Aug. 19 that China “act in a humanitarian manner” and hinted at the importance of the Hong Kong issue for ongoing trade negotiations between China and the United States.

“For the United States to make a [trade] deal with China, Beijing needs to honour its commitments, beginning with the commitment China made in 1984 to respect the integrity of Hong Kong’s laws through the Sino-British Joint Declaration,” Pence said in a speech given at the Detroit Economic Club.

Responding to Pence’s remarks, China’s state-run broadcaster China Central Television in its evening primetime news programme claimed that the treaty had “become a historical document” upon Hong Kong’s transfer of sovereignty—a claim that the Chinese regime has used in the past when attacking



JOHN LUKUWI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson during a press conference at the conclusion of the G7 summit in Biarritz, France, on Aug. 24, 2019.

countries such as the U.K. and the United States that expressed concerns about China’s encroachment over Hong Kong affairs. The U.K. government has stated on multiple occasions that the declaration is still legally binding.

President Donald Trump at the G-7 summit also showed tacit support for Hong Kong by putting it in the context of the Sino-U.S. trade war.

Commenting on Chinese Vice Premier Liu He’s statement that

he hoped for a “calm resolution” in the trade dispute, Trump said that Liu’s statement also sent a positive message for Hong Kong.

“I think it makes it easier for Hong Kong to do something. And I think that President Xi will do something with Hong Kong. I really think that message is a good message with respect to what the ultimate outcome is in Hong Kong,” Trump said.

Epoch Times reporter Frank Fang contributed to this report.

Beijing Lawyer Threatened By Authorities After Travelling to Hong Kong and Attending Protests

CONTINUED FROM A1

nese authorities contacted him and warned that he'll face consequences. Chen, 33, received his bachelor degree in law from Heilongjiang University and received his license to practice law in 2014. That year, Chen also participated in a Chinese reality competition show, "I Am A Speaker," whereby contestants vie for mentorship after making speeches. He won second place and became famous across the country. Currently, Chen works for the Beijing-based Long'an Law Firm.

Forced To Leave Hong Kong

Chen visited Hong Kong as a tourist on Aug. 17 and planned to go back on Aug. 23. On Weibo, a Chinese Twitter-like social media platform, he explained that he wished to see the situation in Hong Kong for himself, rather than relying on Chinese state-run media's coverage. For nearly three months, locals have staged mass protests in opposition to an extradition bill that would allow the Chinese regime to transfer individuals for trial in mainland China. Many fear that the bill would allow the Chinese regime, with a history of human rights violations and an opaque legal system, to punish its critics with impunity. Chinese state propaganda have portrayed the protests as the work of violent rioters who are being directed by foreign governments. "I'm by myself with my cellphone, selfie stick, mainland China ID, lawyer license, and Hong Kong and Macau travel pass. I hope to witness what's happened here, and listen to local people's voices," Chen said in his first video shot in Hong Kong, which he then shared on Weibo, on Aug. 17. Chen attended anti-extradition-bill rallies as well as demonstrations organised by pro-police groups. While the former have criticised local police for firing tear gas, rubber bullets, bean bag rounds, and other crowd control equipment to disperse protesters at recent events, the latter have supported the police actions. On Aug. 18, Chen posted his video about the Aug. 17 pro-police rally, in which he said: "[Pro-Beijing] media said 470,000 people participated in the activity yesterday, but I didn't see that there were that many people ... most of the participants are middle-aged or seniors, many of them members of the local Wenzhou Association or Dongguan Association, and mainland Chinese tourists." The associations he mentioned are



Protesters take part in a rally as they march on a street in Hong Kong, on Aug. 18, 2019.

Three days in Hong Kong may ruin my three years of hard work [to obtain the lawyer license].

Chen Qiushi, Beijing lawyer



Beijing lawyer Chen Qiushi as seen in videos he took from Hong Kong demonstrations that he attended from Aug. 17 to Aug. 20, 2019.

fraternity organisations founded by mainland Chinese who live in Hong Kong but keep close ties with their mainland hometowns. Wenzhou is located in the eastern province of Zhejiang and Dongguan in neighbouring Guangdong Province. Many such fraternity associations are front groups for the Chinese government's United Front Work Department, an agency tasked with persuading those inside and outside China to support Beijing's agenda. Chen then attended the mass rally at Victoria Park on Aug. 18. Chen said in his video: "From 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. when I left, protesters kept on entering and leaving [the park]." Organisers said that 1.7 million Hongkongers attended the rally that day.

On Aug. 20 evening, Chen posted his ninth video from Hong Kong, in which he said: "I'm at the Hong Kong airport now and need to fly back to the mainland immediately... Because the [Beijing] police bureau, judicial bureau, bar association, and my law firm called me and told me: 'Qiushi, you can't stay in that sensitive place [Hong Kong]. Nobody can protect you if you don't leave soon.'" Chen said his videos—which successfully evaded Chinese censors for several days before they were removed between Aug. 19 and 20—angered Beijing authorities. He added that he was worried his lawyer license could be revoked due to his frank comments on Hong Kong. "Three days in Hong Kong may ruin my three years of hard work [to ob-

tain the lawyer license]," Chen said in his last Hong Kong video. All of Chen's videos have since been deleted, but have been re-uploaded and retained by netizens who posted them on YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter. **Chen's Video** Chen said in his first Hong Kong video that he wished to view the events without bias. "I want to put my prejudices down and treat everything I see with a neutral attitude as much as possible." Chen also remarked on how coverage of the ongoing protests diverged so sharply between Hong Kong and mainland Chinese media. It is "as different as heaven and earth," he remarked. He explained that local media have reported that the female volunteer medic was shot by a bean bag round—likely fired by police—during a recent protest, while Chinese state media claimed that she was shot by her "pig teammate." Meanwhile, locals suspect that a group of white-shirt mobs who attacked passengers inside the Yuen Long metro station are connected to local triads. Chinese state media has called them "patriotic youths," Chen explained.

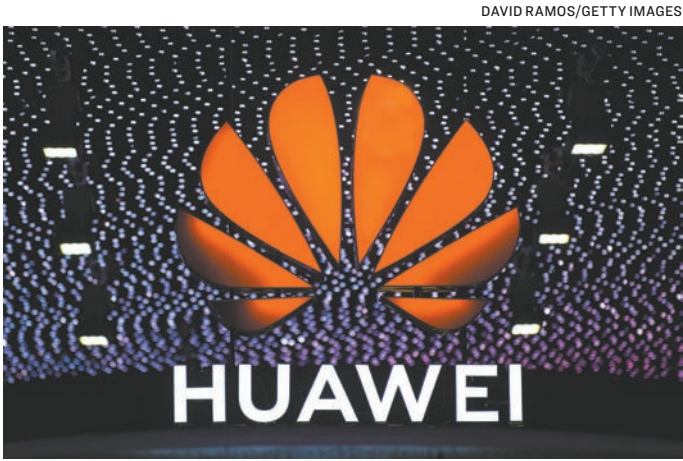
Chen's Fate

After posting his last video at the Hong Kong airport on Aug. 20, Chen could not be reached when several Chinese activists tried to contact him through phone and social media. But on Aug. 21, several Hong Kong media reported that they were able to reach Chen and that he said he was safe. Xu Xiaodong, a Beijing-based professional boxer, shared a photo he took with Chen on Twitter on the morning of Aug. 21, but did not disclose where they met. Since then, Xu did not give any updates about Chen. Voice of America reported on Aug. 23 that it contacted the Beijing Bar Association and Chen's employer, but both refused to provide information about Chen's whereabouts. The Epoch Times has tried reaching Chen via social media, but he has not responded by press time. Amnesty International has raised concerns that Chen could be punished by Chinese authorities. "In the past there have been cases of mainlanders harassed or taken away by the authorities after attending protests in Hong Kong," Doriane Lau, China researcher at Amnesty International Hong Kong, told South China Morning Post on Aug. 21.

'Claws of the Red Dragon' Seeks to Expose Huawei's Role in Beijing's Tech Ambitions

EVA FU & JANITA KAN

A film set for release this fall seeks to shed light on the connection between Huawei Technologies—the world's largest maker of telecommunications gear—and China's ruling communist party. The film, titled "Claws of the Red Dragon," was inspired by the arrest of Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou at Vancouver International Airport last year at the request of the U.S. government, and the subsequent deterioration of the Canada-China relationship. In what has widely been viewed as retaliation, the Chinese regime detained two Canadians and accused them of spying, while also sentencing another two Canadians to death for drug-related crimes. Meng, who is the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, was charged by U.S. prosecutors with conspiracy and fraud in connection with violations of U.S. sanctions on Iran. The U.S. government is currently seeking her extradition. Ren, who officially



A logo outside the Huawei booth at the GSMA Mobile World Congress 2019 in Barcelona, Spain, on Feb. 26, 2019.

holds 1.4 percent of Huawei's shares, has a background in the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). "Claws of the Red Dragon" attempts to expose "the inner workings of the [Chinese Communist Party] and Huawei," said former White House chief strategist Stephen Bannon, one of the film's executive producers. "This is a very powerful film," Bannon said in an interview with The Epoch Times's programme American Thought Leaders. "I think it opens up and explains in a dramatic form exactly what's going on with Chi-

na's encroachment into the technology area throughout the world. People will be shocked. "I've tested [it] here in the United States in Washington ... tested it with some fairly senior people in the U.S. government, and they were stunned by some of the revelations in the film," he added. Bannon, who is currently the chairman of the Rule of Law Society and co-founder of the Committee on the Present Danger: China, said the film is significant, since it explores the looming threat the Chinese regime poses to the West through its global technological dominance ambitions. "The backbone of the future of technology is 5G; [it] will be a dominant technology," Bannon said. "Right now, the path that Huawei has taken as a front for the PLA is to basically take over the networks and the components throughout the world. If we allow this to happen, even for a couple of more years, Huawei is going to control basically the communications systems of the West

and, therefore, will be able to control the West." President Donald Trump has deemed Huawei a "national security threat," saying on Aug. 19 that "at this moment, it looks much more like we're not going to do business." The company has been fighting a trade ban since May, amid the ongoing U.S.-Sino trade war. The ban has effectively blocked Huawei from doing business with U.S. companies without a special license. U.S. officials have repeatedly voiced strong concerns that Huawei's equipment could be used by the Chinese regime for spying, given the company's close ties to Beijing. A recent study found that about 100 Huawei staffers had links to Chinese military or intelligence agencies. The firm's former CEO, Sun Yafang, also worked for China's top espionage agency, the Ministry of State Security, before joining the company. Research conducted by cybersecurity firm Finite State in June found more than 102 known vulnerabilities among

the 550 Huawei devices examined, exposing users to security risks. The Trump administration has also barred Huawei from building U.S. next-generation 5G networks over national-security concerns, and has cautioned U.S. allies against working with Huawei. So far, the United States has blacklisted more than 100 Huawei affiliates. Officials granted a 90-day extension on Aug. 19 that allows the firm to buy U.S. products, while giving U.S. companies more time to transition away from doing business with Huawei. "We've been very clear with Canada and with all of our allies that we consider Huawei incompatible with the security interests of the United States of America or our allies in freedom-loving nations across the world," Vice President Mike Pence said during a May press conference in Ottawa, Canada. The film will be distributed by Epoch Times affiliate NTD and stars Dorren Lee, Taras Lavren, and Eric Peterson.

Financial Impact of HK Crisis Threatens China Economy

FAN YU

News Analysis

An ancillary development to the worsening social-political situation unfolding in Hong Kong is that the city’s global standing as an international financial center has been irreparably damaged.

How the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and, by extension, Carrie Lam’s government have treated the ongoing protests in Hong Kong is deteriorating to the point of no return. Regardless of how the protests are handled as the calendar marches towards Oct. 1—the 70th anniversary of the CCP’s rule over China—global investors and business leaders have been frightened enough that Hong Kong’s days as a leading business hub and financial gateway to China are numbered.

That’s a terrible development for China and its economy.

Since April, when protests against the now-suspended extradition bill first escalated, Hong Kong’s benchmark Hang Seng Index has fallen by 11 percent. On Aug. 15, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) slashed its 2019 GDP forecast for the city to zero to 1 percent, from 2 to 3 percent and compared to 3 percent growth in 2018.

Hotel prices have fallen, and airline traffic is down—driven by both lower tourism and lower level of business activity. Numerous global corporations have issued internal memos recommending a moratorium on Hong Kong travel. The South China Morning Post—an English-language Hong Kong newspaper owned by Chinese internet giant Alibaba—reported that some five-star hotel rooms have cut their rates to below HKD 1,000 (\$128) per night, less than half of the normal rates.

Hong Kong Financial Worries Deepen

Hong Kong serves as the Asia and Greater China regional headquarters for many multinational companies. The city’s residents are fluent in Chinese and English, and Hong Kong’s proximity to China, along with its many freedoms and legal framework, all lend well to international companies in their consideration for a base for regional operations.

But the increased meddling in Hong Kong’s affairs by Beijing and the CCP—despite the “one country, two systems” mantra—are undermining Hong Kong’s status.

“Hong Kong’s international reputation for the rule of law is its priceless treasure,” the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong said in a statement in March after the extradition measure was first introduced.



Traders work at the stock exchange in Hong Kong on April 9, 2015.

The biggest and most immediate manifestation of business sentiment souring on Hong Kong is capital flight.



People from the financial community hold up umbrellas and shine lights during a protest against a controversial extradition bill in Hong Kong on Aug. 1, 2019.

If the business community engages in a mass withdrawal, it will have severe consequences for both Hong Kong and China.

The biggest and most immediate manifestation of business sentiment souring on Hong Kong is capital flight.

An indication of capital flight is the value of the Hong Kong dollar (HKD). The HKD has been pegged to the U.S. dollar since the early 1980s, but in recent weeks, the currency has settled at the lower end of its range because of the political turmoil.

As the HKD is pegged to the U.S. dollar, the HKMA, Hong Kong’s de facto central bank and treasury, has been spending its U.S. dollar reserves to prop up the HKD currency. In fact, Hong Kong’s interbank dollar liquidity has been dwindling over the last year. Its closing aggregate balance of \$54.5 billion on Aug. 23 was 41 percent lower than a year ago, and 70 percent lower since the beginning of 2018.

This squeezes Hong Kong’s dollar liquidity and could force a spike in interbank lending rates (the HIBOR), potentially triggering a banking crisis and ultimately lead to the abandonment of the linked exchange rate system or the Hong Kong dollar as a viable currency.

In an Aug. 20 note to clients, Mor-

gan Stanley analysts cut their 2019 Hong Kong GDP target to -0.3 percent and set a price target of 21,500 points for the Hang Seng index, which represents an 18 percent decline from the Aug. 23 close. While the bank expects the pegged exchange rate system to hold, Morgan Stanley Asia FX strategist Chun Him Cheung expects HIBOR to be volatile going forward, putting stress on the local financial sector.

Hedge fund manager and noted China bear Kyle Bass described the situation more bluntly. “Hong Kong currently sits atop one of the largest financial time bombs in history,” he wrote in a recent investor letter.

Hong Kong’s Importance to China

There’s no doubt Beijing has been preparing for a day when China’s economy is completely decoupled from Hong Kong. But that day hasn’t arrived.

While China has been less and less dependent upon Hong Kong as an export hub since joining the World Trade Organisation, Hong Kong still handles around 15 percent of China’s foreign trade. More importantly, Hong Kong’s status as a regional financial and business center isn’t as easily replaceable. Businesses, investors, and residents fleeing Hong Kong is a true net negative for China.

From 2010 to 2018, Hong Kong has handled about 64 percent of the foreign direct investment into China. Its liquid Western-style capital markets have been a boon for Chinese companies seeking foreign capital. During the same period, Hong Kong was the destination for 73 percent of mainland Chinese companies’ offshore IPOs, 60 percent of all offshore bond issuances, 26 percent of offshore syndicated loans, as well as the global center for offshore yuan (CNH) trading activity, according to data from French global bank BNP Paribas.

There’s simply no viable mainland alternative to Hong Kong. Its highly skilled and English-proficient workforce, free markets, rules-based legal structure, and U.S.-dollar-pegged currency environment can’t be readily replaced.

Despite recent plans by Beijing to reposition Shenzhen—a Guangdong Province city just across the border from Hong Kong—as a major financial hub, its CCP governance structure and draconian social credit system are likely a non-starter for international businesses seeking a new home.

To China’s detriment, the biggest beneficiaries to Hong Kong’s demise will likely be Singapore or Taipei.

EU Set to Raise Trade Barriers on US, China Tech Firms

CHRISS STREET

News Analysis

European Union officials are pushing President-elect Ursula von der Leyen to update its Standards Policy to favour EU tech firms by slapping tariffs on the United States and China.

During the rise of globalism and internationalisation of supply chains, the European Union supported multilateral standards development organisations (SDOs), with the argument that they would ensure greater innovation by providing global users and vendors with common technology platforms that ensure component compatibility.

But a growing number of EU members are now complaining about the rise of U.S. and Chinese companies such as Google, Tencent, Apple, Huawei, Amazon, Microsoft, and Facebook that have overwhelmed domestic companies in the 28-member EU bloc. The complaints never gained traction because EU votes must be unanimous,



Flags of the European Union fly next to flags of EU member countries at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France, on July 1, 2019.

and the United Kingdom opposed issuing protectionist trade barriers to prop up failing businesses.

With the United Kingdom set to “Brexite” from the EU on Oct. 31, European Commission members have drafted a 173-page road map to “level the playing field” by updating technology standards to favor firms within the remaining 27-nation bloc, invest over \$100 billion for shareholder stakes in high-potential European enterprises, and pay for the initiative by slapping tariffs on U.S. and Chinese firms.

According to Politico, the goal is to “get Europe competing head-on with the American and Chinese tech giants it has lagged behind for decades.” Meanwhile, France and Germany have been advocating for more interventionist action to protect domestic jobs.

There are no European companies in the world’s top 10 market value technology companies. Those include Apple, valued at \$963.33 billion; Samsung Electronics Co. at \$221.6 billion; Microsoft at \$995.324 billion; Alphabet (Google) at \$885.97 billion; Intel at \$234.73 billion; IBM at \$124.08 billion; Facebook at \$546.606 billion; Hon Hai Precision, also known as Foxconn, at \$6023.96 billion; Tencent at \$462.116 billion; and Oracle at \$189.37 billion, at the time of writing.

A decade ago, Europe featured competitive tech giants with phones from Finnish Nokia, German Siemens, French Alcatel, and Swedish Ericsson, as well as TVs from Dutch Philips. But all the Eu-

ropean consumer electronics and personal computers hardware companies are basically nonexistent, and Phillips sold off its TV unit. The only top tier EU tech company is music service Spotify, with a market cap of \$25 billion and falling.

The EU blames the absence of EU tech innovation leaders on the lack of competitiveness regulation, investment climate geography, aging demographics, the attitude of EU citizens toward technology, and weak startup ecosystems.

Fortune Magazine found in 2015 that European tech startups were funded at a multiple of 2.6 times revenue, versus 3.9 times for U.S. startups. But instead of bias explaining the lower valuation, geography also is a factor: Launching global services in large homogenous markets such as the United States or China makes it easier to achieve scale, compared to adapting the product to 30 languages, legal systems, and cultures.

The draft EU policy would

feature an enforcement regulation to retaliate if the Trump administration decides to grind the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to a halt by refusing to confirm new judges to its trade arbitration court. In late July, Trump ordered the WTO to stop letting China and other economies to receive lenient treatment under global trade rules by calling themselves “developing” countries.

EU Antitrust Commissioner Margrethe Vestager has already targeted U.S. tech companies for various fines including \$15 billion against Apple, \$4.5 billion against Google, \$960 million against Qualcomm, and \$275 million against Amazon, and she is expected to fine Facebook about \$5 billion.

The proposed EU policy also urges von der Leyen to implement an EU-wide unemployment insurance program in the first 100 days of her administration. Such a fund would require approval by the European Parliament and the 27 EU governments.

Calls to Label Mexican Cartels as Terror Groups as They Grow Stronger, More Violent

CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON

WASHINGTON—The homicide rate in Mexico is rising at a record-setting pace this year, with more than 30,000 murders in the first seven months.

It’s on target to hit almost 51,500 deaths by year’s end—about 1,000 more than in 2018 and 6,000 more than in 2017. That’s not accounting for the huge number of disappearances.

Cartel wars are causing bloodshed at the border, as well as in large port areas and major drug production areas.

Tamaulipas state, which borders Texas, has a U.S. State Department Level 4 travel advisory, which is a “do not travel” warning—the same as that given to Libya, Syria, and Afghanistan.

“Violent crime, such as murder, armed robbery, carjacking, kidnapping, extortion, and sexual assault, is common,” the State Department website warns about Tamaulipas. “Gang activity, including gun battles and blockades, is widespread. Armed criminal groups target public and private passenger buses as well as private automobiles travelling through Tamaulipas, often taking passengers hostage and demanding ransom payments. Federal and state security forces have limited capability to respond to violence in many parts of the state.”

Derek Maltz, former head of the Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) special operations division, is advocating for the State Department to label some Mexican cartels as terrorist organisations. Such a designation, he said, would help focus resources and give broader legal authorities to target and prosecute cartels.

“Obviously, law enforcement authorities alone have not been sufficient to address the cartel threat to America,” Maltz said. “[Cartels] are causing more death and destruction than any other organisation, in the history of my life, to America.”

Maltz argues that America’s drug crisis, fuelled by the cartels, is not just a health emergency, but also an unprecedented national security threat. In 2018, almost 70,000 people died of drug overdoses in the United States.

“It’s almost like a jihad against our country,” Maltz said, adding that major heroin traffickers in Afghanistan have said that selling heroin to the West is a way to perform a jihad.

“They’re killing the citizens of our country, they’re destroying our country, they’re causing us to focus our resources on this problem, [and] it’s helping to destabilise our country.

“Now you have Chinese organised crime that are making mass



Local police and paramedics help a man who is overdosing in the Drexel neighborhood of Dayton, Ohio, on Aug. 3, 2017.

The majority of cocaine, meth, heroin, fentanyl is coming from Mexico, and the cartels are controlling all of it throughout almost every city in America.

Derek Maltz, former head of special operations division, DEA



Photo illustration of 2 milligrams of fentanyl—a lethal dose for most people—next to a one cent coin.

amounts of fentanyl in these labs in China ... selling it to the Mexican cartels. [They’re] combining the fentanyl with all the other drugs that they’re selling and dumping these chemicals into our country. Well, the chemicals are like a poisonous chemical attack.”

The Arizona DEA stated on Aug. 22 that more than 1 million fentanyl pills have been seized in Arizona so far this fiscal year. Seizures of fentanyl have tripled each year since 2016, when it first appeared in the United States.

The DEA stated that fentanyl was first used in heroin as an additive to exponentially increase its potency, but then Mexican cartels began to manufacture their own fentanyl and press the drug into pill form, marketing the pills as “Mexican oxy.”

In late August, the secretary of the Mexican navy announced the seizure of an estimated 23,000 kilograms (50,706 pounds, or 25 tons) of powdered fentanyl from China, bound for Sinaloa.

The fentanyl was found in a container ship travelling from Shanghai under a Danish flag, to Mexico’s largest port on its west coast, Lazaro Cardenas in Michoacan state.

“The majority of ... cocaine, meth, heroin, fentanyl is coming from Mexico, and the cartels are controlling all of it throughout almost every city in America,” Maltz said. “They’re making billions and billions of dollars.”

Related Gang Violence

Maltz said the gang violence on the streets of cities such as Chicago and Baltimore can be directly tied to Mexican cartels “a hundred percent.”

“Jalisco cartel and the Sinaloa cartel have been fighting for territory in Chicago. The gangs are all receiving large amounts of drugs,” he said, adding that the former head of the Sinaloa cartel, Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán, built up territory all over Chicago. But when El Chapo started to get weak, the Jalisco cartel gained ground.

“Now you have the allegiance between the gang members and they’re just fighting like crazy in Chicago.”

Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas) agrees and said they’re not just fighting over drugs. Roy said Homeland Security staff told him two weeks ago that the Gulf Cartel alone is making \$2 million a week smuggling people.

Roy introduced legislation in March to urge the State Department to designate three cartels as foreign terrorist organisations: the Reynosa/Los Metros faction of the Gulf Cartel, the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, and the Cartel Del Noreste faction of Los Zetas.

The State Department criteria for designating terror organisations is related to the Foreign Relations Authorisation Act and requires that the group must be a foreign organisation and that its “terrorist activity or terrorism must threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national

security (national defence, foreign relations, or the economic interests) of the United States.”

Current groups that have such a designation include Hezbollah, ISIS, HAMAS, Shining Path, Palestine Liberation Front, and al-Qaeda.

The Epoch Times asked the State Department if it had or was considering designating any Mexican cartels as terrorist organisations. A spokesperson said, “We don’t discuss deliberations or the potential deliberations of our designations process.”

The connection between terrorist groups and Mexican cartels has been proven.

A DEA investigation launched in 2008, called Project Cassandra, unravelled the cocaine trafficking operation between Hezbollah and the Los Zetas cartel into the United States and around the world. Hezbollah was sending huge amounts of laundered money back to Lebanon through cocaine shipments and used car sales.

However, the Obama administration derailed the investigation in its quest to sign the Iran nuclear deal, according to a 2017 Politico article.

Along the Border

Roy said the cartels are causing “enormous instability” along the border.

“I think that they’re carrying out activities that are deserving of characterising them as foreign terrorist organisations for targeting American citizens across our border, they’re moving people into our country for profit to undermine our national security and sovereignty,” he said.

Roy said there are several possible reasons why the designation hasn’t gained more support.

“One, and maybe somewhat legitimate, is that there is always a question of sort of ideology, and what is driving the targeting and you don’t want to water down how we do terrorist organisations broadly,” he said.

The second, and more likely, reason is that some people in the executive branch believe the new Remain in Mexico policy may become more difficult to implement, he said. Under Remain in Mexico, or Migrant Protection Protocols, the United States is sending asylum-seekers back to Mexico to wait out their asylum claim.

But the cartels are stronger than ever and shouldn’t be underestimated, he said.

“We’re talking about surface-to-air missiles, grenades. They have armored vehicles. They have big machine guns on the top of the vehicles. I mean, these guys are brutal and ruthless. ... They’re hanging people on fence posts, they’re cutting off heads, dropping people in acid—they’re relentless.”

Trump Regrets Not Raising China Tariffs Higher, White House Says

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

President Donald Trump regrets not raising tariffs on China higher in response to Beijing’s latest trade war escalation, according to the White House.

The White House issued a statement on the issue early on Aug. 25 in response to news reports that misinterpreted Trump’s affirmative response to a question on whether he was having second thoughts about escalating the trade war with China.

“His answer has been greatly misinterpreted. President Trump responded in the affirmative—because he regrets not raising the tariffs higher,” White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said in a statement.

During a question-and-answer session with reporters at the G-7 summit in France, Trump was asked whether he was having second thoughts about escalating the trade



President Donald Trump on the White House lawn on Aug. 21, 2019.

war. Trump said, “Yeah, sure. Why not?” He added, “Might as well, might as well,” when asked the same question.

“I have second thoughts about everything,” Trump said.

News outlets including The New York Times and The Associated Press interpreted Trump’s comments as a softening on his stance on China. Neither outlet altered its headline after receiving

clarification from the White House, interpreting the statement as a reversal.

White House economic advisor Larry Kudlow told CBS on Aug. 25 that Trump “didn’t quite hear the question.”

The G-7 summit comes days after Trump raised tariffs on China, in response to Beijing’s announcement on Aug. 23 that it would impose new tariffs on \$75 billion in U.S. goods. The president also threatened to declare a national emergency to force U.S. businesses to cut ties with China.

Trump said he had “no plans right now” to follow through on his emergency declaration threat, but said he would be within his rights to use a 1977 law designed to target rogue regimes, terrorists, and drug traffickers as the newest weapon in the clash between the world’s two largest economies.

“If I want, I could declare a

national emergency,” Trump said. He cited China’s theft of intellectual property and the large U.S. trade deficit with China, saying, “In many ways, that’s an emergency.”

The president has previously criticised China for sending large amounts of the deadly opioid fentanyl into the United States via the U.S. postal system and over the southern border via Mexico.

Trump then entered the first official summit meeting, initially set as a discussion of foreign policy and security issues. White House aides said he made a late addition of economic issues to the summit agenda.

White House officials said Trump planned to press leaders to do more to spur economic growth, as well as to open European, Japanese, and Canadian markets to U.S. manufacturers and producers. Trump has threatened to impose tariffs on all three

markets in his pursuit of free, fair, and reciprocal trade.

The meeting of the Group of Seven nations—the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States—in Biarritz, France, comes as Trump’s trade war with China peaked in intensity, in terms of both the amount of tariffs each side has imposed and the president’s rhetoric on the matter.

“We’re having a little spat with China, and we’ll win it,” Trump said before departing to France on Aug. 23.

“Actually, we’re getting along very well with China right now. We’re talking. I think they want to make a deal much more than I do. We’re getting a lot of money in tariffs. It’s coming in by the billions. We never got 10 cents from China. So we’ll see what happens. But we are talking to China very seriously.”

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

Two MIT Media Lab Educators to Leave Over Institute’s Ties to Epstein

BOWEN XIAO

Two educators affiliated with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Media Lab announced that they will end their relationships with the institute because of its ties to now-deceased sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, who had been facing trial on child sex-trafficking charges.

The Media Lab is facing a crisis of sorts after Joichi Ito, the director of the interdisciplinary research laboratory, revealed in a statement that he had previously associated with Epstein and received investment funds from the wealthy financier. He is also a member of the board at The New York Times Co., among other organisations.

In his Aug. 15 statement, Ito said he had met Epstein in 2013 at a conference, “through a trusted business friend.” He said in his fundraising efforts, he invited Epstein to the lab and also visited several of the financier’s residences. Ito said throughout all his interactions, he was “never involved in, never heard him talk about, and never saw any evidence of the horrific acts that he was accused of.”

“Regrettably, over the years, the Lab has received money through some of the foundations that he [Epstein] controlled. I knew about these gifts and these funds were received with my permission,” Ito wrote. “I also allowed him to invest in several of my funds which invest in tech startup companies outside of MIT.”

Following Ito’s apology, associate professor Ethan Zuckerman and visiting scholar J. Nathan Matias said they would end their association with the lab, citing its ties to Epstein as being the cause.

Zuckerman wrote in his statement: “For me, the deep involvement of Epstein in the life of the Media Lab is something that makes my work impossible to carry forward there.”

Matias wrote in his statement: “As part of our work, CivilServant does research on protecting women and other vulnerable people online from abuse and harassment.

“I cannot with integrity do that from a place with the kind of relationship that the Media Lab has had with Epstein. It’s that simple.”

Seth Lloyd, a professor of mechanical engineering and physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, also wrote an apology statement over the fact that Epstein



The MacLaurin Buildings on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass., on Feb. 22, 2006.



Joichi Ito, Director of the MIT Media Lab, in Half Moon Bay, Calif., on March 1, 2016.

I’m happy that the school’s kind of taking the steps ... I’m just kind of concerned they were kind of late doing it. We have known about Epstein for many, many years.

Manny Alicandro, MIT graduate

gave his foundation a grant to support his research. Lloyd didn’t say he was resigning.

MIT President Addresses Ties

In an Aug. 22 internal email addressed to members of the MIT community and obtained by The Epoch Times, university President L. Rafael Reif divulged how much money the university has received from Epstein over the years, and outlined steps it would take to address the situation. “Over the course of 20 years, MIT

received approximately \$800,000 via foundations controlled by Jeffrey Epstein. All of those gifts went either to the MIT Media Lab or to professor Seth Lloyd,” Reif wrote.

He added that the university will commit an amount “equal to the funds” it received to an appropriate charity that benefits Epstein’s alleged victims and other victims of sexual abuse.

MIT graduate Manny Alicandro told The Epoch Times the school’s latest response was too slow, al-

though it’s welcome.

“I’m happy that the school’s kind of taking the steps,” he said in an interview. “I’m just kind of concerned they were kind of late doing it. We have known about Epstein for many, many years.

“There’s a question about Epstein right now in terms of how he made his money: Was it from ill-gotten gains? We just don’t know. So the school was taking it at face value that it was legit money.”

In a 2015 Reuters article, MIT denied accepting any money from Epstein. The financier, who federal prosecutors say was worth more than \$500 million, claimed in a July 2014 press release that he provided “critical funding” for scientists at Harvard and MIT to restore five murals by Mark Rothko, and, in a September 2014 release, said he gave money to the MIT Media Lab to teach toddlers computer programming.

The Rothko press release “was simply not correct, and was issued without our knowledge or agreement,” and the toddler press release was also “completely incorrect,” said MIT Media Lab spokeswoman Alexandra Kahn in an email at the time, according to Reuters.

Nearly 2,000 pages of documents relating to Epstein were unsealed on Aug. 9. The documents, from a lawsuit by one of Epstein’s accusers, Virginia Giuffre, listed new names allegedly involved in Epstein’s trafficking ring and more details around the claims of trafficking of minor girls by the multimillionaire and his former girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell.

The New York City Medical Examiner’s office concluded on Aug. 16 that Epstein died by suicide from hanging in his cell. Epstein’s lawyers say they are “not satisfied” with the results and have vowed to conduct their own investigation into his death.

Epstein pleaded guilty in Florida in 2008 to state charges of soliciting a child for prostitution under a non-prosecution agreement that required him to spend 13 months in jail and register as a sex offender. The agreement has been condemned for ending a broad federal child sex abuse probe involving at least 40 teenage girls, which could have landed Epstein in jail for life.

Epoch Times reporter Ivan Pentchoukov contributed to this report.

Trump Responds to Think-Tank Report Warning of Rising Chinese Military Prowess

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Growing Military Threat

While China is making large-scale investments to advance its military systems and growing “ever more capable of challenging the region order by force,” the report assessed that the United States was facing a crisis due to “an increasingly worrying mismatch between U.S. strategy and resources,” the report stated.

According to the report, the Chinese government has been systematically upgrading and expanding its inventory of missiles for the past 15 years. With up to 1,500 short-range ballistic missiles, 450 medium-range missiles, 160 intermediate-range missiles, and hundreds of long-range ground-launched cruise missiles, it can strike targets as far as the U.S. territory of Guam, where major U.S. Air Force and Navy operating bases are located, the report said.

The precision strikes of accurate long-range missiles could render useless the



America’s strategy is to work with partners, that is the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and Singapore, to make sure that no one country, including China, has the ability to control or deny others access to international waters like the South China Sea.

John Jordan, former senior U.S. Navy intelligence officer

American and allied military facilities in the Western Pacific “in the opening hours of a conflict,” challenging the U.S.’s ability to respond promptly, the report concluded.

Some regional conflicts could include an attempt to take over Taiwan, a de-facto independent country that Beijing considers its renegade province; the Japan-administered Senkaku Islands, which Beijing also claims as its own; or Scarborough Shoal, a disputed area of the South China Sea claimed by China, Taiwan, and the Philippines.

US Strategy

Despite the concerns, the researchers noted that the United States remained the world’s leading military power and would continue to serve as a “military counterweight to China in the region.” In a power index of countries with interests in the Indo-Pacific, the Sydney-based think tank Lowy Institute also recently ranked the United States a score of

94.7 out of 100 in military strength, followed by China at a score of 66.1.

Former Senior U.S. Navy Intelligence Officer John Jordan disagreed with the Australian study findings, explaining that the United States has consistently replenished its military equipment, with new technologies such as the Virginia-class attack submarine, Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, USS Ford-class aircraft carriers, and the B21 bomber.

He believed the U.S. military was fully capable of confronting a Chinese military buildup. “America is very aware of the threat that China and Russia want to be,” Jordan said in a phone interview with The Epoch Times.

He added that the U.S. strategy of working with Indo-Pacific allies has deterred a conflict from occurring. “America’s strategy is to work with partners, that is the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and Singapore, to make sure that no one country, including

China, has the ability to control or deny others access to international waters like the South China Sea,” he said. The United States frequently conducts freedom-of-navigation operations in parts of the South China Sea.

On Aug. 20, Trump responded to a reporter’s question about the Australian study by saying, “Nothing keeps me up at night,” warning that China would “pay a price that they wouldn’t want to pay” should there be a conflict.

Peter Huessy, president of the Maryland-based defense and national security consulting firm GeoStrategic Analysis, agreed with the president’s assessment.

“What the president is saying is, with the modernisation plans that he’s put into place, we will continue to have the premium military in the world,” Huessy said in a phone interview.

With that said, he added that China’s ambitions should be closely monitored, as it seeks to build hegemonic control over trade

routes, as well as access to seaports, oil exploration, and gas development. Beijing’s One Belt, One Road initiative seeks to build geopolitical influence through financing infrastructure projects in Indo-Pacific countries.

“China is a bully, and [it] has been bullying countries all over the world,” said Huessy, who is also a columnist for this publication.

He noted that China was good at playing “the innocent party.”

For example, about a week ago, the United States tested an intermediate-range cruise missile that would have formally been banned under the INF treaty—but the United States had withdrawn from the agreement on Aug. 2. The test drew a strong-worded protest from China. The missile was designed to counter the growing number of missiles in China’s arsenal, Huessy said.

He called on the U.S. administration to form a stronger coalition with Indo-Pacific allies to “tell the Chinese to stand down.”

Trying to Saddle a Crocodile: Iran and JCPOA

PETER HUESSY

The nuclear agreement with Iran, known by the strange title of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is on life support and badly in need of a complete overhaul.

But any serious change to this “deal” requires that the parties involved recognise their options. Those options are accepting that they will soon have a nuclear-armed Iran because of the flaws in the current agreement, or they admit the deal isn’t comprehensive enough to do the job and they need to change it.

What the deal required was a minimum of showcase photo-ops of centrifuge equipment that met JCPOA requirements, but actually helped with camouflaging the building of what former CIA and NSA Director Gen. Michael Hayden described as an Iranian “industrial-strength nuclear technology” that will ultimately provide Tehran with the ability to quickly build an arsenal of nuclear weapons, the very capability the “deal” was supposedly designed to stop.

The current Iranian diversion of “interfering with oil tanker traffic in the Gulf” actually provides the very opportunity to cement a strong alliance not just for maritime security, but for them using that coalition as a springboard to secure a new nuclear agreement, while also maintaining genuine “maximum pressure” on Iran.

Before delving into these points, some current background is needed.

1. The EU, led by its business interests, is still trying to work around U.S. sanctions on Iran to keep the JCPOA on life support. The bloc is trying to convince Iran that the EU won’t have to abide by existing economic sanctions as it seeks (recently successfully) waivers from the United States for the EU’s profitable nuclear projects in Iran;
2. The Iranians continue to breach portions of the JCPOA deal banning the enrichment of uranium, and will continue to do so until the United States rolls back all sanctions;
3. Iran seeks to further split the United States from its allies by grabbing oil tankers in the Straits of Hormuz, and then claiming innocence by blaming the United States for the interference;
4. Germany, a JCPOA supporter, won’t join the U.S.-led naval force in the Gulf to protect shipping, although the UK and Israel will;
5. The Russians are placing naval and other military assets at two Iranian bases in the Gulf, promising to protect Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps and other Iranian naval assets, thereby raising the stakes for any U.S. and allied military action.

The most immediate fight in Washington is the disagreement about the extent to which limited waivers should be granted to European companies that, in the words of Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), permit Tehran to “conduct sensitive nuclear work at a military site that many believe allows Iran to march toward the eventual production of nuclear weapons.” If the limited waivers weren’t allowed, European, Chinese, and Russian firms would have to be sanctioned because they have projects inside Iran that were prohibited at the 2015 JCPOA deal. Those projects include modifying the heavy water reactor in Arak and the enrichment center in Fordow, as well as the Tehran Research and the Bushehr nuclear reactor fuel exchanges.



IIPA VIA GETTY IMAGES

All these issues are important and must be faced. But far more importantly, and what President Donald Trump sees that others are unwilling to acknowledge, is that the key issue is that the “deal” enables Iran to get nuclear weapons, not now, but in the post-2025 period. While not explicitly denying that it’s the case, JCPOA supporters cling to the assumption that while a better deal is needed, all that can realistically be accomplished now is a temporary delay in Iranian nuclear objectives, and that, while not optimal, the current deal is better than the alternatives: (1) an end to the JCPOA and an Iranian sprint to nuclear weapons production within months, or (2) warfare between Iran and the United States to compel Iranian concessions that satisfy the United States.

In short, we can have a nuclear-armed Iran now or get a short reprieve. But beyond “mowing the nuclear grass,” trying anything else would be akin to the question: “Have you ever tried saddling a crocodile?”

What Iran and its supporters want to avoid, including authors of the deal who are still embedded in the U.S. bureaucracy, is addressing the JCPOA’s lethal defects. They are getting help from European, Chinese, and Russian elements hungry for business deals with Iran, while still wedded to the fake idea of a “nuclear deal.”

If one analyzes the timelines in the JCPOA, it becomes unmistakably clear that Iran can build nuclear weapons just around the nuclear corner. Like in the 1970s, the Oslo “peace process” in the 1990s, “reset” with the Russians in 2009, and the “end of history” after the end of the Soviet Union, the narrative of a nuclear-free Iran being a solid achievement irrespective of Iranian cheating and bad faith, is simply a talisman the “deep state” can’t give up.

Andy McCarthy, in his newly published book “Ball of Collusion,” writes of the JCPOA, “The table [Obama] gave away the store, agreeing to the promotion of Iran’s industrial nuclear capabilities (rationalised as civilian use); abiding continued [advanced] centrifuge development; delegating verification duties to the U.N.’s feckless International Atomic Energy Agency; choreographing side deals between Iran and the IAEA which would not be disclosed to Congress; tweaking the deal when Iran was out of compliance to avoid any ‘snap back’ [of sanctions]; and orchestrating ransom payments for

▲
A security guard stands outside the Bushehr nuclear power plant in Bushehr, Iran, on August 21, 2010.

Iran is trying to avoid an analysis of the deal because when its terms are closely examined, the JCPOA is revealed as an agreement that generates nuclear weapons.

the release of U.S. hostages,” to say nothing of giving Iran \$150 billion in escrowed oil revenue without any restrictions on the use of the funds, such as building more ballistic missiles or increasing support for terrorist groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and Islamic Jihad.

Supporters of the deal concede that’s true, but insist there is a good chance that Iranian behavior in other areas—missile tests and terrorism support—will modify as economic sanctions are lifted and Iran modernises and moderates. On top of which former Secretary of State John Kerry assured us that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran’s supreme leader, told him there was an Islamic fatwa, a religious order, which he had issued against building nuclear weapons. So what could there possibly be for us to worry about?

Iran is trying to avoid an analysis of the deal because when its terms are closely examined, the JCPOA is revealed as an agreement that generates nuclear weapons, as revealed by the trove of nuclear documents that Israel recovered. Making matters worse, the Iranians continue to deny access to military sites where earlier nuclear work was completed; the International Atomic Energy Administration has caved on that score.

What then are our options? A way forward is available in two steps.

A significant number of legislators, on a bipartisan basis, are now pushing the administration to enhance the campaign of “maximum pressure.” Fifty U.S. lawmakers, in a July 17 letter to the president, urged the administration to cancel the Iran nuclear sanctions waivers once and for all and eliminate nuclear projects established under the deal.

One signatory, Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), said the goal is to get Iran to “permanently abandon its nuclear ambitions and stop sponsoring terrorism” including agreeing to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s 12-point plan and, as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) required of Iran, implement the group’s 2016 crackdown in terrorist financing.

Here we get to the second promising pathway. As the Foundation for Defense of Democracies recently put it, “wanting to do business with Iran should not trump imposing serious penalties on Iran for violations of international norms.” This involves more than just the provisions of the JCPOA in which Iran has dragged its feet,

adhering to the so-called Additional Protocols, but by insisting Iran open all its nuclear sites to inspection and, as already noted, dispose of its plutonium and enriched uranium stocks.

The best means to get Germany and other U.S. allies to agree to redo the nuclear deal with Iran is to get them on board by upholding another key international legal norm, and that is freedom of navigation. While the norm of stopping the proliferation of nuclear weapons is at the heart of the JCPOA, the norm of freedom of navigation is critical to international trade and economic prosperity. How does it benefit the supporters of the JCPOA to earn a few million dollars running nuclear projects in Iran if it means the loss of billions of dollars in diminished trade and rising oil prices?

Iranian interference in oil tanker shipping in the Gulf is harming everyone’s economic interests. Rather than submit to Iranian piracy, the United States and its allies should mimic what President Ronald Reagan did in 1987—reflag Kuwaiti tankers that could be attacked by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. That action ended Iranian interference in Gulf shipping and would be an important first step in challenging Iran with a united front.

As U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell explained, “German participation would help de-escalate the situation,” and with a united West, would also undo Russian mischief in the Gulf, while undercutting the mullahs.

What does Iran seizing tankers have to do with the nuclear deal? Not much, except that it’s part of Iran’s plan to change the subject, while letting them secure nuclear weapons in the future as they continue missile testing, supporting terrorism, and convincing the West to accept the Alice in Wonderland narrative that JCPOA supporters are promoting.

A far superior alternative? Start with re-establishing the international norm of freedom of maritime navigation and then, building the anti-nuclear coalition that would put a saddle on the Iranian nuclear crocodile.

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

LILLIAN SUWANRUMPHA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Protesters with umbrellas and protective gear face off with riot police at Kowloon Bay in Hong Kong on Aug. 24, 2019.

China Trade War, Taiwan F-16 Sales, and Hong Kong

SAM YEH/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

BRAD JOHNSON



China remains largely inscrutable today, as its reputation from the past implies. Perhaps it's worth making a point about how they view themselves.

For example, something I have never heard mentioned is the meaning of the flag of China, with its red background and five gold-coloured stars in the upper left quadrant. The flag is widely believed to be the flag of China and is used as such, however, it's not the flag of China—the flag represents the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), not the country of China itself.

This is actually fairly common in hard-left governments, and it's commonly misunderstood. Similarly, the flag used by the Germans in World War II—with its red background and swastika—was not the flag of Germany, but the flag of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, better known as the Nazis. The same applies to the flag used by the USSR, which had a red background with a hammer and sickle in the upper left quadrant.

This is a difficult concept for most of us in the West—who haven't lived under such a regime—to truly understand. From the perspective of the CCP, and all of these aforementioned countries, everything and everyone belongs to the ruling regime. The CCP's flag flying over everything symbolises precisely that. This means that even the individual life of every Chinese citizen belongs to the Communist Party. Literally. Should the Party need a person to die for "the good of the Party," it's fully expected that the individual will willingly allow themselves to be killed.

Here in the West, the news reports that the problems in Hong Kong, the trade negotiations, and the updated F-16 fighter aircraft sales to Taiwan are separate issues. To the CCP, this isn't the case. Their "Borg-like" perspective is that everything is one under the Communist Party, and resistance is futile.

By happy coincidence, President Donald Trump, as an experienced negotiator, is the perfect person to fix the situation with the CCP, which has been stealing billions of dollars from the United States as a matter of unchallenged routine. Trump correctly views China as a dangerous, gigantic, competitive corporation, in the form of a country that is acting extremely aggressively in its own interests and in direct opposition to ours.

We're observing in the public bits and pieces of the president's behind-the-scenes negotiations with China in a number of areas. In the West, these bits and pieces of a larger whole are generally incorrectly reported as separate, unrelated issues.

The situation began with Trump respectfully calling out the Chinese on the fact that

A U.S.-built F-16V fighter jet lands on a freeway during the 35th Han Kuang drill in Changhua county, Taiwan, on May 28, 2019.



The CCP likes to remind the United States it agreed to reduce arms sales to Taiwan in an unsigned 1982 communiqué. We need to remind them of their signed agreement to allow Hong Kong to govern themselves.

they've been robbing us blind. He let them know that can't continue and that they can still make money by negotiating an honest deal, although far less. Naturally, the Chinese have a hard time walking away from billions of free dollars and are pinning their hopes on ratcheting up the stakes, hoping to damage Trump before the next election and get back to stealing money under a different administration.

They still have many options for putting pressure on the Trump administration, although their tough stance on trade negotiations hasn't been working, and Trump's tariffs are badly damaging the floundering Chinese economy. Their economy is shrinking rapidly, while the U.S. economy is doing well and producing income from the tariffs, which will be used to offset any negatives.

Many observers have noted that the Iranians have been more aggressive of late on the world stage. But few have noted that the Iranians also depend on support from China. Their current aggressive stance is very likely a part of the Chinese overall response and an effort to pressure the Trump administration. The same can be said of the situation in Hong Kong.

The CCP has always intended to take full and unquestioned control of Hong Kong, and this must have seemed a golden opportunity.

As part of the CCP's overall efforts to create pressure on the administration, we have also seen increased pressure on Hong Kong, which is, in fact, in contradiction to the agreement the CCP signed with regard to the rights of Hong Kong as a self-administered zone. This is certainly not an accident or coincidence, but is part of the U.S.-China negotiations.

Trump has slowly increased the level of his response, showing more and more

support for the pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong. He's made it clear he doesn't want to see a violent suppression of Hong Kong but hasn't stated what his response would be, other than that a trade deal would be hard to come by. Fortunately, Western countries haven't forgotten the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre or the invasion and subjugation of Tibet.

Taiwan has always been a much more difficult target, but has also been on China's target list to conquer and subjugate. The same for the absolute control of the South China Sea, which was going well for the CCP before the Trump administration. Now, with the large amounts of stolen money cut off, it's not so affordable, and at least some portion of China's ambitions and plans are being put on hold.

Part of Trump's negotiations has been to continue to show a friendly approach to Taiwan, which recently culminated in the sale to Taiwan of 66 F-16 fighter jets. This is a nice boost to the Taiwanese military, although not profound, but certainly not liked by the CCP.

The CCP likes to remind the United States that it agreed to reduce arms sales to Taiwan in an unsigned 1982 communiqué; we need to remind them of their signed agreement to allow Hong Kong to govern itself.

Maybe an offer to sell Taiwan F-35 fighter aircraft would make for interesting negotiations.

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



Soviet-era dissident Vladimir Bukovsky (C) speaks to his supporters outside the Sakharov museum in Moscow on Dec. 16, 2007.

The Threat of Communism: Then and Now

J.R. NYQUIST

One of the most famous enemies of Soviet communism is Vladimir Bukovsky. He was tortured by Soviet authorities and spent many years in Soviet prisons. He was even declared “insane” and sent to a psychiatric prison. When Bukovsky was exiled to the West, people paid lip service to his courage; but few heeded his warnings about Gorbachev’s Perestroika.

Bukovsky reminded everyone that all Soviet leaders were liars. Gorbachev, he said, was no exception—and was certainly no democrat. Like Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, and Brezhnev, Gorbachev was a liar and a hangman. But hardly anyone listened. Everyone wanted to believe the Cold War was over.

But how could we have won the Cold War? This was the inconvenient question Bukovsky asked. Random House senior editor Jason Epstein rejected Bukovsky’s question altogether. And so, Bukovsky’s book on the equivocal “fall of communism” was not published in English—until now.

The book’s title is “Judgment in Moscow.” It was published in French and German editions two decades ago, and it has stood the test of time. I interviewed Bukovsky on Dec. 22, 2018, by telephone, asking how the French and German editions of the book were received all those years ago.

Communism Everywhere

VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY: “There were some complimentary reviews in France, but few really paid it much attention. In Germany the reception was even more subdued.”

J.R. NYQUIST: “And how will Bukovsky’s tale of Western complicity in communist crimes, and Western obliviousness—and the bungled ‘end of the Cold War’—be received in the English-speaking world?”

MR. BUKOVSKY: “It is a lonely struggle I have conducted since the age of 16. And the struggle will continue to be lonely. The real problem is the elite in the West, the forces of ‘peace and progress.’ The Western elite is socialist. They were never serious about fighting Soviet power.”

MR. NYQUIST: “And what about the conservatives? Weren’t they serious about opposing communism?”

MR. BUKOVSKY: “They wouldn’t realise the truth. There was a mistaken idea behind them. Most of the conservatives believed it was not so bad in the West. The first to notice was Solzhenitsyn. He said communism is in front of everyone, yet no one understands what it is.”

MR. NYQUIST: “If they did not understand communism, couldn’t you have explained it to them?”

MR. BUKOVSKY: “Unfortunately there is no short way of doing it and, because the subject is complicated, people quickly lose interest. It bores them. They are lazy and prefer superficial answers.”

MR. NYQUIST: “So the West never understood communism. Or perhaps they came to think that anti-communism was crazy.”

MR. BUKOVSKY: “No, it’s a question of losing the audience. People are lazy. They prefer

superficial assessments. It is impossible for them to go deep. When you talk about communism, their eyes glaze over. They become bored.”

MR. NYQUIST: “Could that be true?”

MR. BUKOVSKY: “Yes, I have delivered many lectures on the subject. People get up in the middle and leave. The concepts are too difficult for them. They want it to be easy.”

MR. NYQUIST: “What is the hope for the future?”

MR. BUKOVSKY: “There will be more suffering, more ruined lives.”

MR. NYQUIST: “Are the communists in Russia putting the Soviet Union back together?”

MR. BUKOVSKY: “Yes, they are naive enough to think they can do this. But they will never succeed.”

Hope in Ukraine?

MR. NYQUIST: “What about the orange revolution in Ukraine? Surely there is hope in Ukraine.”

MR. BUKOVSKY: “Ukraine is on a razor’s edge. The whole thing hangs in the balance. It could go either way.”

MR. NYQUIST: “What about Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko?”

MR. BUKOVSKY: “Poroshenko is just another apparatchik. He is typical. The problem in Ukraine, like in Russia—we don’t have any leaders. It is the same old story, same old biographies. Their thinking is not that different from the Soviet past.”

MR. NYQUIST: “We have a similar problem in the West.”

MR. BUKOVSKY: “At the moment, you’re right. The absence of leadership is frightening. Our so-called elites became rotten. In the past, in history, the elites would be periodically wiped out in revolutions. In our time, it does not happen. We are too civilised.”

MR. NYQUIST: “Yet, could the ideal of freedom spread from Ukraine into Russia?”

MR. BUKOVSKY: “Yes, but not yet. Ukrainian nationalism arose from serious Russian mistakes. Moscow made tremendous blunders in Ukraine.”

MR. NYQUIST: “Could these blunders be corrected after Putin leaves office?”

MR. BUKOVSKY: “No, they cannot fix it. The Kremlin insulted the Ukrainians as junior brothers. ‘You are too little to decide for yourself,’ they said. ‘Moscow has to decide for you.’ This was the reason for the rise of Ukrainian nationalism.”

MR. NYQUIST: “So the Kremlin made a big mistake?”

MR. BUKOVSKY: “Yes, they have a real problem. But so does the West.”

Rotten Elites

The problem, then, is not East versus West. The problem is that the elites in nearly every country have become rotten and socialist. As Bukovsky wrote in his book, “Even the ageless James Bond does not fight the KGB, but is most frequently in an alliance with the KGB, against some

People are lazy. They prefer superficial assessments. It is impossible for them to go deep. When you talk about communism their eyes glaze over. They become bored.

mythical super-corporation headed, as a rule, by a lunatic capitalist.”

Bukovsky’s book, “Judgment in Moscow,” will be released in English in May. What does he say happened toward the supposed end of the Cold War? Bukovsky wrote, “This was a full debacle, a total surrender of its positions by the West at the most critical moment of our history.”

The West rushed in to support the “hangman, Gorbachev.” And despite all that help, when the Soviet Union “fell,” the hangmen in their thousands were not made accountable. There was no trial of communism as a system, no “judgment in Moscow” as there had been a “judgment in Nuremberg.”

Instead, a KGB general like Oleg Kalugin, who bragged about his murders, retired to live in the West. If there is no statute of limitations on murder, how can this happen? Bukovsky wrote that Glasnost and Perestroika were “diabolical inventions” that ratified what followed in its wake. “Out of hundreds of thousands of politicians, journalists and academics, only a tiny handful retained sufficient sobriety not to yield to temptation, and it was an even tinier one that had the courage to voice their doubts out loud.”

Later in the book, Bukovsky characterised the American elite as “raised on lies and betrayal,” damning them as the “natural ally of the USSR.” And so it remains true as ever today.

Look at the resulting shift in the global balance of power decades later: Putin’s regime links arms with the communist regime in China, with the communist regime in Cuba, with Nicaragua and South Africa, Vietnam and North Korea, Bukovsky’s words come home. The communist bloc rises from the ashes, with new weapons, new technologies, and new economic clout. We believed the communist lies and invested our “peace dividend.” Now we are threatened from within and from without.

“The whole thing hangs in the balance,” said Bukovsky.

J.R. Nyquist is a columnist and the author of the books “Origins of the Fourth World War” and “The Fool and His Enemy,” as well as co-author of “The New Tactics of Global War.”

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 Six (Cont.)

2. In the West: Infiltrating and Restricting Religions

The devil of communism also made systematic arrangements for attacking religious believers in non-communist countries. Through the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Chinese Communist Party, it used money and spies to infiltrate the religious institutions of other countries, under the pretext of “religious exchange,” to warp righteous beliefs or to directly attack them and introduce socialist and communist ideologies into religion. This then led to believers continuing to worship and practice in religions that had been changed by communist ideology.

a. Infiltrating Religion

Curtis Bowers, producer of the documentary “Agenda—Grinding America Down,” found testimony given before Congress in 1953 by Manning Johnson, a high-level Communist Party member. Johnson said: “Once the tactic of infiltrating religious organisation was set by the Kremlin, the actual mechanics of implementing the ‘new line’ was a question of following the general experiences of the living church movement in Russia, where the Communists discovered that the destruction of religion could proceed much faster through infiltration of the church by Communist agents operating within the church itself. ... “In general, the idea was to divert the emphasis of clerical thinking from the spiritual to the material and political—by political, of course, is meant politics based on the Communist doctrine of conquest of power. Instead of emphasis towards the spiritual and matters of the soul, the new and heavy emphasis was to deal with those matters which, in the main, led toward the Communist program of ‘immediate demands.’ These social demands, of course, were of such a nature that to fight for them would tend to weaken our present society and prepare it for final conquest by Communist forces.”

The devil of communism indeed acted this way. For example, some Marxists went undercover to infiltrate Christian churches in the United States. They started to enter the seminaries in the 1980s and 1990s and miseducated generation after generation of priests and pastors, who then went on to influence religion in the United States.

Religion has almost lost its function in maintaining the morality of society.

The Bulgarian historian Momchil Metodiev, after extensive research into the Cold War-era archives of the Bulgarian Communist Party, exposed the fact that the Eastern European communist intelligence network closely collaborated with Party religious committees to influence and infiltrate international religious organisations. On a global scale, one organisation that was significantly infiltrated by communism in Eastern Europe was the World Council of Churches (WCC). Established in 1948, the WCC is a worldwide inter-church Christian organisation. Its members include churches of various mainline

forms of Christianity, representing around 590 million people from 150 different countries. The WCC thus is a major force in world religious circles.

However, the WCC was the first international religious organisation to accept communist countries (including the Soviet Union and its subordinate states) as members during the Cold War and to accept financial support from communist countries.

The communist infiltration of the WCC included important victories, such as the election of the Russian Orthodox metropolitan bishop of Leningrad, Nikodim (birth name Boris Georgievich Rotov), as president of the WCC in 1975. Another victory was the decades-long role played by Bulgarian communist spy Todor Sabev, who served as deputy general secretary of the WCC between 1979 and 1993.

Metodiev notes that in the 1970s, Nikodim led the infiltration under directions from the KGB, with support from bishops and agents in Bulgaria.

Based on a released KGB file from 1969, historian and Cambridge University professor Christopher Andrew writes that during the Cold War, important representatives to the WCC from the Russian Orthodox Church secretly worked for the KGB, exerting covert influence on the WCC’s policies and operations. A released KGB file from 1989 shows that these KGB-controlled representatives successfully inserted their agenda into the WCC’s public communications.

If we understand how the Eastern European communists infiltrated and manipulated the churches, it is not difficult to understand why the WCC insisted on funding the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) in January 1980, disregarding its members’ opposition to the move. The ZANU-PF was a notorious group of communist guerrillas who were known to murder missionaries and shoot down commercial aircraft.

The WCC also was infiltrated by the CCP through the Chinese Christian Council, a Party tool for controlling religion. The council is the only official representative of communist China in the WCC, and due to monetary and other influences, the WCC has for years gone along with the CCP’s interests.

The general secretary of the WCC officially visited China in early 2018 and met with several Party-controlled Christian organisations, including the Chinese Christian Council, the National Committee of Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China, and the State Administration for Religious Affairs. In China, the number of members of non-official Christian groups (underground churches) is far greater than the official ones; yet WCC delegates didn’t arrange to meet with any non-official Christian groups, in order to avoid friction with Beijing.

b. Restricting Religion

Infiltration by the communist specter is omnipresent in the West, and religion has been buffeted by ideologies and behaviors that vilify God. Ideas like “separation of church and state” and “political correctness” stemming from communism have been used to marginalise and sabotage righteous, orthodox religions.

The United States was built as one nation under God. All U.S. presidents, when sworn in, put one hand on the Bible and ask God to bless

America. Nowadays, when religious people criticise behaviour, ideas, and policies that depart from gods, or when they speak out against abortion or homosexuality, which are forbidden by God, communists in the United States or the militant Left go on the offensive. They use “separation of church and state” to say that religion should have nothing to do with politics, and so seek to restrict the will of God and the admonishments and limitations on human behavior laid down by gods.

Some Marxists went undercover to infiltrate Christian churches in the United States. They started to enter the seminaries in the 1980s and 1990s and miseducated generation after generation of priests and pastors.

For thousands of years, gods have made themselves known to those who have faith. Faithful people with righteous beliefs accounted for the majority of society in the past and had a tremendously positive influence on social morality. Today, people can only talk about God’s will in church. Outside of church, they can’t criticise or resist the attempts to undermine God’s parameters for human conduct. Religion has almost lost its function in maintaining the morality of society, and as a result, morality in the United States has collapsed like a landslide.

In recent years, political correctness has been promoted to new heights, to the point where people are hesitant to say “Merry Christmas” in a country that was founded on Christianity. This happens only because some claim that it’s politically incorrect and hurts the feelings of non-Christians. Similarly, when people openly speak of their belief in God or pray to God, some claim this to be discriminatory against people with other beliefs, including nonbelievers. The fact is, all people should be allowed to express their beliefs, including respect for their gods, in their own ways, and this has nothing to do with discrimination.

In schools now, classes that involve righteous beliefs and traditional values are not allowed to be taught. Teachers are not to speak of Creation, for the reason that science has yet to prove the existence of God. Science also has yet to prove atheism and evolution—but these theories are taught as truth in schools. Speech that attacks, rejects, and vilifies gods, on the other hand, is all protected and glorified under the banner of freedom of speech. The communist specter’s infiltration of society, and its restraints against and manipulation of religion, culture, education, the arts, and the law, is an exceedingly complex and systemic issue. We will discuss it in detail in future chapters.

See next edition for the next installment.



VICTOR MORIYAMA/GETTY IMAGES

A fire burns in a section of the Amazon rain forest in the Candeias do Jamari region near Porto Velho, Brazil, on Aug. 25, 2019.

False Reports of Amazon Fires Mislead, Undermine Trust

GREGORY WRIGHTSTONE

The latest climate-change disaster du jour was the lead story in many news-feeds and headlines around the globe. The report that the Amazon was burning at unprecedented rates due to man-made global warming was tailor-made for the climate-catastrophe crowd to promote fear of impending planet-wide doom.

The reliably alarmist CNN headline was “Amazon rainforest burning at record rate,” while over at the New York Daily News, the writer declared, “The Amazon rainforest is burning. Be afraid.” Most reporting included some variation on the theme that “the lungs of the world are burning.”

In a tweet, French President Emmanuel Macron called upon world leaders to place the fires in the Amazon at the top of their agenda when they meet for the Group of Seven summit: “Our house is burning. Literally. The Amazon rainforest—the lungs which produces 20% of our planet’s oxygen—is on fire.”

The source of this alarm is an ostensibly reliable source, Brazil’s National Institute for Space Research. However, a closer look reveals some real problems with the data.

First, the satellite fire data referenced only began in 2013, so six years of data is hardly long enough to make statements about “record breaking” in any context. Secondly, the satellite data collected wasn’t intended to be used as a counting tool for number of fires, but rather as a

readiness alert system to identify fires before they rage out of control. It turns out that the same fire might be counted more than once to ensure that none are missed.

Likely the most shared image of the “devastation” was a NASA satellite image across most of the Amazon showing smoke from fires in many areas. What was not shared was the caption NASA provided, which states, in part, “As of August 16, 2019, an analysis of NASA satellite data indicated that total fire activity across the Amazon basin this year has been close to the average in comparison to the past 15 years.”

According to NASA’s Global Fire Emissions Database, activity is above average in the states of Amazonas and Rondonia, but so far is below average in Mato Grosso and Pará. The overall numbers are pretty much in line with historic data that goes back to 2003, much longer than the Brazilian data and with satellite data analysis specifically designed to do the task of counting the fires rather than simply alerting government personnel of danger.

A little background on Amazon fire is in order to put these yearly fires in perspective. The fire season in the Amazon begins with the dry season in late July and peaks in mid-September before ending in November. Nearly all of the fires are intentionally set because dry lightning strikes are rare and it’s difficult to begin a fire in a damp rainforest.

Ranchers have used fire to clear the forest, as it’s much easier than felling



CARL DE SOUZA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A Brazilian farmer walks through a burned area of the Amazon rainforest near Porto Velho, Brazil, on Aug. 26, 2019.

Much of the fire that’s being reported as virgin tropical rainforest is existing grassland or farmland being regenerated using fire as a tool.

the timber. It’s estimated that up to 15 percent of the original forest has been cleared in this manner, most of which occurred in the 1990s and 2000s before conservation efforts slowed the loss of forest.

Fires are rare during much of the year, because it’s difficult to start and spread them due to the exceedingly wet nature of the climate. During the dry season, land that has already been cleared is typically burned periodically to regenerate and maintain farmland or pasture. Much of the fire that’s being reported as virgin tropical rainforest is existing grassland or farmland being regenerated using fire as a tool.

The Amazonian rainforest is a powerful and necessary ecological niche, and conservation efforts have been effective at stemming the worst of deforestation abuses. The promotion of alarmist and false information misdirects the energies of people, including world leaders, and undermines trust in media and public institutions.

Gregory Wrightstone is author of the new book “Inconvenient Facts: The Science That Al Gore Doesn’t Want You to Know.” He is a geologist with more than 35 years of experience researching and studying various aspects of the Earth’s processes.

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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TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE

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The insights of traditional Chinese medicine offer a complementary treatment, without the side effects.

See B2

DRAGON IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK



VIDEO SCREENSHOT/NTDTV



HEALING

A Buddhist Nun's
Miraculous Recovery

A wandering nun found a new path after her illness became so severe that recovery seemed impossible.

See B8

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 4, 2019 B1

LIFE

THE EPOCH TIMES



CHRISTOPHE FOUIN/PALACE OF VERSAILLES (RMN-GP)

Marie Leszczyńska, the queen of France, 1725, by Alexis-Simon Belle. Oil on canvas. National Museum of the Palace of Versailles and the Trianon, Versailles.

FINE ARTS

The Little-Known Queen
With the Greatest Devotion

Marie Leszczyńska and the Palace of Versailles

LORRAINE FERRIER

Loyal and devout, the Polish queen of France, Marie Leszczyńska (1703–1768), was the longest reigning queen at Versailles, spending more than 42 years leading France. She made quite an impact—not politically, as she was left out of poli-

tics, but on the life of the people. Leading by example, she was unconditionally devoted to her husband, King Louis XV; her children; and the people of France. She was just as devoted to her faith; Marie attended Mass twice a day and confession once a day. “By her own good example, she

turned a dissolute court into one devoted to religious observance, without detracting from its gaiety or majesty,” Charles Jean-François Hénault (1685–1770) wrote in his memoirs. Hénault, the president of the Parliament of Paris, was Marie’s adviser and manager. Every afternoon, after perform-

ing her royal duties at the court, Marie would retire to her private apartments, where she kept company with a small circle of family and close confidants, including writers, philosophers, and ministers.

Continued on B4

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PRESERVE HEALTH

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Relevance

Traditional Chinese medicine is based on generations of practice with insight that Western medicine is just gaining now

CHRISTINA XU

Trying to introduce people to traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) can be challenging given the depth and breadth of the knowledge and practice involved.

Traditional Chinese medicine is built on a foundation of more than 2,500 years of Chinese medical practice. It includes various forms of herbal medicine, acupuncture, massage (tui na), meditation/exercise (qi gong) and dietary therapy. It is a holistic

CANCER UP CLOSE

D-Day: When the
Diagnosis Dropped

Hearing the word ‘cancer’ come from your doctor’s mouth changes your world

MICHELE GONCALVES

Cancer is one of the most common diseases of our age, and yet those who face it rarely know what’s about to happen to them beyond the broadest terms. “Cancer up Close” is an open recount of Michele Goncalves’s cancer journey from pre-diagnosis to life after treatment.

My fear was steadily rising in the days leading up to my diagnosis, but when the word finally came, it landed like a punch in the stomach.

“You’re going to need a colonoscopy.” That’s what the gastroenterologist told me on Nov. 11, 2017, after our short 10-minute consultation.

Despite our quick interaction, I can’t say that I was surprised by his recommendation. All throughout our appointment, I had explained that I was not feeling well, with belly pains in my lower abdomen and severe constipation that I was “managing” by drinking a cap full of Miralax stool softener in a cup of water each night.

As I sat in my living room on Dec. 13, 2017, the eve of my first colonoscopy, a sick feeling started to come over me. Yes, it was partly due to the fact that I was drinking a pitcher of lemonade spiked with Miralax to cleanse my bowels for the procedure, but mostly

I arrived at the outpatient surgical center and waited in a crowded room for what felt like an eternity.



DRAGON IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

Chinese medicine is a holistic practice that treats the entire system rather than a focus on alleviating the symptoms.

Chinese medicine is intricately tied to the Chinese people’s cultural heritage and traditional way of life.

practice that treats the entire system rather than a focus on alleviating the symptoms.

Cultural Heritage
Being such a long-standing and well-developed practice, Chinese medicine is intricately tied to the Chinese people’s cultural heritage and traditional way of life. This is why Chinese people see Chinese medicine as a natural extension of their life. However, I hope to educate and enrich the understanding of people less familiar with TCM.

Chinese medicine is poorly understood by the mainstream medical system.

TCM is a reflection of Daoism, one of China’s three religious traditions. Daoism is about seeking the truth about the world and the individual.

TCM emphasizes the idea of harmony between people and nature. It recognizes that emotions and environmental factors can affect human health. Therefore, our life should adapt to the four seasons and conform to nature. It is a systematic and holistic approach that is focused on preserving health and preventing disease.

In the theory of TCM, there is a primary emphasis on “Qi” energy which is energy that needs to be in balance for good physical and mental health. Qi is considered to be life force or vital energy and includes both the physical body as well as our intrinsic spiritual nature such as our thoughts, feelings, and emotions. All work together to ensure a balanced and healthy mind and body. The system of energy distribution is known as the meridian channels which are located throughout the body where Qi or energy flows.

Chinese medicine is poorly understood by the mainstream medical system, which has historically taken

a reductionist approach to treatment. This means that the body and its systems are looked at in isolation and, until recently, modern medicine had little understanding of the complex interconnection between emotions, diet, and the interplay of the body’s organs and processes. This has begun to change, but the common clinical practice is still far behind modern research.

For example, we now understand how the microbiome, a collection of bacteria, viruses, and protozoa that live in our gut, influence both our mind and body, but doctors are unable to factor this into clinical practice because they are not trained in nutrition or the microbiome.

Chinese medicine, however, has understood the connection between diet, and various organ systems and emotions for generations. Modern medicine once considered it superstitious to suggest mood disorders, the liver, and conditions like hypertension could be connected, which was something taught in TCM. Now we know that both hypertension and mood disorders have a dysfunction that involves the same neurotransmitter, serotonin, which is chiefly metabolized by the liver.

Fortunately, interest is growing in TCM and there is more scientific research being undertaken by western medicine to try to understand the systems and knowledge of TCM.

To date, very little of this research has focused on the whole system of TCM. This makes sense given it is beyond modern scientific practice to study complex systems. The best our current science can do is study isolated elements and formulate a hypothesis that explains the apparent interconnections between these elements.

As a result, research on TCM focuses on a single type of treatment, such as acupuncture or botanical/herbal medicine, and how these can be applied within conventional medicine.

However, this segregation of TCM fails to understand the holistic approach integral to TCM treatment. As alternative forms of medicine become better understood and more popular, there will inevitably be greater integration of different forms of medical practices, including TCM.

But just because modern medicine and science can’t fully explain TCM at this time doesn’t mean people can’t enjoy the benefits of TCM.

My husband and I recently dined

with friends at our favorite Chinese restaurant. Our friends thanked us for taking them somewhere they could really enjoy delicious food, of which not a morsel was left.

In this case, eating delicious food was the last word. They didn’t need to be experienced chefs or understand how it was cooked, or even know what all the ingredients were to appreciate it. The taste of the food was a good life experience all on its own.

Chinese medicine is similar. You may not know how it works in the terminology of western medical science, but it has a well-established foundation with thousands of years of practiced knowledge. TCM has contributed to the health and well-being of Chinese people for centuries before the arrival of western medicine.

It is silly for western scientists to suggest that the observations that generations of Chinese medicine practitioners have made and passed down regarding the effects of their treatments do not constitute a legitimate scientific basis.

Traditional Chinese medicine emphasizes the idea of harmony between people and nature.

TCM is a different system from Western medicine, having a vastly different ideology and practice. And just like eating Chinese food does not prevent you from eating burgers, using Chinese medicine does not prevent you from using Western treatments, especially since Chinese medicine is non-invasive and its herbal remedies are gentle and work in synergy with the bodies natural systems.

With many years of study and refinement, TCM is an advanced medical/healing system that has a very close relationship with Daoism, including a strong focus on prevention and preservation. This is very different from western medicine, which is more focused on curing illness after it develops. Chinese medicine aims to maintain and optimize health and wellbeing and is a preventative form of medicine. It is a treasure trove that will contribute to a good life with a healthy body and mind.

I look forward to sharing my understanding of the benefits of TCM with you to help you achieve a more active and fulfilling lifestyle.

Christina Xu holds a bachelor’s degree from Beijing University of Chinese Medicine. Living in Australia, she now dedicates her time to advocating for and promoting the benefits of traditional Chinese medicine to the mainstream western society. Learn more at PreserveHealth.com.au



TYLER OLSON/SHUTTERSTOCK

it was because I knew that I’d probably be getting some information the next day that I didn’t want to hear.

At 2:30 p.m. the next day, I arrived at the outpatient surgical center where my gastroenterologist was located and waited in a crowded room for what felt like an eternity. My father, mother, and brother all came with me.

Finally, my name was called, and it was my turn to go in. I was taken to a small room for pre-procedure evaluation, where they took my temperature and other vitals, plus a urine sample. Afterward, I changed into a hospital gown and was asked to take off my pants and underwear, but to keep on my sports bra and socks.

The nurse then walked me into a surgical suite where I saw my doctor, who was behind a surgical mask. It was all very surreal. I had never had surgery or anesthesia before, so I was very nervous and felt like I was having a bad dream.

I got up on the operating table and laid on my left side. The anesthesiologist introduced herself to me, inserted an IV into my arm,

I had never had surgery or anesthesia before, so I was very nervous and felt like I was having a bad dream.

I didn’t start to cry until I got up to leave and the doctor gave me a genuine hug.

and I drifted away into la-la land in less than a minute.

My next memory was slowly opening my eyes in a curtained-off post-procedure area, with a nurse checking in on me every few minutes. As I came back to reality, she let me rest a few minutes, then asked me to get dressed and meet her outside the curtain.

As I dressed, I started to hear other patients next to me get their results. “Hey, everything looks good,” one person was told. “No problems, everything looks fine,” someone else heard.

“Hey, wait a minute,” I thought. What about me? Where is my good news, or words of encouragement? Nobody said a word to me.

That was the moment I realized I was facing a different outcome.

I came out and met the nurse. She sweetly took my arm and led me to a small, private room. “Have a seat. The doctor will be here in a minute,” she said. “Would you like a warm blanket?”

I said, “Sure, why not?” She came back and carefully wrapped me up, then my doctor walked in.

“We found a mass, and we couldn’t finish the procedure because the scope could not fit past it. We’ve taken a biopsy and tattooed it. Do you want to see the images from the procedure?” he asked.

“Sure, why not?” I said.

He showed me the mass and it looked big and ugly, but the word “cancer” didn’t come out of his mouth.

At this point, I was in a haze, a crazy fog, but appeared cool as a cucumber on the outside.

He then said that I needed to get another CT scan as soon as possible (this time with contrast), and he wanted me to see a surgeon right away. He had the name of someone he could refer me to and offered to call him right then and there if I wanted. I said, “Sure,

why not?” Yet oddly enough, the word cancer still had not been spoken.

The next thing I knew, I had an appointment at 8:30 the following morning with this surgeon. My head was starting to really get dizzy at this point.

The doctor asked me, “Do you have any more questions?”

I asked, “Is this cancer? Are you sure this is cancer?”

He replied, “We won’t know until the biopsy for sure, but I’ve been doing this a long time, and yes, it is cancer.”

I didn’t start to cry until I got up to leave and the doctor gave me a genuine hug.

He said, “You are young and in good health, so good luck with everything.”

At that point, my emotions took over and I was sobbing and felt a strange combination of shaking and numbness take over my body.

Somehow, I managed to get to the bathroom, washed away my tears, and went out to the waiting room to get my family so we could leave.

I decided not to tell them yet, and only mentioned that they had found a mass that was getting biopsied. I kept my composure during the car ride back to my house, though I don’t know how. But I was dead inside. I needed time alone to process this devastating news, at least for one more day.

Join me next time when I share what happened during my visit with a colorectal surgeon 17 hours after my diagnosis, which I handled all by myself.

Until then ... breathe deep, be kind, and take it one day at a time.

Michele Goncalves is a financial compliance and fraud auditor for a Fortune 500 company by day and a passionate pursuer of holistic and functional medicine knowledge by night. She is also the author of the column The Consummate Traveler.



“The Chinese Chamber” paintings, 1761, by Marie Leszczyńska, Henri-Philippe-Bon Coqueret, Jean-Martial Frédou, Jean-Philippe de La Roche, Jean-Louis Prévost, under the direction of Étienne Jaurat. Oil on canvas. National Museum of the Palace of Versailles and the Trianon, Versailles.

Marie Leszczyńska, the queen of France, and the Dauphin Louis Ferdinand, circa 1730, by Alexis-Simon Belle. Oil on canvas. National Museum of the Palace of Versailles and the Trianon, Versailles.



FINE ARTS

The Little-Known Queen With the Greatest Devotion

Marie Leszczyńska and the Palace of Versailles

Continued from B1

The queen’s vast apartments consisted of an oratory where she practiced her private devotion, the Green Gallery, the Bath Chamber, the Rest Chamber, and even the Poets’ Chamber. The Poets’ Chamber was an “extremely small space,” where Marie stored her poetry collection, wrote Charles-Philippe d’Albert, the Duke of Luynes, in his memoirs.

The apartments spilled out onto a number of elegant terraces and balconies hung with garlands of flowers. Marie also enjoyed gardens containing lead sculptures and a rockery framing Monseigneur’s courtyard, a small spot named after Louis XIV and Marie Thérèse’s son.

These private apartments were her sanctuary. It was within these confines that she would read, rest, pray, or work on a needlepoint or painting. Despite the fact that her father, the king of Poland, was dethroned, Marie was educated as a princess, learning languages, dancing, singing, musical instruments, painting, and more. In the Green Gallery, she would draw,



Louis XV, the king of France, circa 1728, by an unknown artist. Oil on canvas. National Museum of the Palace of Versailles and the Trianon, Versailles.

paint, play music, and print using her own printing press.

A selection of 50 paintings, some by the queen herself, and other art is on display as part of an exhibition at Versailles, “The Taste of Marie Leszczyńska: Marie Leszczyńska, an Unknown Queen,” that opened on April 16 and runs until spring 2020. The exhibition was curated by Gwenola Firmin and Marie-Laure de Rochebrune, who are both head curators at the National Museum of the Palace of Versailles and the Trianon, and they were assisted by Vincent Bastien, doctor of art history.

Much of the art featured in the exhibition reflects Marie’s love for her family, God, and beauty.

Family Portraits

Many of the paintings throughout Marie’s apartments were of her 10 children, all born between 1727 and 1737. When the first boy, the Dauphin Louis Ferdinand, was born, Marie commissioned Alexis-Simon Belle (1674–1734) to paint his portrait. The painting was hung in Marie’s Bath Chamber. She was so fond of it that she commissioned Belle again, but this time to paint her with the dauphin.

The painting of Marie and her son Louis Ferdinand was likely painted just a year after the dauphin’s birth.

In the painting, Marie is sitting upright and poised, embodying the “elegant spirit” that Madame Campan said Marie had in her youth. Madame Campan was a reader for Marie’s younger daughters. Diamonds are woven throughout Marie’s hair, echoing the jewels that are set in what looks like elaborate metallic embroidery on her gold dress. She gently holds her son’s hand. The dauphin, still only a babe, mirrors his mother’s facial expression with an air of royalty that belies his tender age. Perhaps he knows his fate. The gold crown on the chaise lounge certainly signals what his future will be. He sits on a cloak, fur-lined and with a fleur-de-lis pattern, which he will wear once he is king.

Similar symbols and finery can be seen in the portrait of the dauphin’s father, Louis XV (1710–1774), the king of France, painted around 1728 by an unknown artist. Here, King Louis wears the collar of the Order of the Holy Spirit, and the fleur-de-lis cloak that the dauphin sat on in the portrait

ALL PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHE FOUIN/PALACE OF VERSAILLES (RMN-GP)



(Left) “The Death of Saint Francis Xavier,” 1749, by Charles-Antoine Coypel. Oil on canvas. National Museum of the Palace of Versailles and the Trianon, Versailles.

(Below) Marie Leszczynska, the queen of France, 1748, by Jean-Marc Nattier. Oil on canvas. National Museum of the Palace of Versailles and the Trianon, Versailles.

To find out more about “The Taste of Marie Leszczynska: Marie Leszczynska, an Unknown Queen,” visit ChateauVersailles.fr



with his mother. On the table to his right are the king’s crown, scepter, and Charlemagne’s Hand of Justice, which is a French type of scepter with its finial showing the hand of God in a gesture of blessing.

Queen Marie’s Practice of Art
Marie was not naturally gifted at drawing, according to her friend the Duke of Luynes. But she could paint quite well. She “draws much amusement from it,” he wrote.

Jean-Baptiste Oudry (1686–1755) was one of Marie’s favorite painters. She copied one of his paintings that her son, the dauphin, had commissioned. On her canvas “A Farm, After Jean-Baptiste Oudry,” a serene scene shows a bountiful harvest and hardworking farm hands in a rural

landscape. It is thought that Étienne Jeaurat, one of the king’s court painters, assisted her in its execution. Jeaurat mentored the queen in painting for a period of 15 years.

In 1761, Marie and five of the painters who worked on the king’s state apartments painted a series of chinoiserie canvases called “The Chinese Chamber.” The series is painted from the bird’s-eye view as per the Chinese style, with exquisite detailing of the architecture, dress, and landscape. Various scenes are shown, such as a tea ceremony, evangelism by Jesuits, and a fair at Nankin.

Versailles acquired “The Chinese Chamber” paintings in 2018. The paintings had been in the care of the family of the queen’s lady-in-waiting, the Comtesse de Noailles, since the

Many of the paintings throughout Marie’s apartments were of her 10 children.

queen bequeathed the paintings to her in 1768.

Saint Francis Xavier and Death
Marie had a strong desire to relieve the suffering of others. She was reported to have said “I have no need for dresses; the poor do not even have shirts.” She supported hospices, clinics, and charitable foundations, dedicating herself to helping those in need. She founded a convent in Versailles for educating poor girls, which was inaugurated after her death.

Marie’s Christian faith featured strongly in her apartments, in the books she read, and also the art she consumed.

She favored themes and stories about the early Christian martyrs and Jesuits. At the time, Jesuits were actively being expelled from France.

Marie was particularly interested in St. Francis Xavier. The Jesuit had spent time in India and was on route to mainland China in 1552 to evangelize, but before he could do so, he passed away on Sangchuan Island, off the coast of Guangdong. She commissioned “The Death of Saint Francis Xavier,” painted in 1749 by Charles-Antoine Coypel (1694–1752), for private devotion.

The dark tones of St. Francis’s lifeless body on the earth almost divides the painting in half: The darkness of death is met by the divine light of the angels beckoning and welcoming the Jesuit to heaven.

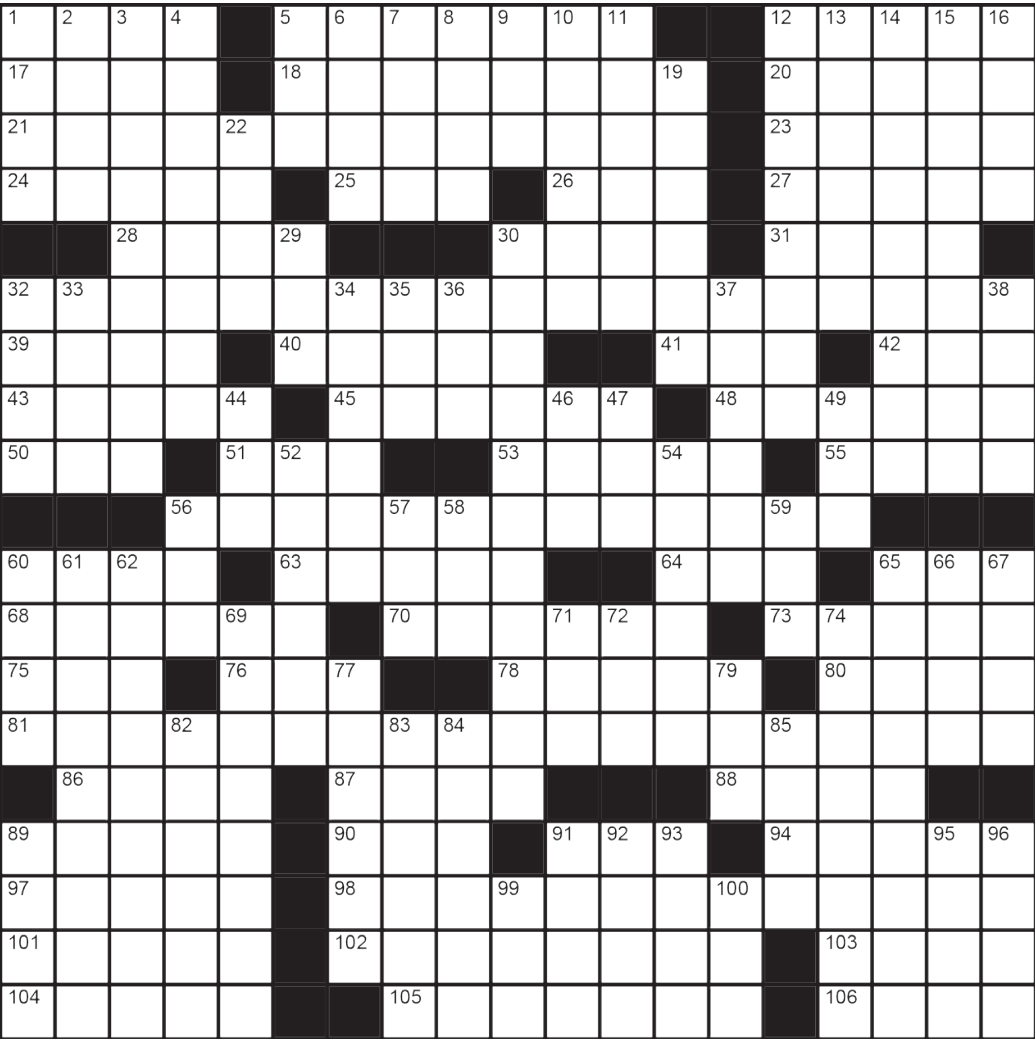


“A Farm, After Jean-Baptiste Oudry,” 1753, by Marie Leszczynska. Oil on canvas. National Museum of the Palace of Versailles and the Trianon, Versailles.

* Use American spelling to enjoy these puzzles made by our parent company in New York.

CROSSWORD

CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON
EPOCH TIMES STAFF



Across

1. Tater
5. 1930s haberdashery items
12. Book with legends
17. Sound
18. Demonstrations of brilliance
20. “Common Sense” writer
21. Benadryl, e.g.
23. Colorful thrush-like bird
24. Prepare for winter takeoff
25. Sniggler’s prey
26. “Didn’t I tell you?”
27. Black fly, e.g.
28. Like a bog
30. “Cheep” housing?
31. Some jeans
32. Get the drift?
39. “I’m in” indicator
40. Asian antelope
41. “Maid of Athens, ____ we part”: Byron
42. Generation
43. The March King
45. Seasonal beverage
48. Makes sense
50. “A Nightmare on ____ Street”
51. A Bobbsey twin
53. Primitive building materials
55. Doctrines
56. Can’t get it right
60. “Your majesty”

Down

1. Fish usually caught in the winter
2. French door part
3. “Marry me or we’re through!” is one
4. Makes the call
5. D.C. crime busters
6. European language
7. Palm fruit
8. Horse course
9. “... and a bottle of ____”
10. Come to light
11. Least wild
12. Aghast
13. Chiang Kai-shek’s capital
14. Flexibility
15. Counterpoison
16. “... snarled and yelping ____”: T. S. Eliot
19. Boil
22. Parsley or sage
29. “May I help you?”
30. Barbarian
32. Bring down the house in Lewisham
33. Compound of cross-words
34. Ancient headband or fillet
63. Golden Horde member
64. Wrath
65. “Fake” things underclassmen have
68. Twist suddenly
70. “Yippee!”
73. Sonar, in the British navy
75. Certain investment, for short
76. Strike caller
78. Beautiful woman, in Bagdad
80. “Great ____!” (Wonder Woman cry)
81. Not a specialist
86. Gold trim
87. A spore is at its core

88. A nasal runoff, embarrassingly
89. Aromatic herb
90. Bean
91. Gossip
94. End of a turn?
97. Thrill to no end
98. A vision of Four Horsemen
101. Basketball Hall of Famers Archibald and Thurmond
102. Unwavering
103. 30’s actress Grey and others
104. Amount of hair
105. Photographers
106. Delight

35. “Mrs. Doubtfire” costume piece
36. “Hen fruit”
37. Desk item
38. Suckers
44. Blackbird
46. “____ Gang”
47. Econ. statistic
49. Insult, slangily
52. Inhaler target
54. Ptezl branded belay device
56. Door sign
57. Ultimate degree
58. Chinese “way”
59. Contents of some bags
60. Slug
61. Not quite right
62. Bring back to life
65. Indistinguishable
66. Desperate
67. Lasting impression
69. Brevity
71. “Back to the Future” inventor, familiarly
72. Published
74. It may be the basis of wishful thinking (with “star”)
77. Two-dimensional
79. “____ now or never!”
82. In groups
83. Move forward
84. RNA sugar
85. Research facility: Abbr.
89. Copper
91. Misses
92. Many a homecoming attendee
93. Memory unit
95. Rural route
96. Different
99. Voting “nay”
100. Mont Blanc, e.g.

4NUMBERS

CONSTRUCTED BY C. CHANG
AT 4NUMS.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. Forexample: 6 + (7X3) +1 =28 and 1+ (7X3) +6 =28

11

27

36

7

18

+

−

×

÷

Hard 1 - 1 Solution

3

28

56

1

21

+

−

×

÷

Hard 2 - 1 Solution

5

10

34

1

6

+

−

×

÷

Easy 1 - 2 Solutions

6

8

51

4

7

+

−

×

÷

Easy 2 - 1 Solution

WORDSEARCH

CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON
EPOCH TIMES STAFF

Help with Today’s Crossword Puzzle?

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

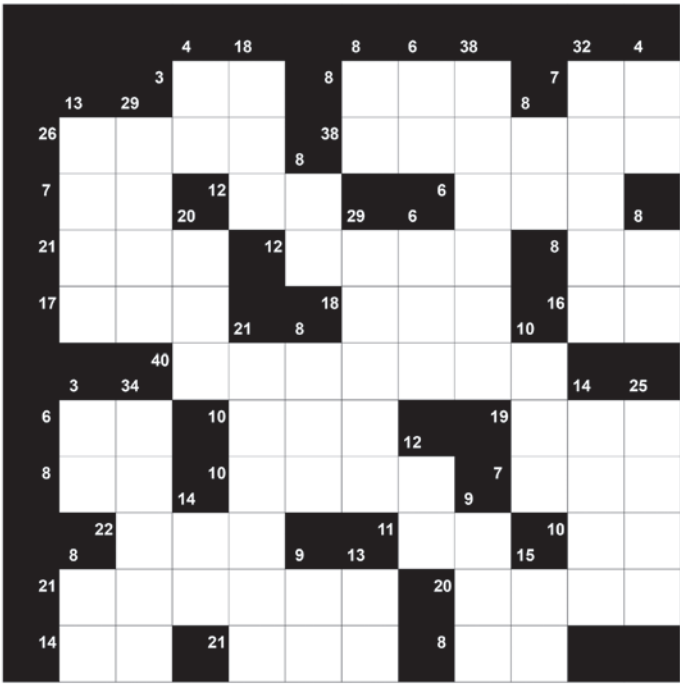
- ASTHMA
- PITTA
- TATAR
- BRAVURAS
- PROPEL
- TRESS
- CUMIN
- REANIMATE
- ULTIMATUM
- DECIDES
- RESOLUTE
- WRENCH
- ELATE
- RIBOSE
- ADDS UP
- ELITES
- SAIGA
- APPALLED
- ERASER
- SANEST
- ATLAS
- HOURL
- SEETHE
- DUNGS
- LENSMEN
- SOUSA
- FEDORAS
- LITHENESS
- STILE
- NEANDERTHAL
- NATES
- TAENIA
- PAINE
- TAIPEI

KAKURO

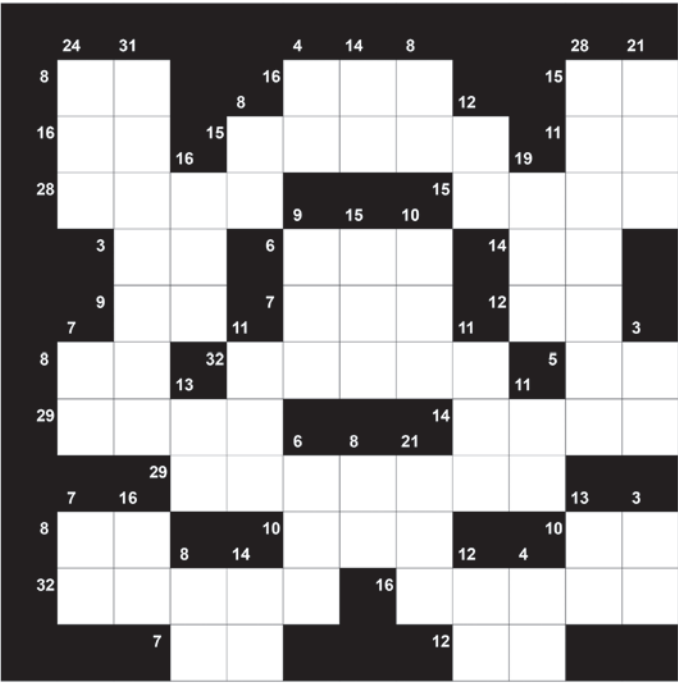
CONSTRUCTED BY EPOCH TIMES STAFF

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



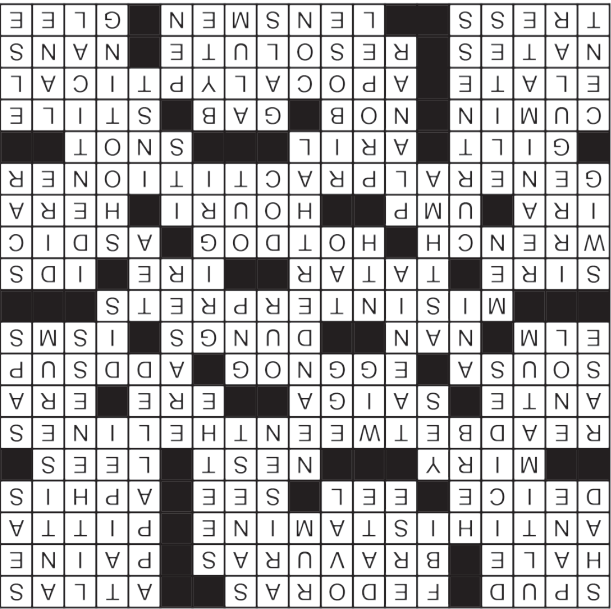
Large: Easy



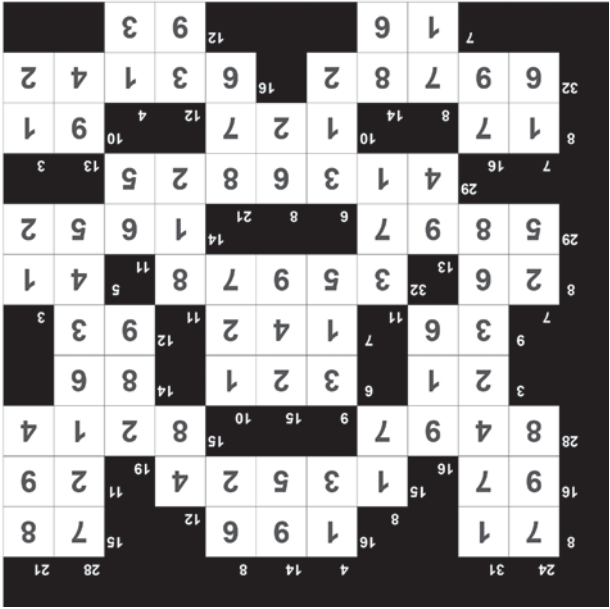
WORK SPACE

SOLUTIONS

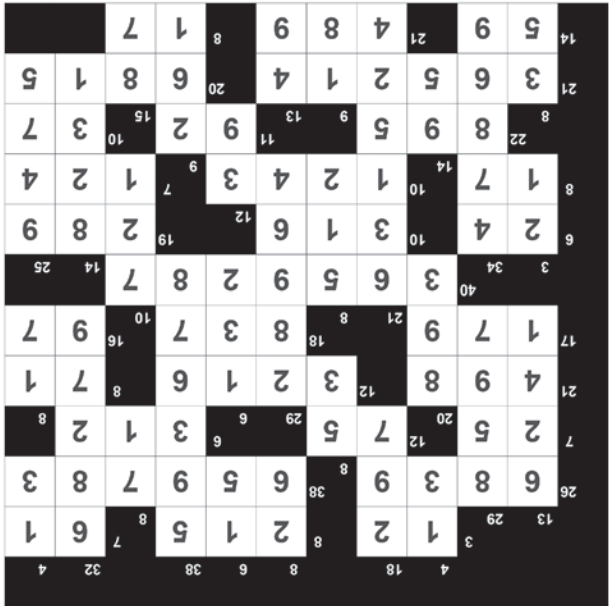
CROSSWORD



KAKURO LARGE: EASY



KAKURO LARGE: HARD



4 NUMBERS

- HARD 1
- $(27 - 18) \times (81 - 27)$
- HARD 2
- $82 - 21 \times (1 + 6)$
- EASY 1
- $01 + 6 \times (1 - 5)$
- $9 - 10 \times (5 - 1)$
- EASY 2
- $4 - 6 \times 8$

SUPERSUDOKU

CONSTRUCTED BY KANNAN SANKARAN

Fill in the boxes using numbers from 0 to 9 and letters from A to F so that each column, each row, and each 4x4 square contain all ten numbers and six letters only once.

	2		1	5					A		D		B
5		9	0			1	A		E				4
			F	3		9	E	4	2	0	B		6
8					4			1	5		6		9
		1	2	9	7			E	F	4		D	B
E	C	6		F	D		1			5		8	
		7	4	B			2	6			3		5
		5	3			C			0	7			F
	5	3			C	A			6			1	B
	7	2		1			3	5			0	F	C
			C		2			F		8	E		4
9		8		7	F	0			1		D	3	2
0	9	C		D	F	7			1				E
	E			4	1	5	B	0	7		C	9	
4					9			8	F			C	1
	1		A	3						9	B		F

SUDOKU

Hard

Fill in the boxes using numbers between 1 and 9 so that each column, each row, and each 3x3 square contain all nine numbers only once.

5		1				8		7
	7			4			3	
9				7	8			5
		8	6		2			
	9	2				4	5	
			8		4	1		
2			7	6				3
	6			8			9	
3		5				7		1

Easy

6								1
	2			9				6
		5	1	6	4	9		
		7	9	8	1	4		
	6	9	4		2	3	7	
		2	6	7	3	1		
		6	2	4	5	8		
	1			3			4	
4								7

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.

Easy

	4		21				22		16
4							14		
				41	15	29			
28									
		30							
		3				3			
7					6				6
28									
41									
			7						
	11	5					7	16	
9						18			
13							8		

Hard

		22	16			7	6	15
	14				12			
18				41				
42								
11				3				
			8				21	35
11						13		
					4			
29								
4				23				
			23					
		16	7			7		
16						12		
28								
23					15			

OUTSIDEThe BOX
PUZZLES.CA

Guess the hidden saying, phrase or word(s) suggested by the picture!

SOLUTION BELOW



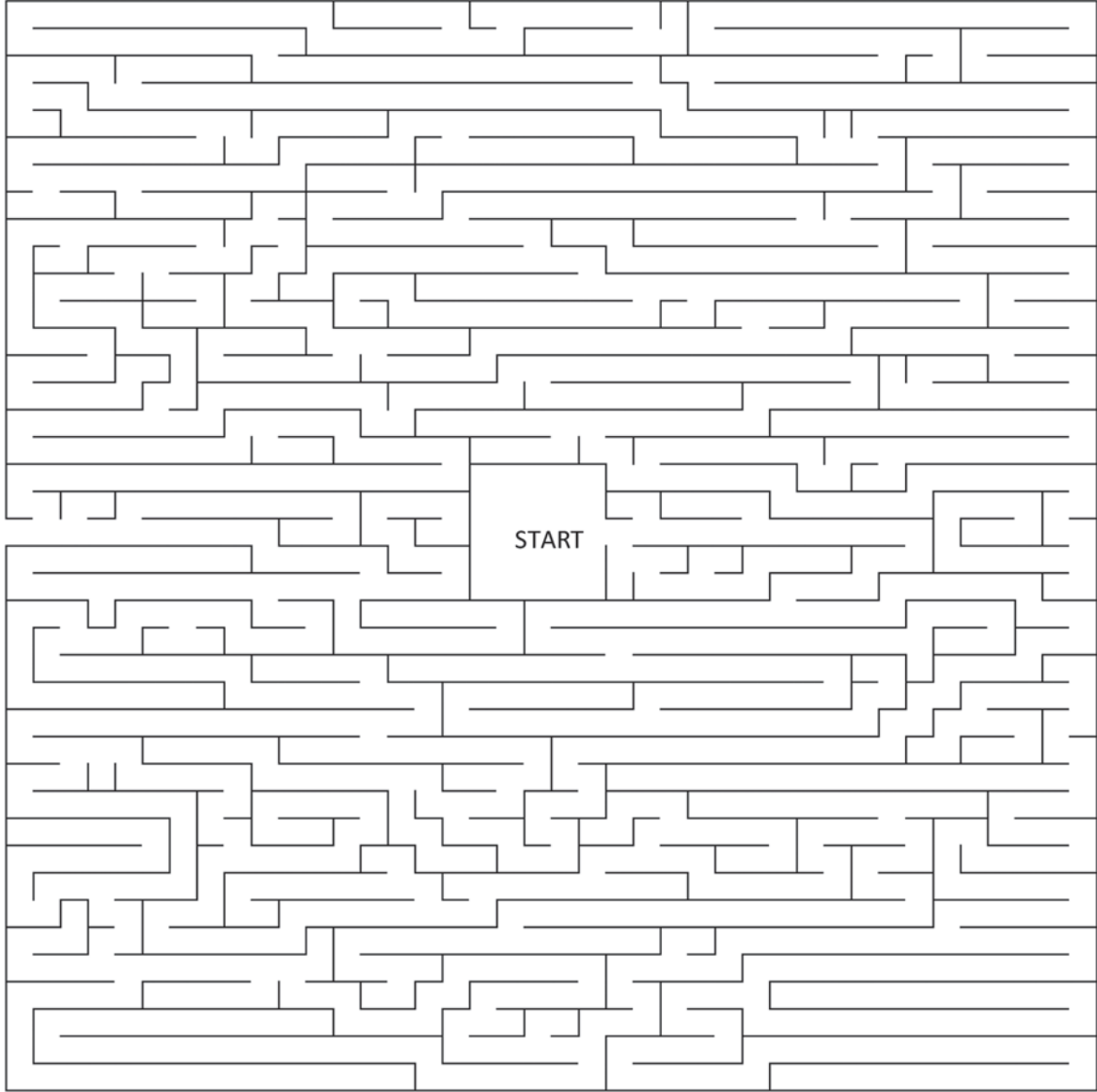
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Presented By

FREE THE CHILDREN
children helping children through education

EPOCH ESCAPE MAZE



CRYPTIC QUOTE

Quote by: Aristotle

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

S T E R E S S
P K N E K L C R F H U T W K U L A N K N J Z K G I
R T R E S S
P F W I H Z R T W K U L A N E K V K N Y
S L R E R T
N M F P W K V U L K L C T W Z K R

WORK SPACE

EPOCH DOKU

CONSTRUCTED BY EPOCH TIMES STAFF

450*		1-	7-		15+
			36*		15+
15+	392*	14+		2/-	24*
				2-	1-
4/-		3+		3-	1-
			448*	90*	
27+					16*
	6		15+		

WORK SPACE

KEN 算 KEN

1. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 6 without repeating. 2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. 3. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

4	3÷	2÷	11+		9+
3+			12×		
	14+			5-	
3÷			3÷		4
2-	2-	2	20×		3÷
		3+		6	

SOLUTIONS

SUPERSUDOKU

7	1	0	A	0	C	E	4	2	9	B	F	5
4	3	B	5	6	2	2	9	3	3	8	1	7
2	E	F	8	1	5	B	0	7	F	C	A	9
3	2	9	1	5	1	8	7	2	7	4	3	6
9	A	4	8	B	7	F	0	5	A	1	C	D
1	A	0	C	2	B	D	F	3	B	E	4	9
6	7	2	9	0	E	A	3	5	8	B	0	7
5	3	8	1	C	D	B	0	7	F	C	A	9
2	9	1	5	1	8	7	2	7	4	3	6	1
4	3	B	5	6	2	2	9	3	3	8	1	7
9	A	4	8	B	7	F	0	5	A	1	C	D
1	A	0	C	2	B	D	F	3	B	E	4	9
6	7	2	9	0	E	A	3	5	8	B	0	7
5	3	8	1	C	D	B	0	7	F	C	A	9
2	9	1	5	1	8	7	2	7	4	3	6	1
4	3	B	5	6	2	2	9	3	3	8	1	7
9	A	4	8	B	7	F	0	5	A	1	C	D
1	A	0	C	2	B	D	F	3	B	E	4	9
6	7	2	9	0	E	A	3	5	8	B	0	7
5	3	8	1	C	D	B	0	7	F	C	A	9
2	9	1	5	1	8	7	2	7	4	3	6	1
4	3	B	5	6	2	2	9	3	3	8	1	7
9	A	4	8	B	7	F	0	5	A	1	C	D
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4	3	B	5	6	2	2	9	3	3	8	1	7
9	A	4	8	B	7	F	0	5	A	1	C	D
1	A	0	C	2	B	D	F	3	B	E	4	9
6	7	2	9	0	E	A	3	5	8	B	0	7
5	3	8	1	C	D	B	0	7	F	C	A	9
2	9	1	5	1	8	7	2	7	4	3	6	1
4	3	B	5	6	2	2	9	3	3	8	1	7
9	A	4	8	B	7	F	0	5	A	1	C	D
1	A	0	C	2	B	D	F	3	B	E	4	9
6	7	2	9	0	E	A	3	5	8	B	0	7
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1	A	0	C	2	B	D	F	3	B	E	4	9
6	7	2	9	0	E	A	3	5	8	B	0	7
5	3	8	1	C	D	B	0	7	F	C	A	9
2	9	1	5	1	8							

ELEVATE AND INSPIRE

Nun’s Illnesses Miraculously Cured

After Doctor Gave Her a Book

Wandering nun found new path after illness became so severe that recovery seemed impossible

DANIEL CAMERON

This is a story of hope, one that provides insight into the life of a businesswoman who later became a nun in her arduous quest for the true meaning of life.

Meet Shi Zhengtong. Born into a farmer’s family in a rural area of southern Taiwan, Shi (pronounced “Shrr”) grew up on the bare necessities of life.

Her kindhearted family believes very much in serving others. Growing up, Shi’s family was not financially well off but nevertheless always went out of their way to help neighbors and the people around them.

Despite hardly having enough food for themselves, Shi’s parents encouraged their children to share food with needy locals in the community so nobody would starve.

“It really wasn’t even easy to have three meals a day,” Shi tells NTD show host Yu Xin.

Shi explains that when she was a young girl, she was often sick. Her family had little money to spare on medical expenses. Their money mainly went toward food, shelter, and transportation.

Secular Life

Later in life, she established a business with her brothers, importing Buddhist items.

Each day when she was at the office, and when she had spare time after hav-



Shi Zhengtong was born into a poor farmer’s family in southern Taiwan.

After taking up the spiritual system, she noticed a considerable improvement to her overall mental and physical health.

ing completed her work, she’d take out her Buddhist scriptures to read and sit in the lotus position, a seated-meditation position where both legs are folded atop one another.

Shi did not feel any meaning to her work; she did not enjoy it. Life itself became depressing. She had no interest in the business, nor secular life, not to mention her own family. Her heart just wasn’t in it.

She wanted to become a nun from as young as 6 or 7, but never could, as she felt a responsibility to her family.

There came a point, however, when secular life became too much, and she seriously considered giving it all up to become a nun.

For two years before she finally became a nun, she cried a lot and felt great hardship internally at the thought of leaving her family.

Taking Up the Robe

The time came when she could not ignore her heart’s desire any longer, so she gave up everything and took up the robe to become a Buddhist nun sometime in her 40s.

For several years, Shi remained in a temple to cultivate herself.

She realized, however, that the scriptures she studied could no longer guide her any higher in her cultivation.

“It’s agonizing for a cultivator who wants to upgrade oneself, but does not have the Way to do so,” explains Shi.

That’s when Shi resolutely decided to

leave the temple and go off on her own. In addition to the robe she wore, her only possessions included a cloth bag, an umbrella, and a sleeping bag.

Alone, she roamed barefoot on the streets, day in and day out under the baking sun of southern Taiwan.

“The soles of my feet were worn out,” she said, adding the hot asphalt road was excruciating to walk on.

Begging for alms was how she survived.

She walked and walked like this, from county to county, in search of a master who could help her return to her home in heaven, “to the origin,” she explained.

She would sleep outside, under trees, sometimes even in cemeteries.

All this roaming around was torturous, but such is the ascetic life of the monastics.

Host Yu Xin asked how she kept going despite all the hardship.

To that, Shi explained that because it was for a greater purpose, she did not feel bitter inside.

She adds that whenever she saw a kindhearted person smile at her, such a simple act, it would truly lift her spirits. Though the person may not realize it, it encouraged her to keep going.

A Turning Point

Shi’s health when she was a young girl was not so good, as she was afflicted with numerous ailments, and life as a wandering nun exacerbated her condition, taking a huge toll on her health.



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Shi Zhengtong, a Taiwanese who became a nun in her 40s meditates beside a river.

She was faced with the reality that her life as a nun could not go on.

Then one day in 1998, there came a turning point.

As there are a number of free services made available for monks and nuns in Taiwan, Shi used to be treated at a health care clinic, where she became acquainted with a doctor. He was well aware of her deteriorating condition and knew that medical treatment could not help her.

Before leaving the clinic after a checkup one fateful day, that doctor friend gifted her a copy of Falun Gong’s principal text, Zhuan Falun.

Falun Gong (also known as Falun Dafa) is an advanced spiritual discipline of the Buddha school and is based on the principles of “Truthfulness-Benevolence-Forebearance.”

According to Margaret Trey, “One of the reasons for Falun Gong’s popularity is its remarkable healing effect,” in her Ph.D. research outlined in the book, “The Mindful Practice of Falun Gong: Meditation for Health, Wellness, and Beyond.”

Shi’s doctor friend knew of the prac-

tice’s health benefits and recommended she try it.

After being handed a copy of the main text, Shi found a place to sit down quietly and read.

She respectfully lifted the book above her head before flipping open the first page. When she laid eyes upon a picture of Master Li Hongzhi, the founder of the practice—“my tears fell instantly,” she recalled.

She felt a profound familiarity with this teacher, as though she had met him before. In her heart, she knew she had finally found her teacher.

“I felt like a lost child who had returned home,” she said, sharing her deepest feelings. “During that time, I would cry when I read the book. My tears would keep flowing.”

Reading Zhuan Falun, it was as though she had found her parents, that she had found home.

“The inner meanings of this book ... I just knew it’s the mighty Buddha Fa manifesting once again in the human world.”

Shi was so touched that the tears would

also flow when she practiced the meditative exercises.

Health Restored, Hope Renewed

It’s rare for a nun like Shi Zhengtong to step onto another path, but she felt it only right with Falun Gong, especially given her poor health, which turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

After taking up the spiritual system, she noticed a considerable improvement to her overall mental and physical health.

Her ailments, which had tortured her for so long, seemed to disappear. She now has a healthy appearance and is not afflicted with illnesses. She’s even able to walk up stairs with ease.

“Very soon my health recovered,” says Shi. She also went on to explain that all those who practice these meditative exercises gain better “mental and physical health.”

Falun Gong is not a religion, so there are no places of worship, and its practitioners are encouraged to conform to the norms of society as upstanding, law-abiding citizens. As Shi had already been a nun for many years, she chose to remain a nun

and not return to secular life.

The robe she wears today is the same robe she has worn since around 1988. As new as it looks, she says the hems inside are all frayed, though one cannot see this from the outside.

Shi says she has learned how to sincerely look within her heart to improve herself, which is an integral part of her self-cultivation.

She says that in traditional Buddhism, lay Buddhists treat monks and nuns with such respect that the latter become comfortable and complacent. They thus fail to look within and strictly cultivate their hearts.

At the end of the day, “cultivation,” or self-improvement, is what’s fundamental for a cultivator of any discipline.

In this cultivation, “xinxing,” or heart-nature, is stressed. Cultivators are taught to look within, as opposed to looking externally, and be good people wherever and whoever they are, be it a student, worker, husband, wife, son, or daughter.

Shi said she feels blessed to have found the practice and encouraged others to try it.



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Get Excited About Boredom

Creativity and self-sufficiency eventually emerge out of drawn-out tedium

JEFF MINICK

School’s out, and the kids—Tom, Caroline, and Jackson—are home full time for the summer. Their mother, Sarah, has scheduled a week of soccer camp for Tom and Caroline, and in August, the family will travel to the beach for a vacation, but otherwise, the kids will spend most of their days at home.

In the first week or so of their summer break, the siblings are delighted to be free of classrooms, textbooks, and teachers. No longer do they have to stagger to the van in the wee hours of the morning under a book bag that weighs nearly as much as they do. No longer are they tormented by the agonies of common core math class or by the dreary minutes of sitting after supper at the kitchen table doing their homework.

Then the day comes when that terrible serpent, acedia, enters this summertime paradise.

It’s mid-afternoon, and the heat and humidity in the backyard could boil an egg. Nine-year-old Tom has used up his allotted time for television and the computer. Now he drifts from room to room like a wraith, picking up a book and putting it down, rolling the drawing pencils in his fingers and putting them back on the sketch pad, looking at the puzzle he started yesterday and shaking his head. He refuses to play Candy Land with 7-year-old Caroline and their 5-year-old brother—“It’s a game for babies,” he tells himself—and he stands surveying his partially constructed Lego village as if he’d never seen it before.

His rambles take him into the kitchen, where Sarah is wiping down the countertops. Tom slips onto one of the stools, puts his elbows on the breakfast bar, wraps his cheeks in his hands, and unleashes that dread pronouncement: “Mom, I’m bored.”

So what does Sarah do? She might offer suggestions to relieve Tom’s malaise: running through a sprinkler in the baking heat of the backyard, writing a letter to Grandma, breaking out his box of toy soldiers and setting them up on the dining room table, tidying up the closet in his room. (That last is least likely to fly, but as a woman of hope, Sarah might



By finding their way out of boredom, children learn independence and how to deal with a problem.

slip it into the conversation.) Of course, Sarah might resort to that old chestnut my mom used. When I complained of boredom, Mom would stop whatever she was doing—as the mother of six, she was always doing something—raise an eyebrow at me, and say, “Well, if you’re bored, I’ll find something for you to do.” So even though boredom and my boyhood self were well acquainted, I soon learned to keep my mental lethargy to myself. Or Sarah could just say, “Well, some people think boredom is good for you.” And she would be right. If you Google “the virtue of boredom,” you will find a score of articles proclaiming the value of ennui. The Child Creativity Lab, the Acton Institute, Benjamin Franklin Circles, The Virtue Blog, The Atlantic—these and other websites feature

articles on why we benefit from boredom. After reading half a dozen of these pieces, I discovered some common ground as to why these researchers and commentators find value in tedium. First, after noting that many children have a weapon against boredom in their phones and tablets, an array of amusements at their fingertips, these commentators are universally opposed to such a circus of constant entertainment. It teaches, they argue, the wrong life lesson to our young people. Nearly all of us, at one time or another, find ourselves adrift in the doldrums, caught up in dull but necessary chores or work. Children who fail to learn that lesson are missing a critical part of their education. Had Tom asked his mother whether she was ever bored, she might tell him that folding the laun-

dry was the most boring thing she could imagine. How we react to boredom interests nearly all these researchers and writers. In “The Meaning of Boredom,” psychologist Heather C. Lench writes that “boredom creates a ‘seeking state’ that motivates people to seek out new situations and stimuli.” Though they don’t use the term “seeking state,” all the investigators of boredom believe that malaise does indeed breed creativity. Folding pajamas and matching socks may bore Sarah, but while she is doing so, she is planning the details of Jackson’s upcoming birthday or considering the colors she intends for the repainting of the living room. Tom’s bout with boredom will eventually lead him into that seeking state. Perhaps he’ll ask Sarah if he can invite a friend over, or build a fort of blankets and ropes in the playroom, or learn a magic trick from the book his dad gave him for Christmas. An old adage states, “Only boring people get bored.” This is not quite true. Most of us get bored. The writers of these articles would instead contend that “only boring people stay bored.”

Which leads us to another benefit of allowing Tom his boredom: self-sufficiency. In “The Virtues of Boredom in an Anxious Age,” Joseph Sunde examines the role boredom plays in “fostering true resiliency and creativity.” He quotes Pamela Paul’s New York Times article “Let the Children Get Bored Again,” where Paul notes, “Boredom teaches us that life isn’t a parade of amusements ... more important, it spawns creativity and self-sufficiency. ... Boredom is something to experience rather than hastily swipe away. ... Boredom is useful. It’s good for you.” By finding his own way out of his boredom rather than with the help of his mother or, as is the case with so many adults, by means of electronic entertainment—television, computers, phones—Tom is learning independence and how to deal with a problem. He is exercising the self-sufficiency that Pamela Paul, Joseph Sunde, and others promote.

When we fill up our children’s days with activities and entertainments, we not only take away those hours of free play necessary for growth and the imagination, we also remove the valuable lessons boredom teaches: that peaks of excitement are often followed by valleys of the humdrum, that we deliver ourselves from those valleys through willpower and imagination, and that we, not others, are ultimately responsible for our interior moods.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. See [JeffMinick.com](#) to follow his blog.

DIGITAL LIFE

Is Your Phone Hindering Your Parenting?

How to spend less time on your phone and more time with your family

BARBARA DANZA

For all the talk and concern we hear about the amount of time kids spend staring at screens, parents are waking up to the hard realization that their own screen time may be an even bigger issue. No parent wants to look back at their kids’ childhood and think, “I wish I’d spent less time on my phone.” Yet all too often the carefully engineered bells and icons call our attention away from our families and over to texts, email, a news alert, or our various social media feeds. Each time, the message to our children is clear: “This is more important.” The first step, as they say, is admitting there’s a problem. If you’d like to spend less time on your phone and more time with your family, here are some strategies to consider.

Assess the Big Picture

Think for a moment about how you’d like your little ones’ childhood to be. Then consider what you might regret if you don’t nip this

phone problem in the bud. Can you imagine letting this silly device get in the way of the goals and dreams you have for your family? Do you ever want your children to be interpreting your phone use as “that’s more important than me?” Of course not. Recall this conversation with yourself when you find yourself slipping back into old habits.

Monitor Your Screen Time

Use your phone’s screen monitoring tools or a similar app of your choice and understand how much time you’re truly spending plugged in. It may be shocking at first, but you’ll have data that you can measure over time and see real improvement on going forward.

Set Rules for Yourself

Unless you’re going cold turkey—those old flip phones are looking better and better each day—set parameters for your device usage. Many people find it helpful to not use their phone in bed and to not look at their phone first thing in



No parent wants to look back at their kids’ childhood and think, ‘I wish I’d spent less time on my phone.’

the morning. If your phone is on your nightstand, and it’s the first thing you reach for in the morning (as opposed to say, your spouse), you may want to rethink that arrangement. You’re giving away your fresh mental energy to whatever your phone is delivering to your mind. News reports, overnight texts, email, social media feeds—they come at you at lightning speed and start you off down the digital rabbit hole before you even get out of bed. Exercise, meditation, journaling, saying good morning to your family, and literally doing nothing

are all infinitely better ways to spend your first waking moments. Likewise, nighttime phone usage, even after the kiddos have gone to bed, can negatively impact your sleep and your mood. Charge your phone in another room and don’t touch it for the rest of the night. Enjoy your life and your family right there in front of you. Allow your mind to rest and time to slow down. An example of a rule you might set up for yourself could be to not touch your phone until after noon each day. Likewise, perhaps you agree to plug it in away from your bedroom at 6 p.m. or before dinner each night. Set the limits that work best for you and your family.

Declutter Your Screen

What are those apps that you keep going back to—Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, Netflix? What would happen if you deleted those apps from your phone? Would you be totally lost not knowing what was going on or would it feel a bit more peaceful? Why not try and see? Delete apps and leave only what is essential. Want to take it a step further? Delete almost ev-

erything besides messaging and the actual phone function, essentially turning your “smart” phone into a “dumb,” or “feature” phone. **Enlist Your Family’s Help** Tackling this issue openly can be a great teaching opportunity for your children. Admit to your family that you’ve become a bit too attached to your digital device. Explain why that’s a negative thing. Explain the steps you’re taking to alter your habits and ask for their help. You’ll find motivation and accountability, and they’ll learn a positive lesson about the type of relationship they’ll later choose to have with technology. **Keep at It** It may surprise you how challenging it can be to create new habits around your digital devices. The addiction is real. So, if you fall back into your old ways, don’t beat yourself up. Keep trying. Go back to reviewing your big-picture why and practicing better habits that work for you and your family. Don’t let some of the best moments in life be lost on you because you were distracted by a back-lit rectangle. Keep at it.

S'mores, Every Which Way

CRYSTAL SHI

Here are the basics: crisp, crumbly graham cracker; gooey, toasted marshmallow; warm, half-melted chocolate. Combine for sticky-sweet bliss.

S'mores are an enduring campfire classic; after all, that combination is hard to beat. But Dan Whalen, the food blogger behind popular site The Food in My Beard, has some ideas.

In his new cookbook, "S'mores! Goopy, Melty, Crunchy Riffs on the Campfire Classic," Whalen offers more than 50 sweet and savory twists on the basic sandwich, adding fun fillings (salted caramel, anyone?) or swapping out the crackers (how about baklava or bacon?) for playful, sometimes surprising results.

The recipes use an oven broiler to easily cook the marshmallows in batches at home, but the best method, Whalen maintains, is still over an open fire.

Here are a few ideas for your next summer campout or at-home s'mores fest.



BACON S'MORES

Chocolate-covered bacon was all the rage on the internet a few years back. As I do with any trend, I stepped back to think: "After all the hype is over, what else can this become?" The answer? The crunchy cracker of a s'more! You can add graham crackers to this recipe if you want, but I like the pure simplicity of the bacon, chocolate, and marshmallow.

PREP & COOKING TIME
Total Time: 30 minutes
MAKES 12 S'MORES

- 24 bacon slices
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup heavy (whipping) cream
- Pinch of kosher salt
- Nonstick cooking spray
- 12 regular marshmallows

To magically transform your bacon



into a cracker shape, cut each strip in half and press the fatty parts together to form a square. Place the squares in a skillet over medium heat (you may need to work in batches) and use a spatula or a steak weight to press the bacon down as it cooks and fuses into a glassy pane, 3 to 4 minutes per side.

Combine the chocolate chips, cream, and salt in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on medium power for 30-second intervals, stirring after each interval, until the chocolate is just melted and the mixture is combined. Be careful not to overheat

the ganache, as it can become grainy.

Place a rack in the upper third of the oven and turn the broiler to its highest setting. Preheat for 5 to 10 minutes. Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray.

Place the marshmallows on the prepared baking sheet. Broil them until they're golden brown on top, about 3 minutes. Keep a close eye on them.

Transfer 12 bacon squares to a serving dish. Top each square with 2 teaspoons of ganache, 1 toasted marshmallow, and another square of bacon. Serve immediately.



BANOFFEE S'MORES

Banoffee pie is a British dessert of banana and toffee that has been taking the internet—and the world—by storm. The pie crust is made of crushed digestive cookies, which, when whole, just happen to be the perfect size to replace the graham cracker in a s'more.

PREP & COOKING TIME
Total Time: 15 minutes
MAKES 12 S'MORES

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 24 digestive cookies, such as McVitie's

4 bars (1.55 ounces each) milk chocolate, broken into individual pips

2 very ripe bananas, each cut into 12 slices

1/2 cup toffee bits

12 regular marshmallows

Place a rack in the upper third of the oven and turn the broiler to its highest setting. Preheat for 5 to 10 minutes. Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray.

Place 12 digestive cookies on a large serving dish. Top each cookie with 4

chocolate pips, 2 banana slices, and about 2 teaspoons of toffee pieces.

Place the marshmallows on the prepared baking sheet. Broil them until they're golden brown on top, about 3 minutes. Keep a close eye on them.

Place 1 toasted marshmallow on each s'more. Top the s'mores with the remaining digestive cookies. Serve immediately.

All recipes reprinted with permission from "S'mores! Goopy, Melty, Crunchy Riffs on the Campfire Classic" by Dan Whalen. Published by Workman.

ALL PHOTOS BY KATE SEARS

LEMON MERINGUE S'MORES

Lemon meringue pie is such a classic dessert, and I love any dessert that is just as tart as it is sweet. Meringue is practically a marshmallow, so this pie is easy to adapt into a s'more. Any leftover curd will keep in the refrigerator in an airtight container for 3 to 4 days. Seal it well and line it with plastic wrap touching the surface of the curd.

PREP & COOKING TIME
Total Time: 4 hours

MAKES 12 S'MORES

FOR THE LEMON CURD

1/2 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice

1 tablespoon lemon zest

1/2 cup sugar

3 large eggs

6 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into pieces

Pinch of kosher salt

FOR THE S'MORES

Nonstick cooking spray

12 regular marshmallows

12 whole graham crackers, broken in half to form 24 squares

Confectioners' sugar, for dusting (optional)

Place the lemon juice, lemon zest, sugar, and eggs in a saucepan over medium heat and whisk together. Add the butter and salt and continue to whisk the mixture until it thickens and coats the back of a spoon, about 5 minutes.

Pour the lemon curd into a medium bowl and place a sheet of plastic wrap directly on the surface of the curd. Refrigerate until the curd has firmed up, at least 4 hours.

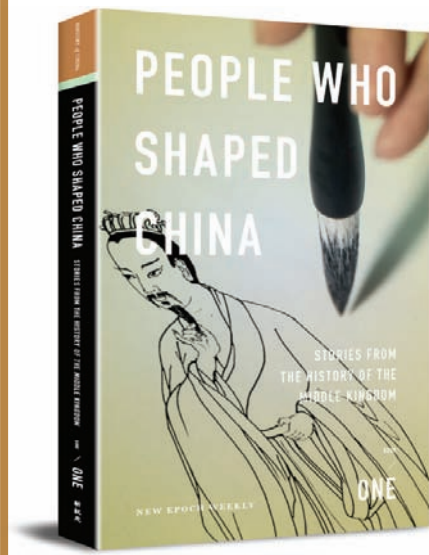
Place a rack in the upper third of the oven and turn the broiler to its highest setting. Preheat for 5 to 10 minutes. Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray.

Place the marshmallows on the prepared baking sheet. Broil them until they're golden brown on top, about 3 minutes. Keep a close eye on them.

Place 12 graham cracker squares on a serving dish. Top each square with 1 tablespoon of lemon curd, 1 toasted marshmallow, and another graham cracker square. Dust with confectioners' sugar, if using, and serve immediately.



Uncover the Mysteries of the Middle Kingdom



“Awesome!!!

I'm a history buff, and I've been reading a lot of Chinese historical fiction. I originally tried delving into Chinese historical non-fiction, but everything I found was way too dry or political.

This book breaks down the most important historical figures of Chinese history into easy to read short stories that tell their historical impact. What's amazing about Chinese history is that *the stories are gripping, wise, and dramatic.* It's so fun to read and I highly recommend it to anyone looking to pick something up about Chinese history.

It's the perfect blend of fiction and non-fiction!

— Yinyin

Fascinating stories!

To my surprise, the book is quite an easy read. It keeps the difficult Chinese names at the minimum and presents interesting stories and characters. Great content for my children to complement their Chinese language studies!

— Amazon customer



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NATURE HEALS

The Health Benefits of Bee Pollen and Royal Jelly



LITTLE_DESIRE/SHUTTERSTOCK

YVONNE VOULGARIS SMYTHE

Mother Nature is brilliant in her capacity to create natural healing opportunities. One such way is the ever-important bee and its beautiful by-products: bee pollen and royal jelly.

Bee Pollen Facts

The title of “worker bee” is appropriately termed given the lengths to which bee pollen is produced. It takes one bee approximately 240 hours of work to produce 6 grams of bee pollen. Young bees use this for nourishment, and it is full of nutrients required for humans—not the least of which is protein, lecithin, live enzymes, folic acid, vitamins, and trace minerals. Half of the protein found in bee pollen is even in its free amino acids form, meaning it is very bio-available.

Royal Jelly Facts

Royal jelly transforms a female worker bee into a Queen Bee. It is her main source of sustenance. In fact, for the first two days after the female hatches, royal jelly is all she is fed. On the third day, the other females are fed honey and pollen while the queen’s food continues to be royal jelly. It is created when a nurse bee combines masticated pollen with its own glandular secretions. The result is a vitalizing tonic that extends the Queen Bee’s life by at least twenty times the average bee.

Bee pollen and royal jelly are the food of bees but they have great health benefits for people.

Bee Pollen and Royal Jelly Health Benefits

While both bee pollen and royal jelly have similar healing and nutritional properties, royal jelly tends to have more potent effects because it has a higher concentration of nutrients. As a result of its high enzymatic count (believed to contain nearly 5000 live enzymes), bee pollen helps with various digestive disorders by healing and regulating the intestinal flora. Also, neither has a mucosal residue, so the body can assimilate and benefit from its high nutrient content.

Bee pollen helps with various digestive disorders by healing and regulating the intestinal flora.

In addition to trace minerals, both of these foods also contain concentrated amounts of vitamins and bio-flavonoids, and they are comparable to cereal grasses, such as wheat and barley grass, as well as spirulina, which are very high in chlorophyll. Research suggests bee pollen and royal jelly are:

- Anti-cancerous
- Anti-aging
- Antimicrobial
- Radio-protective
- Digestive tonics

These properties and others allow bee pollen and royal jelly to help:

- Alleviate menses pain
- Increase fertility (especially royal jelly—the Queen Bee can lay up to 2000 eggs per day because of her optimally developed spermatheca and ovaries)
- Alleviate seasonal allergies (using local, pesticide-free bee pollen, and only under the supervision of a health care practitioner)
- Increase endurance and longevity
- Improve vitality

- Alleviate asthma
- Reduce cravings
- Regulate blood sugar levels
- Increase hemoglobin count in anemic individuals
- Assist in weight loss (because of lecithin)

How to Use Bee Pollen and Royal Jelly

Bee pollen can be purchased as granules or powder form and can be thrown into smoothies, salads, yogurt or a favorite cold or room temperature beverage—but never hot drinks, like tea. It is important that bee pollen is never heated, as this destroys its potent enzymatic properties. Fresh is best, and sometimes packages of bee pollen granules list the packaged date rather than the best before date. They should be kept in the freezer or fridge but preferably the freezer, and because they don’t freeze, they can be used straight from the freezer.

To assist with the somewhat bitter taste, add to honey or smoothies.

Raw, unprocessed honey contains bee pollen, too. Farmers markets are the best bet for fresh, local sources. There are farmers who will sometimes add bee pollen or royal jelly into their honey for additional health benefits.

There is no question as to how important bees are to the survival of humanity. Through pollination, they keep innumerable plant species alive. Equally important are the healing properties these majestic creatures offer humans through their existence. Getting honey and these by-products from local sources, and from farmers who are ethical in their practices, are key to their preservation.

Yvonne Voulgaris Smythe is a natural nutritional clinical practitioner who loves helping clients improve their quality of life through teaching, writing and consulting. This article was originally published on NaturallySavvy.com



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