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"I feel like the relationship between Andrews and the Chinese communist regime is very intimate and his ethical leadership qualities are now in question."

Petitioner Fiona Hiu, on Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews

AU | A2

Over 120 GERMAN COMPANIES

are considering moving their production lines out of China, citing rising costs, unfavourable policy, and the U.S.-China trade war, a German Chamber of Commerce study found.

WORLD | A3

"The Huawei problem is just a drop in the ocean because in a few years, Africa will be the new China, and it is so much because we, Africans, are deliberately turning a blind eye to this encroachment."

Shadreck Chikoti, Malawian writer and activist, on Huawei spying in Africa

CHINA | A5

While FACEBOOK

and Youtube have said they will censor, Reddit has said it won't interfere with posts containing the alleged name of the whistleblower who filed a complaint against U.S. President Donald Trump, leading to the current impeachment inquiry.

US|A6

INSIDE

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U.S. President Ronald Reagan addresses the people of West Berlin at the base of the Brandenburg Gate, near the Berlin wall, on June 12, 1987. Due to the amplification system being used, the President's words "Tear down this wall!" could also be heard on the Eastern (Communist-controlled) side.

SOCIALISM

Socialism Stirs Again 30 Years After Collapse of Berlin Wall

Lessons from history forgotten amid calls for state ownership

TOM OZIMEK



s Germans celebrate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall—the iconic collapse of communism in Europe—some of them worry that the spirit of Marx stirs in the shadows of the Iron Curtain.

Berliners on Saturday rejoice that what's left of the slabs of concrete that for decades cut their city in two-one free, one oppressed-is to-day an artefact on which to display memories, like then-President Reagan calling on Gorbachev to "tear down this wall!"

When the wall fell on Nov. 9, 1989, it brought hope and freedom.

In today's Europe, however, some worry that freedom is once again

at risk.

Former East German political prisoner Vera Lengsfeld, who witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall, argues that socialism in Germany is looking to stage a comeback.

"After the collapse of the stateled economy in what was then East Germany, policymakers are now busy trying to introduce new state plans in the economy," Lengsfeld told The Epoch Times. As examples, she cited the German Renewable Energy Sources Act, which introduced a green electricity feed-in tariff scheme, as well as recent calls for collectivisation by a youth Continued on A4 After the collapse of the state-led economy in what was then East Germany, policymakers are now busy trying to introduce new state plans in the economy.

Vera Lengsfeld, former political prisoner of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany)

BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY

MIKE SARGENT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Rural Firefighter Blames Authorities For Catastrophic Conditions

ISABEL VAN BRUGEN

A rural volunteer firefighter has called out Australian environmental authorities, claiming they must take responsibility for the deadly bushfires that are ravaging New South Wales and Queensland, claiming the lives of at least three people.

Firefighter Tyson Smith, who volunteers in Queensland, issued an emotional plea on Facebook on Nov. 10, which has since gone viral.

He lashed out as he asked how many more homes and lives have to be destroyed before the government and government departments acknowledge they are to blame for halting fuel reduction burns—including controlled burning and mechanical clearing.

"These enviro authorities that put a stop to reduction burns need to Continued on **A2**



U.S. Chief Technology Officer Michael Kratsios.

CHINA SURVEILLANCE

US Tech Chief Warns Against China's Surveillance, Censorship in First International Remarks

BOWEN XIAO

U.S. Chief Technology Officer Michael Kratsios said the Beijing regime has built an "advanced authoritarian state" and warned against countries "opening their arms" to Chinese companies for key infrastructure such as 5G network technology and *Continued on A7*

EDUCATION

Preparations Made to Appeal Judge's Ruling Approving Harvard's Discriminatory Admissions Policies

MATTHEW VADUM

A conservative civil rights group plans to lend its expertise to the legal fight to overturn a federal judge's ruling that Harvard University's policy of discriminating against Asian Americans in favour of whites in the undergraduate admissions process is legally sound.

The ruling in question came Sept. 30 from Boston-based U.S. District Judge Allison D. Burroughs, who was appointed by former President Barack Obama, in a case cited as Students for Fair Admissions Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College

The Trump administration has weighed in on the side of the Asian American students in the lawsuit.

"No American should be denied admission to school because of their race," then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in a statement in 2018. "As a recipient of taxpayer dollars, Harvard has a responsibility to conduct its admissions policy without Continued on A7



A still image from a social media video shows a police officer aiming his gun at a protester in Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong, China, on Nov. 11, 2019.

HONG KONG CRISIS

US Lawmakers Criticise 'Out of Control' Hong Kong Police After Shooting of Protester

EVA FU

U.S. lawmakers have condemned Hong Kong police over the shooting of a protester at point-blank range, amid escalating violence in the ongoing protests against Beijing's influence in the city.

On the morning of Nov. 11, an unarmed 21-year-old protester surnamed Chow was shot in the ab-

domen by an officer at close range in the neighbourhood of Sai Wan Ho-marking the third protester shot with a live round since the mass prodemocracy movement began in June.

According to Hong Kong media, the bullet ruptured Chow's liver and right kidney. He remained in critical Continued on **A6**

HONG KONG CRISIS

Hong Kong Woman Alleges That Police Gang-Raped Her While She Was Detained

NICOLE HAO

An 18-year-old woman in Hong Kong has published a statement via her representative law firm alleging that she was gang raped by a group of police officers while detained inside the Tsuen Wan police station.

The woman, who was only referred to as "Ms. X" in the statement, said she has filed a report with the police for a criminal investigation into her alleged rape.

She criticised the police for leaking information about her case to the media, accusing them of "discrediting" her and "diminishing any prospect of a successful prosecution."

Complaint

Hong Kong law firm Vidler & Co. Solicitors published a statement on behalf of Ms. X on its official Facebook page on Nov. 11, describing her allegations. The law firm is also representing the case of an Indonesian journalist who was shot in the eye with a police projectile.

According to the statement, Ms. X Continued on **A5**

Accuracy & Integrity

Ine 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.

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Rural Firefighter Blames Authorities For Catastrophic Conditions: 'How Many More Lives?'

CONTINUED FROM A1

be held personally accountable for the losses people have endured," he wrote.

"People have lost their lives as a direct result of the decisions made by the environmental authorities!"

Authorities on Nov. 11 declared a state of emergency across a broad swath of Australia's east coast, urging residents in high-risk areas to evacuate ahead of looming "catastrophic" fire conditions.

Three people have already been killed and the bushfires have destroyed more than 300 homes. Severe conditions are forecast again for the weekend.

"How many more homes? How many more acres of destroyed forest and bushland? How many more lives? How much more do we need to endure until you Muppets realise you [expletive] up?" the firefighter wrote.

"Please tell me why these 'enviros' shouldn't be stood up in front of a judge and charged with manslaughter?"

Smith argued that authorities who have "stood for environmental protection" over the past five years are "directly responsible for this devastation."

"The fuel loading we are seeing out on the ground is ridiculous! We are looking at 5-10 years of growth, this fuel source is making these fires untouchable, we can't even get near them to fight them," he wrote

"The heat generated from these enormous fires kills everything, right down to the microbes deep in the soil. It take years for these areas to regenerate! The controlled reduction burns we do only skim the surface, they safely remove the fuel without destroying the place."

Smith's outpouring of sentiment was echoed by both senior Coalition and Labor MPs who claimed that opposition to back burning efforts by some environmental groups has contributed to the "catastrophic" bushfire threat.

NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro criticised his state's National Parks Service for not conducting extensive back burning operations to "manage the fuel load" before bushfire season. "Everyone knows that this is a real issue and I've got the guts to say it," he told The Australian.

Greens leader Senator Richard



RFS Firefighters battle a spot fire on Nov. 13, 2019 in Hillville, Australia.



Sharnie Moren and her 18 months old daughter Charlotte look on as thick smoke rises from bushfires near Nana Glen, near Coffs Harbour, on Nov. 12, 2019.

People have lost their lives as a direct result of the decisions made by the environmental authorities!

Tyson Smith, volunteer with the Rural Fire Service in Queensland Di Natale blamed the deadly fire conditions on a lack of "serious action on climate change," triggering backlash from the deputy prime minister, Michael McCormack, who quipped that victims of the fires "don't need the ravings of some pure, enlightened and woke capital-city greenies."

Professor Andrew Pitman, Director of the UNSW ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes

and a lead author for Reports 3 and 4 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment, said earlier in June at a Sydney Environment Institute event: "This may not be what you expect to hear, but as far as the climate scientists know, there is no link between climate change and drought.

"There is no reason a priori why climate change should make the landscape more arid," he said. "And if you look at the Bureau of Meteorology data over the whole of the last 100 years, there's no trend in data, there is no drying trend. There's been a drying trend in the last 20 years, but there's been no drying trend in the last 100 years, and that's an expression of how variable the Australian rainfall climate is.

"The fundamental problem we have is we don't understand what causes droughts, and much more interesting, is we don't know what stops a drought ... we don't know what lines up to create drought-breaking rains, and that's an area of very active research."

Pitman later issued a correction to his statement, saying that while there is no direct link, there are clear indirect links.

In an article for The Conversation, Professor David Bowman of the University of Tasmania explained that there are differences between "back burning" and "fuel-reduction burning."

He explained that the intensity of fires can be reduced by fire reduction burning, by removing "fine surface fuels" such as litter. Bowman added that such a technique can only be applied to open flammable vegetation, and is too risky to use on "heavily forested, wet regions" such as in dense eucalypt forests.

Bowman explained that back burning is a "last-resort measure to stop wildfire from burning out specific areas."

"It works by setting fires from containment lines, such as established fire breaks or hastily contrasted ones made with a bulldozer or cut by hand."

Australia's science agency said controlled burns, where fires are deliberately lit to clear out excess dry vegetation that can fuel wildfires in high-risk areas, are key to management. But back burns can spiral out of control.

Authorities declared a "catastrophic" rating in Sydney for Nov. 12, marking the first time the fire danger rating has been declared since its introduction in 2009 following the 'Black Saturday' bushfires that killed 173 people. The rating informs residents in the affected areas that authorities are recommending: "for your survival, leaving early is the only option."

Reuters contributed to this report.

South Australian Woman Starts Petition to Investigate Daniel Andrew's Role in China's Controversial Belt and Road Initiative

KATABELLA ROBERTS

A concerned South Australian woman has launched a petition calling for an investigation of Victoria's state premier Daniel Andrews and his government's role in the controversial Chinese Belt and Road initiative.

Fiona Hiu is asking for 60,000 signatures to bid the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) to launch a full investigation into "Dan Andrews' wholly inappropriate ties to the Chinese Communist Party and its agents."

Hiu, a Hong Kong-born Australian citizen, also calls on the state's Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) to investigate the entire bidding process of the project to ensure there are no improprieties.

The statement on the Change.Org petition reads: "Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews has signed a new deal with the Chinese Communist Regime to deepen the state's engagement with the controversial



By having such an intimate relationship with China's communist regime, Daniel Andrews' ethical leadership quality is in question and many Australians now do not believe he puts Australia's interest before that of China's.

Fiona Hui, a Hong Kongborn Australian citizen Belt and Road initiative.

"Australians are already

worried about Chinese influence in Australia, but Andrews, who is a frequent visitor to China, has ignored the concerns of many of us and decided to deepen his relationship with the Chinese Communist Party, ignoring China's Communist Party's 70 years of continuing massacres, enslaving, organharvesting, starving, threatening, oppressing and otherwise abusing their citizens; ignoring China's killing, torturing, bullying, impersonating and discrediting democracy seeking Hong Kong protesters; ignoring China's destroying of our planet, and rampantly stealing of Intellectual Properties and assets from companies and governments around the world."

It continues: "By having such an intimate relationship with China's communist regime, Daniel Andrews' ethical leadership quality is in question and many Australians now do not believe he puts Australia's interest before that of China's."

before that of China's."

The state government of

Victoria is currently the only entity in Australia to have signed up to China's controversial "One Belt, One Road"

infrastructure programme. The ambitious project, the brainchild of Chinese leader Xi Jinping, was rolled out in 2013 and aims to establish geopolitical clout for the Chinese Communist Party by financing infrastructure projects throughout Southeast Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America.

But its associated infrastructure projects have faced backlash in many countries, including Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

Epoch Times writer Chriss Street reported in July that, according to state mouthpiece Xinhua News Agency, Xi's \$1.3 trillion "One Belt, One Road" initiative is also infused with military objectives. China's Defence Minister Wei Fenghe made the public remarks during a visit with a group of South Pacific and Caribbean military chiefs on July 10.

Andrews agreed to the global project on Oct. 23

while on a visit to Beijing, branding the deal an "important opportunity."

"This has been an important opportunity to not only show-case Victoria's massive pipeline of infrastructure projects, but also highlight the ingenuity and expertise of Victorian companies," he said.

Andrews added that he was "proud of our close relationship with our largest trading partner and will continue to work closely with China to promote Chinese investment in our state."

However, the agreement received criticism from Australia's Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton who accused Andrews of failing to act in the best interest of the nation.

Dutton told reporters in Canberra: "Why does he believe this is in our national interest? Why does he believe it's in Victoria's interest?

"I haven't heard the rationale or the reasoning behind what seemed to be a pretty rushed decision."

Meanwhile, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison also criticised the Victorian government for their acceptance of the deal.

During a campaign trip in Queensland, Morrison told reporters he was "surprised that the Victorian government went into that arrangement without any discussions with the commonwealth government at all or taking ... any advice ... on what is a matter of international relations."

"They're the responsibilities of the commonwealth government and I would've hoped the Victorian government would've taken a more cooperative approach to that process.

"They know full well our policy on those issues and I thought that was not a very cooperative or helpful way to do things on such issues."

Speaking to 3AW radio, Hiu said she set up the petition to "protect Australia's interest as well as the people in Hong Kong"

She told host Neil Mitchell: "I feel like the relationship between Andrews and the Chinese communist regime is very intimate and his ethical leadership qualities are now in question."

German Companies in China Plan to Leave Market

FRANK FANG

More than 20 percent of German companies operating in China are planning to relocate production away from the Asian country, according to a Nov. 12 study released by the German Chamber of Commerce in China.

Twenty-three percent of the 526 member companies who responded to the study have made the decision or are considering moving production capacity, an increase from 19 percent of those who responded a year ago.

Among the companies that have decided to leave or are planning to do so, 71 percent attribute the reason to rising costs, including labor costs; 33 percent cited an unfavorable policy environment; 25 percent cited the Sino-U.S. trade war; and 22 percent pointed to market access barriers. Firms can choose more than one reason in the survey.

As to the preferred destinations of relocation, Southeast Asia was the top choice with 52 percent, followed by India at 25 percent, and the United States at 5 percent, the survey showed.

Overall, the trade war and the slowdown in the Chinese economy have resulted in the lowest business confidence in years, and 83 percent of polled firms said they felt either directly or indirectly impacted by the trade dispute. Only 27 percent of polled companies said they expect to reach or exceed their business targets in 2019.

China's third-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) growth rose 6 percent year-on-year, the slowest rate since the first quarter of 1992, according to Reuters, and down from the previous quarter of 6.2 percent growth. The growth decline was attributed by economists to weakness in export-related industries, particularly the manufacturing sector.

Next year "is likely to be characterised by uncertainty, stemming from an unresolved U.S.-China trade dis-



The Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China Liu He (R) talks with German Transport Minister Andreas Scheuer (C) and Hamburg's mayor Peter Tschentscher (L) at the Chamber of Commerce in Hamburg, northern Germany, on Nov. 27, 2018.

[Next year] is likely to be characterised by uncertainty, stemming from an unresolved U.S.– China trade dispute.

Jens Hildebrandt, executive director of German Chamber of Commerce in North China pute related to a decelerating Chinese and global economy," Jens Hildebrandt, executive director of German Chamber of Commerce in North China, said in a statement.

German firms also said they faced many business challenges in China, with nearly two in three firms polled saying they have experienced either direct or indirect market access restrictions.

Examples of those restrictions are: difficulties in obtaining licenses, certification, or product approval; discrimination during the bidding and tendering process for projects; lack of participation in the development of industry standards; and market

restrictions set up by China's negative list, which sets out sectors that are off-limits to foreign investment.

CHRISTIAN CHARISIUS/DPA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

According to Chinese state-run media Xinhua, Beijing recently shortened its negative list for foreign investment to 40 items from 48. For example, ownership restrictions in telecommunications and entertainment services were removed.

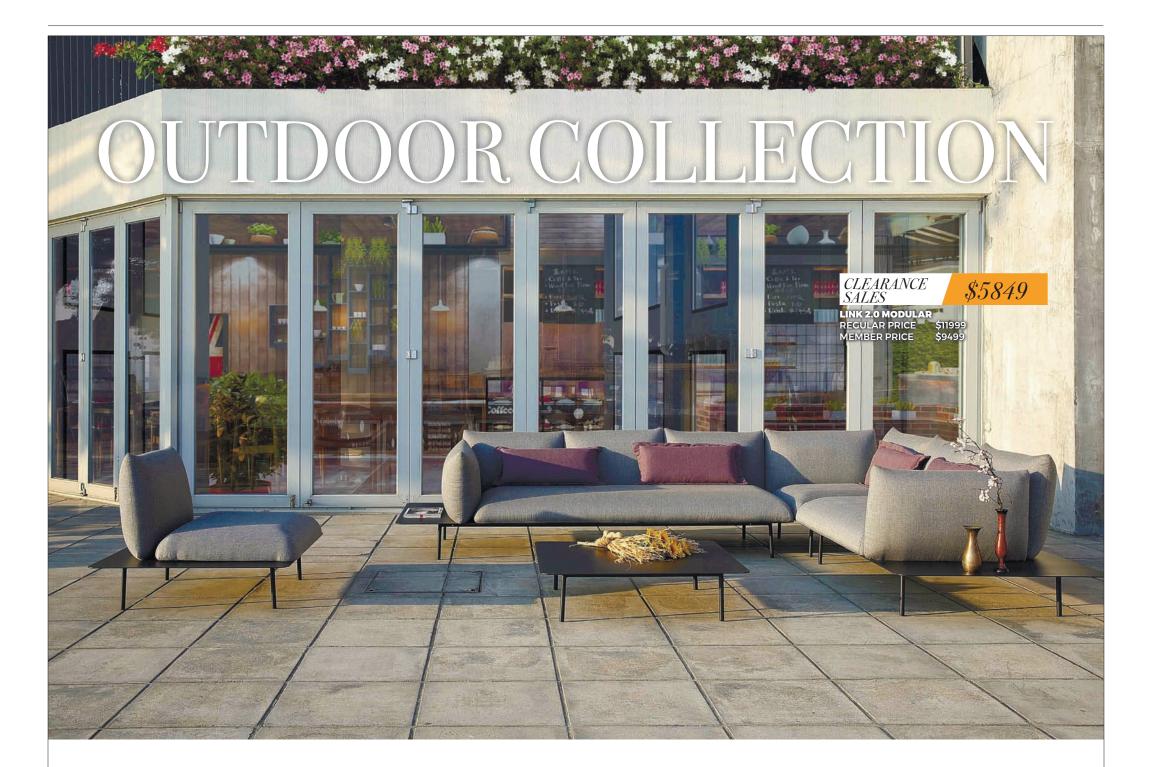
German firms also identified two other major challenges: uncertain and unclear regulatory frameworks (54 percent) and technology transfer requirements (48 percent).

In March, a U.S. congressional report pointed out that U.S. and other foreign companies currently "have

few options" beyond forming a joint venture with Chinese firms in exchange for access to the Chinese market, in which they must provide their intellectual property and technology to their Chinese partners.

The German study also pointed out that German firms have invested about 81 billion euros (\$89 billion) and created more than a million jobs in China. However, 37 percent said China's efforts to "level the playing field" for foreign companies were insufficient.

The Chamber, with 2,300 member companies, comprises roughly 50 percent of all German companies in





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WORLD NOVEMBER 14-20, 2019. THE EPOCH TIMES

Socialism Stirs Again 30 Years After Collapse of Berlin Wall

CONTINUED FROM A1

movement within Germany's coruling Social Democratic Party

SPD is a junior partner in a coalition government with Chancellor Angela Merkel's more conservative Christian Social Union (CSU).

Earlier this year, Kevin Kühnert, the head of "Jusos" or Young Socialists, told the German weekly Die Zeit that the state should take over major German companies like BMW.

"Without collectivization overcoming capitalism is unthinkable," Kühnert said on May 1. "For me, it's less important whether on the BMW doorbell sign it says 'state automobile company' or 'cooperative automobile company' or whether the collective decides that BMW is no longer necessary in this form," he added.

Kühnert added what's key is that there would no longer be a "capitalist owner" of the com-

He also lashed out at people who rent out property for profit.

"Thinking it through logically, everyone should own no more living space than they themselves live in," Kühnert said, calling for policies that would see the German state take away huge swaths of housing stock from rightful

His comments sparked a backlash, also from major figures in the SPD, most memorably from Johannes Kahrs, a member of the more economically liberal arm of the party, who tweeted: "What terrible nonsense. What was he smoking? It can't have been legal."

But while even the General Secretary of SPD, Lars Klingbeil, said in a tweet that Kühnert was describing a "social utopia," there were those in the party that said his rhetoric fell squarely within the party's principles.

"Socialism means that we want to take down every kind of injustice, and, in principle, change every kind of inequality," SPD member Hilde Mattheis told DW. "And that we want to achieve that with any kind of democratic means. I can't understand what was so controversial here."

Ralf Stegner, the SPD's deputy leader, also downplayed the controversy as a "storm in a teacup," revealing perhaps that the goalposts have shifted left, and what once was considered radical has been pushed into the main-

'Poverty for All'

Lengsfeld, who after German reunification became a politician representing both the Alliance 90/The Greens and then the CDU in the Bundestag, sees Kühnert's comments as signposts on a road lined with the horrors of social-

"A huge part of German elites have simply not learned the lessons of history," she insists, "otherwise they would be clear that state-controlled property and industry leads not to wealth for all, but poverty for all."

"All the experiments Kevin Kühnert is asking for have been carried out in the Soviet Union

and it was a disaster." Lengsfeld said she believes that, for the most part, the people nostalgic about communism or who dream of a "socialist paradise" in Germany are either former East German elites who drew benefits from the resources and power they controlled, or naive Germans who never experienced it firsthand but are enamored with utopian notions about social justice, reduced inequality, and greater social welfare. She said ordinary people who suffered under communism generally hate the idea of its resurgence.

Kai Weiss, a Research Fellow at the Austrian Economics Centre and a board member of the Hayek Institute, is more pessimistic.

"As in most other parts of the Western world, Germany has



In this Nov. 10, 1989, file photo, Berliners sing and dance on top of The Berlin Wall to celebrate the opening of East-West German borders. Thousands of East German citizens moved into the West after East German authorities opened all border crossing points.

Nyquist dismissed notions that socialism would have worked if, as modern proponents claim, it had been implemented "correctly."

also seen a resurgence in social-

ist thought in recent years," Weiss

"Kühnert's example is particu-

larly illuminating: he was born

in West Berlin, at the doorsteps of the Communist regime, but

only in 1989, months before the

fall of the Berlin Wall. He still

embraces socialism," Weiss ex-

plained. "The issue is that young

people have a much easier time

embracing these ideas, because

they have never lived through or

experienced the consequences of

"It is not only young people,

however," Weiss argues. "There

is a certain sense of nostalgia

among East Germans of the 'good

"This is perhaps because expec-

tations of the post-communist

world were too high and there

were too many promises made

to East Germans," Weiss said. "To

this day, they earn (often much)

"Socialism has been tried a

gazillion times and the results are

always the same: mass poverty,

destruction, misery, tyranny, and

death. And it can't work, as econ-

omists like Ludwig von Mises and

Friedrich von Hayek have shown

many decades ago already," Weiss

said. "Socialists will, of course,

say that examples like the Soviet

Union, Venezuela, or Cuba have

not actually been socialism. But

there is a strange progression

among socialists that whenever

a socialist project starts, they will

celebrate the Chavez's and Cas-

tro's of this world. But then when

poverty reigns, breadlines come

into being, and the government

fights its own people, it's sud-

denly not socialism anymore."

less than West Germans."

these disastrous ideas."

old days."

told The Epoch Times.

activist in East Germany and former prisoner of the Stasi, photographted

nism, Lengsfeld said that while East German elites enjoyed power

had it hard. "It was a dictatorship," she said. "There were no democratic freedoms or rights."

and privilege, everyday people

Basic necessities were in short supply, she said, not to mention "luxuries" like cars, washing machines, or bathroom tiles.

"The economy was guided by a state plan and this never works. It certainly didn't work in East Germany," Lengsfeld said, citing

routine shortages. "We didn't starve like in the 40s, but there was a constant lack of certain products and you had to have lots of time to get everything you wanted. You had to wait about 10 years to get a car. At the end of East Germany, you had to wait 15 years for a car. Or you had to wait 5-10 years for an apartment. For other goods, a washing machine for instance, you had to wait 1 or 2 years. If you needed tiles for your bathroom, you had to find out where there was going to be a delivery and stand in line for 48 hours. And then you had two types to choose from-white or blue."

People who dared to oppose the

state had it the worst. "Anyone who acted against the dictatorship endured repression," she said. "You could lose your job, as I did. You were forbidden from travelling freely. You couldn't leave the country, not even to other socialist countries. My apartment was raided by the secret police–called the Stasi."

Peaceful forms of protest, like publicly drawing attention to rights ostensibly guaranteed in the Constitution, were punished

Lengsfeld was arrested in January 1988 in East Berlin carrying a poster featuring Article 27 of the Constitution of East Germany, which said: "Every citizen has the right to express his opinion freely and openly."

MICHELE TANTUSSI/GETTY IMAGES

THOMAS KIENZLE/AP

She was thrown into Hohenschönhausen, a prison complex used by the secret police.

"It was a very special prison because it was set up for complete isolation. Really complete. A prisoner didn't know where he or she was," Lengsfeld recounted. "I was taken to prison blindfolded and I was never told where I was. I never met, never heard, never had any contact with other pris-

"It was totally silent at this prison," she said. "There was nothing inside my cell except a wooden plank, washing basin, a small table, and a stool."

"Nothing to read, nothing to write, no window, only stones with a small gap for fresh air."

She said she was interrogated repeatedly but never beaten.

"It was policy that political prisoners were not to exhibit torture marks," she said, explaining that this was done to minimise evidence of mistreatment and prevent claims of abuse. "This was only the case with inmates at this particular prison, though," she added, saying that if prisoners were later moved to regular prisons, they faced physical abuse.

Psychological pressure that bordered on mental torture, however, was this prison's expertise. They were experts in using isolation as a tool of manipulation, she explained.

'Maybe a Sociopath'

Jeff Nyquist, author of "Origins of the Fourth World War" and outspoken critic of Karl Marx, argues that his ideas didn't lead to disaster due to poor implementation but that "it was Marx's intention to destroy."

"He was a malevolent person," Nyquist told The Epoch Times. "Maybe he was a malignant narcissist, maybe a sociopath."

"You look at his own life, the marks of badness. Wherever his ideas, his spirit, goes, it's also bad. Because what people need is freedom. They need to be able to develop and to work out their lives, not to be burdened with all this nonsense, with the state having an excuse to domineer and to control everybody and everything."

Nyquist dismissed notions that socialism would have worked if, as modern proponents claim, it had been implemented "cor-

"Now there are so many people who have the idea that Marxism or communism were somehow good, but that they just have not been done correctly," Nyquist said. "But when you look at the origins of this nihilistic philosophy and you look at its originator and you look at the nature of its originator, the real nature of the arguments underlying communism–no, it's evil from the very beginning. It has an evil intent and it has an evil result."

Nyquist points to some 100 million deaths in the 20th century attributed to communism, as well as to other forms of desolation.

In the Shadow of the Iron

Describing life under commu-

Vera Lengsfeld, prominent civil rights An interrogation room at the Hohenschoenhausen prison of the East German Ministry of State Security, also known as the Stasi, in Berlin, Germany, on Aug

THE EPOCH TIMES NOVEMBER 14-20, 2019

Media Report of Huawei Aiding in Spying on African Politicians Worries Activists

CHARLES PENSULO

BLANTYRE, Malawi-Chinese telecom giant Huawei continues to be the focus of controversy, the latest being a purported link to spying by some African nations on political opponents.

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reported earlier this year that Huawei employees, embedded with cybersecurity forces in Uganda and Zambia, helped in intercepting "encrypted communications and used cell data to track opponents" of the countries' ruling political parties.

In Uganda, government officials allegedly worked with the technicians to infiltrate music-icon-turned-politician Bobi Wine's WhatsApp chat group, the WSJ reported. The authorities "scuppered his plans to organise street rallies," then arrested Wine and his supporters. Similar intelligence-gathering operations were reported in Zambia and Algeria.

The report also said that Huawei technicians have, at least in two cases, "personally helped African governments spy on their political opponents."

Huawei has refuted claims of its involvement in hacking activities, and in a letter addressed to the WSJ, threatened to sue the publication over "false statements."

The news from the WSJ has been met with concern in Africa, with activists and writers saying it will likely make people across the continent feel threatened when using the internet and other mobile communications.

Huawei didn't respond to requests for an interview for this story. Meanwhile, the WSJ also hasn't publicly commented on the letter.

Not Safe on the Internet

Huawei has links with African countries on several levels.

In Malawi, for example, the Chinese regime financed, with a "soft loan," a national fibre backbone project, which was implemented by Huawei. According to the Malawi government, the project aims to "connect all major sectors of the economy and government agencies in the country to a high-speed optical fibre-based network."

People aren't going to feel safe when using the internet, says Richard Mulonga, founder and chief executive officer of Bloggers of Zambia, a nonprofit independent think tank that works in Zambia and southern Africa on internet governance and digital rights.

"Africans must be worried, because if the said activities are happening, then democracy in Africa is being undermined. People's ability to hold people in power to account using internet platforms is also undermined," Mulonga told The Epoch Times.

But the report on spying didn't come as a surprise to Mulonga.

"We've heard this kind of narrative in Zambia before, in regard to the Chinese equipment being used to surveil



Musician turned politician Robert Kyagulanyi (C) is joined by other activists in Kampala during a demonstration to protest a controversial tax on the use of social media on July 11, 2018.

Africans must be

worried, because if

are happening, then

democracy in Africa

is being undermined.

hold people in power

internet platforms is

Richard Mulonga, founder and

chief executive officer of the

nonprofit independent think

tank Bloggers of Zambia

People's ability to

to account using

also undermined.

the said activities



Supporters of opposition leader Bobi Wine, whose real name is Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, escort him through the streets in Kampala, Uganda, on Oct. 31, 2019.

citizens and political opponents," he said.

He added that the purported spying, coupled with repressive laws to close the "civic space online" by the government, is an abuse of human rights.

"This is an abuse of digital rights and the right to free association and assembly," he said. "This is an affront to democracy, people's rights to entitlement in this digital age."

Zambia introduced a cybercrimes and security bill in 2018, which has yet to be drafted into law. The country also plans to implement an internet tax, whereby social media users are charged a fee–following the lead of Tanzania and Uganda. But activists say the laws are aimed at "gagging online spaces under the guise of curbing social media abuse."

The governments of Zambia and Uganda have dismissed the WSJ report.

"The WSJ article on government spying on political opponents is malicious. We refute it with the contempt it deserves," Zambian government spokesperson Dora Siliya wrote on

Ugandan presidential spokesman Don Wanyama told AFP, "It is totally false to claim Huawei helped African governments, among them Uganda, spy on its political opponents."

Huawei has been blacklisted in the United States over security concerns surrounding its 5G network infrastructure and links to the Chinese regime. New Zealand and Australia have also already banned Huawei from their 5G networks, while the UK government has postponed a decision on whether Huawei can build 5G mobile networks in the country until it assesses the potential security risks fully.

Attack on Democracy?

The Chinese have taken advantage of Africa in ways that are deeper than those currently being discussed, says Shadreck Chikoti, a Malawian writer and activist

"They have banked their neo-colonialism-because that's what it really is-on the fact that African leaders are greedy, the African peoples are too afraid to demand justice and accountability, and that there is hardly any spirit of nationalism and patriotism anywhere in Africa," Chikoti said.

"The Huawei problem is just a drop in the ocean, because in a few years, Africa will be the new China, and it is so much because we, Africans, are deliberately turning a blind eye to this encroachment."



Chen Gang, former vice mayor of Beijing.

Former Beijing Vice Mayor Pleads Guilty to Accepting Bribes

OLIVIA LI

A former Beijing politician pleaded guilty on Nov. 7 to charges of accepting bribes worth 129 million yuan (\$18.5 million).

The trial of Chen Gang, 52, who was vice mayor of Beijing between 2006 and 2017, took place in Nanjing, in Jiangsu Province.

Chen was accused of taking advantage of his various positions to help some construction companies benefit from development projects, in exchange for money and gifts between 2003 and 2018.

Specifically, Chen helped to clear hurdles for construction projects, such as obtaining approval for zoning changes, adjusting regulatory requirements, and obtaining final inspection and completion acceptance to benefit the construction companies, according to prosecutors.

A graduate of Tsinghua University with a degree in urban planning, Chen is best known for his leadership role in Beijing's urban development in preparation for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, including the construction of the Bird's Nest Stadium, which was the main venue for the games.

Chen has taken a series of important positions in urban development as well as in China's controversial South–North Water Transfer Project, the largest water diversion project in the world.

The charges imply that Chen loosened the project standards and allowed for shoddy construction work to pass final inspection.

Since taking power in 2012, Chinese leader Xi Jinping has embarked on a sweeping anticorruption campaign to purge the Chinese Communist Party of misbehaving officials, who were often members of an opposition faction loyal to former Party leader Jiang

According to public data, as of January 2013, more than 480 high-ranking officials at the provincial or ministerial level and above have been found guilty of corruption, and at least 58 officials have embezzled or taken bribes exceeding 100 million yuan (\$14.3 million).

China's anti-corruption authorities announced the investigation of Chen on Jan. 6. On Jan. 9, Chinese news portal Sohu reported on Chen's case. The report said Chen's wife had already immigrated to Canada, and Chen usually took bribes through his wife, to conceal his identity.

In addition to China-based developers, Chen's wife worked closely with a Canada-based Chinese developer surnamed Li who was a new immigrant in Canada. Chen, with authority in land-use planning, allowed Li to accumulate a fortune through development projects in China. In return, Li used the money he gained from those projects to bribe Chen and help Chen get promotions.

According to the Sohu report, Chen had already transferred huge amounts of assets abroad before Chinese authorities placed him under investigation.

Hong Kong Woman Alleges That Police Gang-Raped Her While She Was Detained

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kept silent for several weeks after allegedly being raped by police. One day in October, she finally filed a police report. Sometime within this period, Ms. X discovered she was pregnant.

"She subsequently gave a detailed account of the events to police, answering extensive and highly invasive questions" the statement read

sive questions," the statement read. Following the police's request, Ms. X underwent a forensic medical examination. Then, Ms. X terminated her pregnancy and permitted the forensic medical examiner to detect the DNA from the aborted fetus, to identify one or more of the alleged assailants.

In the past weeks, Ms. X "repeatedly asked police for updates on the case but the investigating team has refused to provide her with any details," according to the statement. Furthermore Ms. X learned on Nov. 4 that police "obtained a search warrant to seize her private medical records, including those

long pre-dating the allegations," in addition to "CCTV footage from her private doctor's clinic for a period of several days before and after the date of the alleged rape," without notifying her.

"To seek to obtain a rape complainant's private medical records without their knowledge and consent is a gross invasion of privacy," the statement read.

Ms. X went to court to challenge the search warrant. On the morning of Nov. 5, the court suspended the search warrant immediately, and granted an anonymity order to prevent any person–including the press–from identifying Ms X, whether directly or indirectly.

She expected that the investigation "would be investigated with impartiality, in strict confidence, and with respect for her privacy and dignity," but "police have deliberately leaked supposed details of the case," she said.

Media Reports

Police sources were cited in sev-

eral recent media reports about

Hong Kong police also revealed at a Nov. 11 press conference Ms. X's age, and that Ms. X alleged the gang rape occurred on Sept. 27, by four riot police officers.

In a Nov. 10 report, local pro-Beijing newspaper Ming Pao, citing Hong Kong police, revealed that Ms. X's lawyer filed the police report on Oct. 22, after Ms. X discovered she was pregnant upon a checkup at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The report claimed that there were no clashes between protesters and police in the Tsuen Wan neighborhood on Sept. 27. It also claimed that the Tsuen Wan police station does not have riot police stationed there.

The report questioned whether the young woman was truly pregnant, and quoted police sources that said the police force was investigating whether the woman had filed a false case.

Hong Kong newspaper Apple

Daily reported on Nov. 11 that John Tse Chun Chung, chief superintendent of Hong Kong police public relations branch, told an unnamed media that Ms. X "had mental illness."

Ming Pao quoted Tse in a Nov. 11 report, in which he confirmed that a young woman received an abortion operation at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. But he refused to respond to his comments about Ms. X's mental health.

Ms. X's case has further triggered anger among protesters, who initially opposed the government's decision to table a controversial extradition bill that would allow mainland China to transfer criminal suspects for trial in Communist Party-controlled courts.

Though the government announced the bill's formal withdrawal in September, protesters continue to take to the streets to demand that police be investigated for their use of force and that the government enact reforms to allow for universal suffrage.

A6 US

US Lawmakers Criticise 'Out of Control' Hong Kong Police After Shooting of Protester

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condition in Eastern Hospital after emergency surgery to remove the kidney and part of his liver. Chow's heart reportedly stopped several times due to severe blood loss.

In a widely circulated video of the incident, a police officer pointed his gun at point-blank range at a protester wearing a white hoodie, before grabbing him by the neck.

A second protester dressed in black, Chow, approached the officer and tried to swat the gun from his hand. He was shot by the police officer and collapsed to the ground.

Two more protesters approached the officer from behind, and the officer fired two more shots at close range.

The Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education confirmed in a statement that Chow is a student at their Chai Wan campus, and asked for a "thorough investigation."

In a press conference on Nov. 11, a police spokesperson said the officer's action was "reasonable" because he feared the protester would take his gun, adding that the incident would be investigated.

At least 99 people were hospitalised for injuries during clashes on Nov. 11, with two in critical condition, according to the Hospital Authority. More than 260 people were arrested.

The day saw heightened levels of violence as protesters and police clashed at several districts, numerous universities, as well as the business and financial district of the Central area.

Condemnation

The shooting sparked a chorus of criticism from Western officials and international rights groups.

"If this isn't a police state, I don't know what is," Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) said on Twitter on Nov. 11.

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) called the incident "Tiananmen Square 2.0," referring to Beijing's bloody crackdown against prodemocracy student protesters in Tiananmen Square in 1989, where thousands are estimated to have

"This is no police force. It is a free-dom-suppressing, anti-democracy squad," she wrote in a tweet.

"The Hong Kong Police are out of control and escalating the level of violence against unarmed people," Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Mass.) said on Twitter. He also urged the Senate to bring the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act to the

Senate floor.
The proposed legislation, which



A protestor arrested by riot police in Wong Tai Sin district in Hong Kong, China, on Nov. 11, 2019.

If this isn't a police state, I don't know what is.

Josh Hawley, Republican Senator for Missouri



Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO) addresses the Faith and Freedom Coalition's Road to Majority Policy Conference at the U.S. Capitol Visitor's Centre Auditorium in Washington on June 27, 2019.

passed the House unanimously in October, would require the U.S. administration to conduct an annual review to determine whether the city is sufficiently autonomous from the mainland to justify its trade privileges with the United States. It would also impose sanctions on Chinese and Hong Kong officials responsible for human rights violations in the city.

Man-Kei Tam, director of Amnesty International Hong Kong, said the incident marked "another shocking low for the Hong Kong police" and called for the suspension of the responsible officer.

Tam also noted another incident, in which a police officer on a motorcycle

was filmed driving into a crowd of protesters, knocking at least one of them to the ground.

"These are not policing measures these are officers out of control with a mindset of retaliation," Tam said. Police on Nov. 11 said the officer on the motorcycle has been suspended.

Pressure Mounting

In recent remarks, Chinese and Hong Kong authorities have showed toughened stances in dealing with the unrest.

Zhang Xiaoming, director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office within the cabinet-like State Council, recently highlighted the importance of strengthening Hong Kong's "law enforcement power" as an urgent task for local authorities.

In a press conference on Nov. 11, Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam labelled protesters the "enemy of the people," and vowed that they "will never win."

China's foreign ministry spokesperson declined to answer questions relating to Hong Kong.

The Chinese state media Global Times, in a Nov. 11 editorial following the shooting, said it "resolutely supports Hong Kong police" for their actions. State broadcaster CCTV similarly said police must use "the most strict law enforcement acts" against the "frenzied" protesters.

On Nov. 11, a green-shirted, middle-aged man got into a heated argument with what appeared to be a group of Hong Kong protesters on a footbridge in the neighbourhood of Ma On Shan, during which he was set on fire. Police later called the act an attempted murder, but didn't identify the perpetrator.

Global Times commented that this act was "no different from ISIS terrorists" and encouraged the police to "harden up."

More than 10,000 Hong Kong education professionals have signed a joint letter calling for a citywide class strike, after police rushed to multiple campuses to arrest student protesters on Nov. 11.

The Nov. 11 protests also saw police making arrests inside a church for the first time. The police peppersprayed a young protester who had been subdued, and also several journalists at Holy Cross Church in Sai Wan Ho, Inmedia reported.

Reddit Won't Block Alleged Whistleblower's Name, Diverging From Facebook and YouTube

ZACHARY STIEBER

Reddit won't automatically delete posts that include the name of a person who is reportedly the whistle-blower who filed a complaint against President Donald Trump, leading to the impeachment inquiry.

Facebook and YouTube have publicly said they're attempting to quash mentions of the name by deleting posts and removing videos. Twitter has said it would allow the name but suspended some users who included the name in posts. Now Reddit says it won't block the alleged whistleblower's name.

Reddit does not "have a specific policy around whistleblowers," a spokesperson told CNBC.

"Our policy encourages an open discussion regarding issues of public and po-



CEO of Reddit Alexis Ohanian attends WORLDZ Cultural Marketing Summit 2017 in Los Angeles, Calif., on July 31, 2017. litical relevance, however it forbids posting of personal information, or the encouragement of harassment or vigilantism."

If the posts violate the policies, moderators will take action. "Context is important in these matters," the spokesperson said.

In a statement on Nov. 8, Facebook said that "any

mention of the potential whistleblower's name violates our coordinating harm policy, which prohibits content 'outing of witness, informant, or activist.'"

It added, "We are removing any and all mentions of the potential whistleblower's name and will revisit this decision, should their name be widely published in the media or used by public figures in debate."

A YouTube spokesperson told CNN that videos mentioning the name of the alleged whistleblower would be removed; the company would be using machine learning and human reviewers to find and remove the content.

The name of the alleged whistleblower has spread widely but some news outlets are declining to print the name for different reasons. The Epoch Times hasn't been able to verify the name, which hasn't been confirmed by official sources, and there are indications the whistleblower might actually be someone

RealClearPolitics first published the name on Oct. 30 and a number of outlets and reporters have circulated the name since then.

Republicans are attempting to have the whistle-blower testify before the House but House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) said over the weekend he was vetoing the request, a reversal of his stance early in the process.

A number of top Republicans have sought to unmask the person, including President Donald Trump and Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.).

The lawyers representing the person have said that anyone who discloses the person's name is at risk of being sued.

The battle surrounding the identity comes as a newly filed complaint to the Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG) said that the whistleblower at the centre of the impeachment inquiry might have violated federal law by indirectly soliciting hundreds of thousands of dollars via GoFundMe.

The complaint claimed that donations from 6,000 people "clearly constitute" gifts to a current intelligence official, adding that donations may have come from prohibited sources, and asked the ICIG to investigate if any "foreign citizen or agent of a foreign government" contributed to the person's fund.

The epoch times November 14-20, 2019 $US \mid A7$

Preparations Made to Appeal Judge's Ruling Approving Harvard's Discriminatory Admissions Policies

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racial discrimination by using meaningful admissions criteria that meet lawful requirements. ... The admissions policies at our colleges and universities are important and must be conducted lawfully."

The Asian Americans adversely affected by the policy are collateral damage on the road to social justice, the judge argued.

Burroughs found that "diversity"—a relatively new concept not mentioned in American founding documents such as the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution—trumps all other factors in the college admissions process and justifies race-conscious social engineering by Harvard officials.

Shrugging off the harm done to Asian American students, the judge wrote that "race-conscious admissions will always penalise to some extent the groups that are not being advantaged by the process, but this is justified by the compelling interest in diversity and all the benefits that flow from a diverse college population."

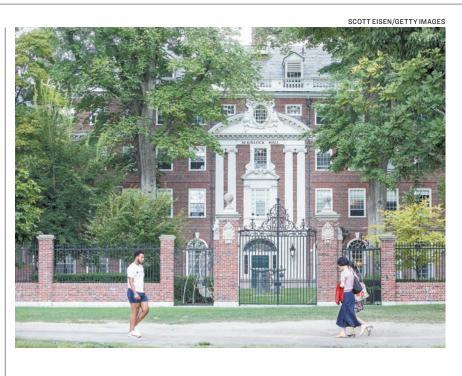
"It is somewhat axiomatic at this point that diversity of all sorts, including racial diversity, is an important aspect of education," Burroughs wrote.

"The evidence at trial was clear that a heterogeneous student body promotes a more robust academic environment with a greater depth and breadth of learning, encourages learning outside the classroom, and creates a richer sense of community. The benefits of a diverse student body are also likely to be reflected by the accomplishments

Pedestrians walk past a Harvard University building in Cambridge, Mass., on Aug. 30, 2018.

As a recipient of taxpayer dollars, Harvard has a responsibility to conduct its admissions policy without racial discrimination by using meaningful admissions criteria that meet lawful requirements.

Jeff Sessions, former U.S. Attorney General



of graduates and improved faculty scholarship following exposure to varying perspectives."

Asian American high school students accounted for about 22 percent of total applicants to the college in recent years, even though Asian Americans make up less than 6 percent of the U.S. population, she wrote.

But in an interview with The Epoch Times, attorney Wen Fa of the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF), a public interest law firm headquartered in Sacramento, California, rejected the judge's reasoning.

"We think that discrimination is wrong and shouldn't be taken lightly just because government takes some vague interest in diversity," he said. "When the government talks about diversity, it is usually talking about a very narrow conception of diversity: racial diversity.

"At Pacific Legal Foundation, we think everyone should be treated based on individual merit, and not based on race."

PLF is preparing a friend-of-the-court brief backing the legal challengers in the litigation, Students for Fair Admissions, in that group's ongoing appeal that is currently pending before the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals. The appeals court could rule in the case next year or possibly the year after, Fa said.

Edward Blum, president of Arlington, Virginia-based Students for Fair Admissions, said when Burroughs issued her opinion that he was "disappointed that the court has upheld Harvard's discriminatory admissions policies" and that his group vows to appeal the decision all the way to the Supreme Court, if necessary.

SFFA describes itself as "a non-

profit membership group of more than 20,000 students, parents, and others who believe that racial classifications and preferences in college admissions are unfair, unnecessary, and unconstitutional."

College preparation services already advise Asian Americans how to cope with the discrimination they face in the college admissions process.

"You see the admissions guide-books, such as Princeton Review and Kaplan, guide students in the admissions process and a lot of these books say if you're Asian, don't say you're interested in science or math or that you want to be a doctor because then you're too much like the standard Asian," he said.

You shouldn't have to hide who you are or pretend to be someone else to get into a college, he added, noting that the PLF's brief will be based on the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

Critics of affirmative action in college admissions say it's time for the practice to end.

They quote the words of former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who felt the practice was a necessary evil. In Grutter v. Bollinger (2003), she wrote, "We expect that 25 years from now the use of racial preferences will no longer be necessary to further the interest approved today."

Making race-conscious admissions decisions is "dangerous," O'Connor wrote, calling it a "deviation from the norm of equal treatment." Such programmes must "be limited in time," she stated, adding that "all governmental use of race must have a logical end point."



U.S. Chief Technology Officer Michael Kratsios delivers a speech on the last day of the Web Summit in Lisbon, Portugal, on Nov. 7, 2019.

US Tech Chief Calls China 'Advanced Authoritarian State,' Warns Against Surveillance, Censorship

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artificial intelligence.

Kratsios, in his first major international remarks on Nov. 7 after being confirmed by the Senate in August, spoke about the Trump administration's efforts to lead in emerging technologies, urging that if they didn't act now, the Chinese communist regime's influence and control of technology would "not only undermine the freedoms of their own citizens but all citizens of the world."

Much of his speech at a major global technology conference in Lisbon, Portugal, was dedicated to urging America and Europe to work together in embracing technology innovation to "defend our free system against our adversaries, that seek to undermine our shared values." He also singled out Chinese technology giant Huawei at the 2019 Web Summit as an example of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) "extending its authoritarianism abroad."

"We are fighting to defend the free market system that fuels our innovation," Kratsios said. "We're fighting so technological advances driving our economies, strengthening our security, powering our citizens, and defining our future will be built by us with our values.

"If we allow Beijing such a profound degree of access and influence in our technology system, we run the risk of repeating the same mistakes our nation's [leaders] made nearly 20 years ago. In 2001, our leaders [led] China into the World Trade Organisation, expecting that as we opened our economies to them, the country would liberalise politically and economically.

"Instead, China stole our intellectual property. They forced companies to hand over valuable technology ... to access their market, and now, they require access to all data, information, and secrets contained on any server in China," he continued.

Under Chinese law, Huawei and all other Chinese companies must cooperate with the regime's Intelligence and Security Services, regardless of where the company actually operates, Kratsios said. He also referenced reports about Huawei installing equipment at the headquarters of the African Union, with the union's computer system then being hacked and the data being transferred to servers in Shanghai. He said that occurred "every single night for five years."

The CCP has representatives in almost every large company

in China, meaning that they all have the same objective in carrying out the goals of the state, Charity Wright, a cyberthreat intelligence advisor at IntSights with 15 years' experience with the U.S. Army and the National Security Agency, recently told The Epoch Times.

In response to Kratsios's speech, Huawei released a Nov. 7 statement rejecting his assertions, saying it's a "100% private company exclusively owned by its employees." Huawei claimed it had no control or access to the data in the African Union head-quarters, saying it was managed and operated by the organisation's IT staff.

The United States has been "forced to take steps" to block the infiltration of technology infrastructure, the stealing of American research and innovation, and the use of the resulting technology to violate human rights, Kratsios said. China is the most active perpetrator of economic espionage in the United States, according to a White House Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy report.

"We have the will to make the right choices now, and the courage to ratify our words with actions. The American government is taking a stand and we cannot do this without Europe and our allies around the world," Kratsios

In May, President Donald Trump signed an executive order that would allow the government to block the purchase of foreign-made telecommunications equipment deemed a national security risk to the United States. The Trump administration has also previously lobbied other countries against using Huawei's 5G equipment.

Kratsios's speech came just days after Ajit Pai, chairman of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission, gave remarks similar in scope and tone at the Council on Foreign Relations, a nonprofit think tank. Pai called Huawei's dominance in 5G a "major concern" for the United States that could open the door to surveillance, espionage, and other dangers.

Daughter of Ex-FBI Agent Missing for 12 Years Thanks Trump for 'Clear Message' to Iran

ZACHARY STIEBER

The daughter of Robert Levinson, a retired FBI agent who vanished from an island in Iran in 2007, said that President Donald Trump is working to get her father out of the country.

Trump and his national security advisor, Robert O'Brien, have been working hard to figure out Levinson's condition, Sarah Moriarty said during an appearance on Fox's "The Story" this week.

"We believe that President Trump, with this new \$25 million reward and a tweet yesterday, has sent a clear message that this is a top priority for the U.S. administration, and we're so thankful to him," she said.

"Robert O'Brien has been amazing for our family—the entire administration has been working very hard, very tirelessly to bring him home."

Moriarty said that the Iranian government's recent mention of the "revolutionary court" means authorities view her father as a criminal, condemning Iran's behaviour as "unacceptable."

"We also need Americans to recognise that this is unacceptable and that Iran must send him home," she said.

Iranian officials should tell the truth about what's happened since Levinson went missing, she added, before saying, "My message to my dad is that we are working tirelessly every day and we are working

hard to bring him home."

Trump said in a tweet on Nov. 10: "If Iran is able to turn over to the U.S. kidnapped former FBI Agent Robert A. Levinson, who has been missing in Iran for 12 years, it would be a very positive step."

"At the same time, upon information & belief, Iran is, & has been, enriching uranium. THAT WOULD BE A VERY BAD STEP!" he added.

The missive was posted six days after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced a new reward of up to \$20 million leading to the location, recovery, and return of Levinson, who American officials say was taken hostage by Iran and is the longest-held hostage in U.S.

Pompeo's statement came on the 40-year anniversary of Iran's takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

"Forty years later, the revolutionary regime in Tehran has proven, time and again, that its first acts after gaining power were a clear indication of its evil character. The regime continues to unjustly detain Americans and to support terrorist proxy groups like Hezbollah that engage in hostage taking," he said.

"The Trump administration has made clear that the regime in Iran must release all missing and wrongfully detained Americans, including Robert Levinson, Xiyue Wang, Siamak Namazi, and others. We will not rest until they are reunited with their families."



Retired FBI agent Robert Levinson who went missing on the Iranian island of Kish in March 2007.

 $8\mid \mathrm{OPINION}$ november 14-20, 2019 the epoch times



OPINION

China and the Other Kind of Disinformation

Smoke billows from stacks as Chinese men pull a tricycle in a neighborhood next to a coal fired power plant in Shanxi, China, on Nov. 26, 2015.

RONALD J. RYCHLAK

There's a great deal of talk today about fake news and disinformation. Almost always, the object of the disinformation is someone or something that's receiving allegedly undeserved criticism. That's not the only way disinformation can work, however. Sometimes it can "frame" an object in a positive

As the Russian/Soviet intelligence agencies developed the art of disinformation into what they called a science, it was every bit as important to be able to cast a positive light on an entity or individual (usually the reigning leader) as it was to be able to put someone in a bad light.

It looks like China is engaged in a similar disinformation effort, especially when it comes to carbon emissions and climate change. The effort has been going on for some time.

In 2007, reacting to an announcement by China that blamed the United States for global warming, former Vice President Al Gore said, "They're right in saying that."

In fact, Gore said, "emerging economies such as China are justified in holding back on fighting greenhouse gas emissions until richer polluters like the United States do more to solve the problem," The Associated Press reported.

Gore was in China in 2011 to address the Global Urban Development Forum. He praised China's communist regime for its "unusual success" in carbon-reduction measures.

In December 2017, Gore praised China's new "carbon market" as "another powerful sign that a global sustainability revolution is underway. ... It is clear that we're at a tipping point in the climate crisis."

One year later in Poland (not quite a year ago), he praised China's leadership for tackling climate change, saying that China is "one of the few countries on track to meet its Paris commitment," according to China's state-run news agency Xinhua. He went on to explain that China had already exceeded some of its own targets on renewables.

In 2011, James Hansen, the re-



A Chinese labourer loads coal into a furnace as smoke and steam rises from an unauthorized steel factory in Inner Mongolia, China, on Nov. 3, 2016.

China has pledged to reduce 'carbon emission intensity,' but the nation has not promised to impose an emissions ceiling. tired NASA scientist who has been called the "father of climate change awareness," called the Chinese regime the "best hope" to save the world from global warming. He even called for an economic boycott to force the United States to match China's effort. In 2015, Hansen again said that he expected China to provide the carbon emissions reduction leadership that the United States had been unwilling to provide.

Gore and Hansen aren't the only environmental activists who have said good things about China, nor are these the only times that they have spoken on the subject, but these serve as examples to provide a flavor of the way global warming activists talk about the communist dictatorship in China.

The amazing thing here is that China has had the world's largest carbon footprint since 2006. In 2017, it was responsible for 27.2 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions, according to the Global Carbon Atlas. China is also one of the world's largest emitters of methane, another greenhouse gas. In fact, methane is 34 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

China's problem is coal. It may be the world's biggest producer of solar panels, but a lot of them are built for export. China runs on coal. It's both the world's leading producer and the world's leading consumer of coal, and its capacity is expanding. From 1985 to 2016, coal provided about 70 percent of China's energy. That, of course, came at a high environmental cost. Coal produces up to twice the

amount of carbon dioxide as other fossil fuels. While China reports that its coal usage has declined since 2014, it still consumes more coal than the rest of the world combined. As of 2017, coal provides over 60 percent of the nation's total energy use, according to ChinaPower.

Just last year, the Chinese regime approved development of seven new coal mines. That means that between 2017 and 2018, the nation added almost 200 million tons of new coal mining capacity. Then this year, China allocated funding for 17 more new coal mines across the nation. China's CO2 emissions grew by an estimated 4 percent in the first half of 2019. Over that same time period, the nation's coal demand increased by 3 percent, its oil demand increased by 6 percent, and gas demand increased by 12

percent.

Of course, coal mined in one area needs to be shipped if it's to be used in another area. China just opened the Menghua Railway, the nation's longest coal transporting railway line. This railway, over 1,000 miles long, is expected to carry about 200 million tons of coal annually from the mining areas in northern China to the industrial hub in the South.

None of this expansion in mining or shipping bodes well for the air quality in China, which is already a significant problem. In a recent poll sponsored by state-run newspaper China Daily, more respondents listed pollution as their number one concern than anything else. The expansion also suggests that perhaps China is not the model of enlightenment when it comes to combating man-made climate change.

Of course, for the disinformation campaign to succeed, criticism must be suppressed. Recently, the China Meteorological Administration issued regulations prohibiting weather forecasts by anyone other than the state's official meteorological agencies. Violators are subject to fines of almost \$8,000.

Perhaps even more disconcerting, in 2015, a former TV journalist in Beijing released a feature-length documentary titled "Under the

Dome." It has been called China's version of Al Gore's climate change documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth." Millions of Chinese people watched "Under the Dome" online and saw its criticism of the Chinese regime for tolerating poor air quality. Within a week of it being posted, however, major Chinese websites pulled it down under orders from the Communist Party's central propaganda department.

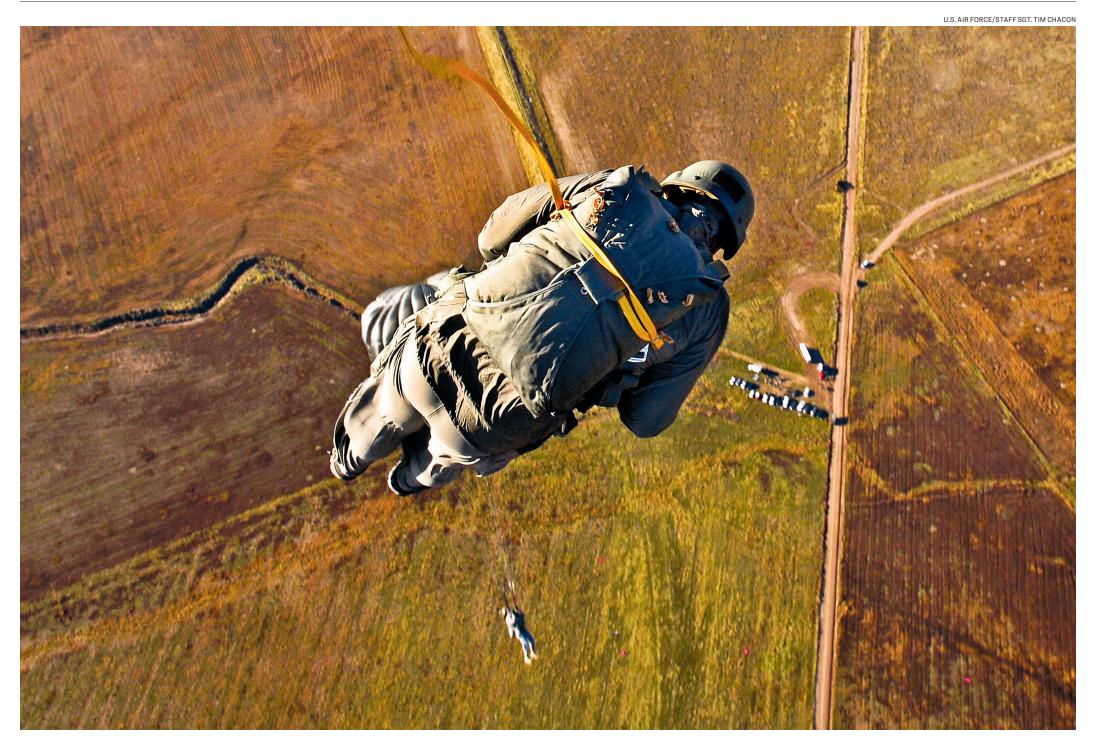
Open debate—especially criticism of the government—cannot be tolerated. Even the "progress" that China's defenders cite when hailing the nation's environmental record are misleading.

Regarding China's "targets," it has pledged to reduce "carbon emission intensity," but the nation has not promised to impose an emissions ceiling. "Carbon emission intensity" measures the amount of carbon released per dollar of economic activity. Thus, with more economic activity, more emissions can be justified. So, total emission levels might continue to climb, and China would still be meeting its targets as long as economic growth outpaces those emissions. That is not the kind of promise Western nations are making or being asked to make.

In the end, this is a beautiful piece of disinformation. China aggressively pursues its economic agenda using the least expensive energy available to it. It's able to claim to be meeting its environmental goals, and Western "experts" point to it as an example of environmental responsibility. Moscow would be proud.

Ronald J. Rychlak is the Jamie L. Whitten chair in law and government at the University of Mississippi. He is the author of several books, including "Hitler, the War, and the Pope," "Disinformation" (co-authored with Ion Mihai Pacepa), and "The Persecution and Genocide of Christians in the Middle East" (co-edited with Jane Adolphe).

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times. THE EPOCH TIMES NOVEMBER 14-20, 2019



Members of the Utah Army National Guard 2-211 Aviation Battalion assist members of the 19th Special Forces Group with freefall and static line parachute jumps near Camp Williams, Utah, on Oct. 30, 2013.

OPINION

DARE TO FAIL

Reckless Innovation and the Tinkering Mindset

CHRIS ERICKSON



somewhat cryptic from a civilian perspective, it makes all the sense in the world to those people who have gone to the edge of performance and pushed it just a little further.

To paraphrase former President Robert F. Kennedy, one of the distinguishing characteristics of those who achieve greatness is a willingness to fail greatly. Along those same lines, Thomas Edison once said: "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

What if I told you that fast failures are more valuable than quick wins? The faster you get your initial failures out of the way, the earlier you can start refining your big idea. When you aren't afraid to fail, you are free to adapt, improvise, and overcome sooner rather than later.

When you become consumed with the ideal of early successes, you give up on your ability to learn from your mistakes and take things to the next level. If you don't know how far you can push, you'll never find out the full extent of your potential; accepting limitation without exploration will always keep your thinking "inside the box."

Once you shed the irrational fear of failure, you can learn to plan for it, embrace it, and make it a part of your success. Learn to love the idea of failing fast.

Pushed to the Limit

Before entering the corporate world, I spent my formative years in the U.S. military; from my time as a young infantryman to my time as a Special Forces soldier, there was one maxim that remained constant when it came to preparation: tough, realistic training saves lives when it becomes time to execute in the real world. "The more you sweat in training, the less you bleed in war."

When I was a Green Beret, we always pushed every training iteration to the limit and ensured we faced the worst-case scenario every time, until we were confident that we had experienced every possible variation of failure.

You didn't go home, you didn't hit the showers, you didn't relax until you were sure you and your team had been set up for success. When you're not afraid to fail in training, you learn how to win when it matters.

"Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end. Failure is something we can avoid only by saving nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing," said Denis Waitley.

The time for finding failure isn't right before your big launch, or even worse, when you are having your main stage debut. The fastest way to shed your credibility and set fire to your confidence is to fail when the world is watching you unveil your masterpiece.

When I was a Green Beret, we always pushed every training iteration to the limit.

When you test your big idea on a small scale, in your own house, your failures are for your team's eyes only.

Understand Reality

If you truly want to harness the power of small, private failures, you need to ensure that your team is empowered to talk plainly and bluntly about the realities of each phase of development. Sparing the feelings of people involved in a project isn't kind; this is the cruelest form of negligence, as your dereliction of duty to the truth will expose everyone to the most savage attacks in the most public forums.

Start with big ideas and small, incremental tests. Put it out there, and see how it functions, and let your team tear it apart. Rebuild. Refine. Test it again. Don't stop when you fail, learn from when and where you fail. Always scale upwards and plan to build your project in steps. If you aren't afraid to fail, you're ready to learn. Adapt, improvise, and overcome. That is how you go hard, fail fast, and destroy barriers. That's the art of scaling your failures.

Think Better

"Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier," said Gen. Colin Powell.

In "thought leadership" pieces, sports or war metaphors are a tired trope, one that I don't feel the need to add to. Instead, we're going to look at this from a research and development perspective. It doesn't matter if you're building a space rocket, launching an app, or just coming



SpaceX CEO Elon Musk unveils the Falcon Heavy rocket at the National Press Club in Washington on April 5, 2011.

up with next year's new business plan for your agency; I think there is something for you in this thought experiment.

Let's say you're designing the world's fastest electric car. You know that right now, 257 miles per hour (mph) is the benchmark you need to meet to hold the title. If you want to truly dominate and disrupt the market, you need to be competing with the fastest production car in the world. That's 278 mph, 21 mph faster than the fastest electric car that is already out there. However, let's think bigger: Let's start thinking about 300 mph.

Once you shed the irrational fear of failure, you can learn to plan for it, embrace it, and make it a part of your success.

Your prototype is proceeding allowing for minimal issues until you hit top speeds of 250 mph. You experience your first catastrophic failure: The hood comes loose and smashes through the windshield. No one is injured because rather than relying on luck, you have been ensuring that safety measures have been implemented along the way to ensure minimal risk from the most dangerous potential events.

Your engineers design a more heavyduty latching and securing system, and you are able to hit 275 mph before the hood fails again. At this point, you're already breaking all records for vehicles in this class; you have a winner on your hands. Yet, what about 300 mph?

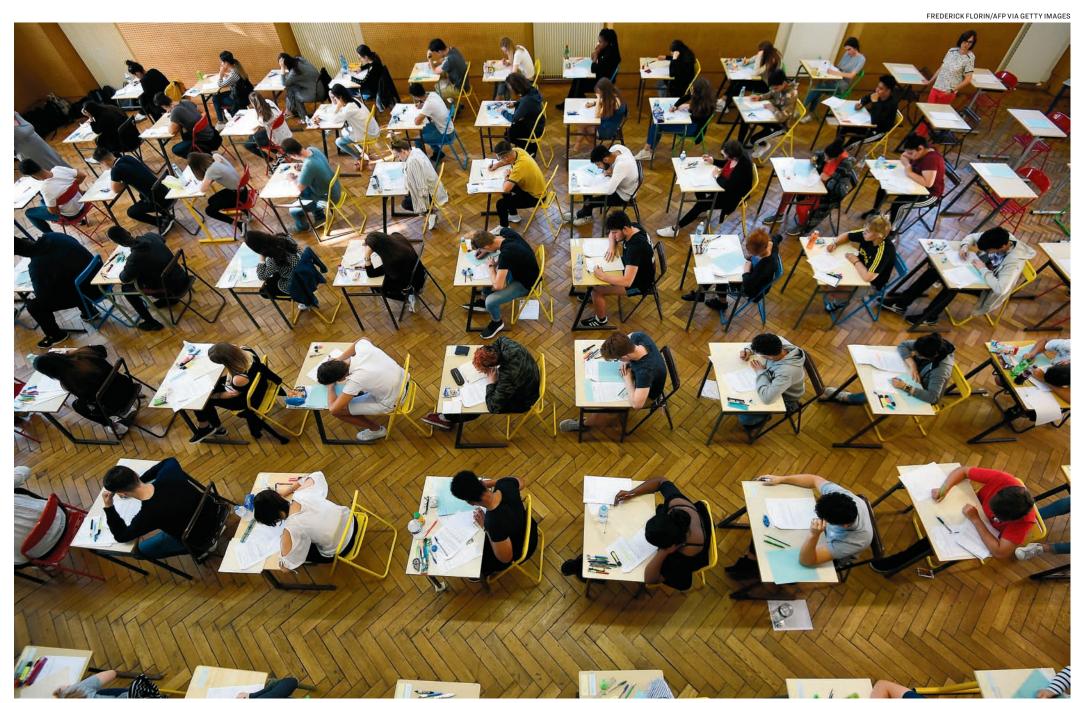
Your engineers are telling you that the latches themselves are not the problem; a heavier version alone isn't going to stop these catastrophic failures. Yet, the engine has the power to take you further and faster than anyone else.

Fortunately, you have cultivated a team that feels empowered to speak up and think so far outside the box that their ideas defy conventional logic. Data is analyzed, more tests are run to push the car. Suddenly, the hidden answer becomes obvious: It's not the hood at all; it is the suspension.

Vibrations are literally shaking the vehicles so much that multiple points of failure are occurring at once. You don't need to address five separate components; you need to address a single system. Now you're ready to unveil a 300 mph electric car; you would have never gotten here if you were happy at 275.

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

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times. A10 | OPINION



High school students work on the French general baccalauréat exam for getting into university, at the Lycée Pasteur in Strasbourg, France, on June 18, 2018.

OPINION

What's Wrong With Meritocracy

PAUL ADAMS



Meritocracy is a system in which people accumulate wealth and power on the basis of their abilities as measured by examinations, rather than through birth, inheritance, or corrup-

tion.

The term was coined in England in a 1958 dystopian novel, "The Rise of the Meritocracy," by socialist Michael Young. He meant it as a warning, not an endorsement.

Such a system, despite its apparent fairness, would be damaging for individuals and destructive for society.

Young cautioned readers against separating children from an early age into those destined for success in life and those already marked as failures. That was what the new standardized examinations in Britain were doing at the time, he warned. It would lead not to fairness and equality, but to new kinds of class rigidity and social division. Eventually, by 2033, the novel predicts, the result would be social revolution.

The Appeal of Meritocracy

While the English term "meritoc-racy" may have been coined in the 1950s, the concept of selecting a centralized civil service on the basis of merit as assessed by examinations is attributed to the influence of Confucius in China.

The private British East India Co. adopted a similar examination-based meritocratic approach to its rule of India in the 19th century. The idea of civil service examinations to select bureaucratic administrators spread to the British civil service itself and to most developed countries. It was meant to replace corruption and connections, but often coexisted with them.

The advantages of such a system have always been more obvious than the disadvantages. It offers a consistent and seemingly fair alternative to corruption, personal and political influence, inherited advantage, and connections. In the United States, an appointment to many administrative positions via civil service exams became the preferred alternative to the spoils systems, nepotism, bribery, and other forms of corruption.

It's not surprising, then, that meritocracy became the preferred way of distributing rewards in society. It made sense, not least to those who

were good at taking examinations. It favored efficiency and expertise in public administration, and distrusted other avenues to power and influence. It sought to replace the aristocratic old-boys' networks that helped those favored by birth or connections climb the ladder of success, as well as those who emerged from below with very little formal education to lead working-class unions and parties.

In the UK, both the leader of what was called "New Labour," Tony Blair, who was prime minister from 1997 to 2007, and Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May (from 2016 to 2019) sang the praises of meritocracy, as opposed to the class divisions that they saw as separating society into haves and havenots.

In May's telling, meritocracy gave a fair chance to "ordinary people" to excel and advance to positions of leadership, instead of the privileged. It was her vision for using the education system for social engineering, to advance to a "truly meritocratic Britain." She wanted Britain, she said, to be the "great meritocracy of the world."

What could possibly go wrong with such a vision? Plenty, as it turns out.

Those who control education and testing are those already determined to have the qualities they teach and assess.

The Case Against Meritocracy
The drawbacks, practical and theoretical, to such a scheme are in part a matter of fairness and in part a

matter of its social effects.

Looking at meritocracy as a method of treating everyone equally so that no unfair advantage goes to those who are born into privilege, some say it doesn't go far enough.

Not only are you giving your children an unfair advantage by sending them to elite private schools or paying for tutoring to help them do well on standardized tests, according to one professor in England, you should at least feel bad about reading your children bedtime stories, since this confers an unfair advantage on them.

One could argue, on that basis, for abolishing the family as well as



High school students react after receiving their baccalauréat exam results at a school in Paris on July 6, 2018.

private schools, all in the name of social justice.

Others who favor justice and equality, in some sense, regard the quest to achieve it by using the education and examination system to override natural advantages stemming from birth and upbringing as impossible and wrongheaded. Corruption and connections will never be expunged, and any examination system is going to, by its nature, favor some qualities and achievements over others.

For example, IQ may be given priority over emotional intelligence, curiosity, kindness, initiative, or creativity. These seem no less important to the flourishing of human societies and the organizations that run them. But the meritocratic system is self-perpetuating. Those who control education and testing are those already determined to have the qualities they teach and assess.

Then there are the demoralizing and divisive effects of dividing society into winners (the deserving elites) and losers (the undeserving majority). The winners see their success as fully merited by their intellectual capacity and personal effort, while the latter have no one to blame but themselves

to blame but themselves.

The new class of experts created by this education and examination system largely controls it, Young argues in his critique of meritocracy, a system by means of which this class reproduces itself. It achieves wealth, power, and influence by merit alone, it believes. But this new class uses them to control the economy and society, to rule in its own interest, and to perpetuate its own domination.

Strip Mining

The social effects are devastating. They increase inequality and social division, and destroy civil society—family and community structures

that develop organically and don't depend on success in examinations—while concentrating power in the state and educated elite.

Elite universities in the United
States create such effects, author
Patrick Deneen argues in his book
"Why Liberalism Failed," comparing
the result to strip mining:

"They engage in the educational equivalent of strip mining: identifying economically viable raw materials in every city, town, and hamlet, they strip off that valuable commodity, process it in a distant location, and render the products economically useful for productivity elsewhere. The places that supplied the raw materials are left much like depressed coal towns whose mineral wealth has been long since mined and exported. Such students embrace 'identity' politics and 'diversity' to serve their economic interests, perpetual 'potentiality,' and permanent placelessness. The identities and diversity thus secured are globally homogeneous, the precondition for a fungible global elite who readily identify other members capable of living in a cultureless and placeless world defined above all by ... globalized indifference toward shared fates of actual neighbors and communities."

We see this process at work politically in the stripping of other classes and strata of their natural leaders and parties. The British Labour Party, for example, has transformed itself into the party of the educated and cultural elites, dominating the mainstream media, law, and education.

The same process is at work in the United States, as the Democrats spurn their working-class basedeplorables, the scum of society, clinging to their guns and religion, as Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, and Barack Obama, respectively, put it.

Paul Adams is a professor emeritus of social work at the University of Hawaii and was a professor and associate dean of academic affairs at Case Western Reserve University. He is the co-author of "Social Justice Isn't What You Think It Is" and has written extensively on social welfare policy and professional and virtue ethics.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times. THE EPOCH TIMES NOVEMBER 14-20, 2019

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ABOUTUS

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

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

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

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

We report respectfully, compassionately, and rigorously.

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

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

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

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SPECIAL SERIES

How the Specter of Communism Is Ruling Our World

How Communism Sows Chaos in Politics

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

Chapter Eight (Cont.)

1. Communism Is the Politics of Humanity's Destruction (cont.)

c. Leftist Politics Aims to Control Political Parties, Legislatures, Governments, Supreme Courts

Western countries are home to longstanding democratic traditions, such as the American separation of powers. Taking control over state power is not as simple as in the East. To establish control in the West, the evil specter had to adopt various indirect means of commandeering government institutions and marketing its treachery.

The United States is a multi-party system dominated by two parties. To enter the political mainstream, communism must infiltrate one or both parties and use them to take control of congressional votes. Meanwhile, its candidates must take up key positions in the government and the courts. The extent to which communism has subverted U.S. politics is quite severe.

In order to secure a stable voting block, U.S. leftist parties have magnified the animosity between low- and high-income groups, while attracting an increasing number of immigrants and "vulnerable" groups such as the LGBT community, women, minorities, and so on. Left-wing politicians do all they can to pander to their demographic by advocating communist ideas, spurning the basic moral standards God set for humankind, and even shielding illegal immigrants so that they can join the ranks of the left.

A billionaire with a history of supporting left-wing movements has heavily funded leftist candidates to run for president of the United States and other important positions across the country. Key among these are the secretaries of state, who are responsible for electoral affairs and play a critical role in resolving disputes. The billionaire has dedicated much aid to the campaigns for these positions.

Even when illegal immigrants committed crimes on U.S. soil, leftist authorities turned a blind eye and set up sanctuaries to protect them from the government. During the administration of a former leftist president, the commander in chief himself attempted to grant amnesty to 5 million illegal immigrants, but the draft resolution was ultimately shelved by the Supreme Court.

Left-wing parties have fought for the voting rights of illegal immigrants. Of course, the motive isn't necessarily to benefit the illegal immigrants or the general population, but to bolster the left's voter base. On Sept. 12, 2017, a city in an eastern U.S. state passed a bill to grant noncitizens the right to vote in local elections, including green card holders, temporary residents on student and work visas, and even those with no documentation of legal immigration status. It attracted widespread media attention for its potential effects on the electoral system in other parts of the country.

Under the influence of the evil communist specter, American left-wing parties used underhanded measures to attract more votes and political control. America's future now hangs in the balance.

d. Left-Wing Administration Promoted Socialism and Crooked Policies

The previous leftist administration was heavily infiltrated by communists and socialists. Many groups that supported the former president had clear links to socialist organizations.

The former president is a disciple of the Neo-Marxist Saul Alinsky. Following this president's election, he appointed advisers from far-left think tanks. His universal health care policy fined those who refused to enroll in it. He passed bills to legalize marijuana and homosexuality, allowed transsexuals to join the army, and so on.

When the California State Assembly was controlled by the left, some representatives tried to abolish a law barring the Communist Party from participating in government. This attempt failed following strong opposition from the Vietnamese-American community.

The administration also concocted policies that corrupted human relations. In 2016, the "bathroom bill" signed by the sitting president allowed for people who identify as transgender to enter bathrooms of their chosen gender, regardless of their physical sex—in other words, a man who thinks he

is a woman can enter the ladies' room. The bathroom bill was made effective in public schools throughout the country. Schools were told that if they refused to implement the bill, they would lose funding from the federal government.

2. Politics Is Infused With the Cult of Communism

For thousands of years, the main institution of political power was the monarchy, which received its authority from God. Heaven endowed the ruler with the divine right of kings. Emperors and kings performed a sacred role as intermediaries between man and God.

Today, many nations are run by democracies. In practice, democracy isn't the rule of the people, but rather the rule of representatives chosen by the people. The election of a president is a democratic procedure. Once in office, the president has broad powers over politics, economics, the military, foreign relations, and so on.

Traditional orthodox religions teach people to be good, but the cult of communism, being built on hatred, takes the exact opposite stance.

Democracy cannot guarantee that good people will be elected. As the overall moral standard of society sinks, the winning candidates may well be those who specialize in empty or inflammatory rhetoric or are prone to cronyism. The damage to society is huge when a democracy does not take provisions to maintain the moral standards set by gods. The advantages of electoral representation disappear and are subsumed into mob politics that throw society into chaos and fragmentation.

The point here is not to debate the respective merits of a particular political system. We are simply stating that moral values are the cornerstone of social stability and harmony. Democracy and the rule of law are merely the format by which society operates.

a. The Convergence of Politics and Religion in the CCP Cult

The Chinese Communist Party's rule is a political cult that is fully integrated with the power of the state. The ideology of this cult is forced upon the people to destroy their morality. At the same time, it rules society using criminal methods, dragging people toward ruin.

The CCP's rule is often described as a continuation of the imperial system, but this is terribly mistaken. Traditional Chinese monarchs did not claim to define moral values. Instead, they saw themselves as acting within the restraint of moral standards set by gods or Heaven. The CCP, on the other hand, monopolized the very concept of morality itself. No matter how many evils it commits, the CCP can still regard itself as "great, glorious, and correct," in its own words.

Morality is set by God, not man. Standards of good and evil stem from divine commandment, not the ideological pretensions of some political party. Monopolizing the right to define morality inevitably leads to the mixing of church and state, which in the case of the CCP manifests itself with the typical features of a malicious cult:

- The Communist Party enshrines Karl Marx as its spiritual "Lord" and takes Marxism as universal truth. Communism's promise of a heaven on earth lures its followers to lay down their lives for it. Its cult-like features include but are not limited to the following: inventing doctrine, crushing opposition, worshipping the leader, regarding itself as the sole source of righteousness, using forceful brainwashing and mind control, having a tight organization that one can join but never leave, promoting violence and bloodlust, and encouraging martyrdom for the religious cause.
- Communist leaders such as Vladimir Lenin, Josef Stalin, Mao Zedong, and Kim

Il Sung all had their own cults of personality. They were the "popes" of the communist cult in their respective countries, with unquestioned authority to determine right and wrong. Whether or not they killed and lied, they were always correct, which was justified by explanations that they were motivated by a higher purpose or that they were playing the long game. The citizens of these countries were made to abandon their own understandings of moral good. Being forced to lie or do evil under the Party's command brought people psychological and spiritual trauma. Traditional orthodox religions teach people to be good, but the cult of communism, being built on hatred, takes the exact opposite stance. Though the Communist Party also spoke of love, the "love" it advocated is predicated on a foundation of hate. For example, proletarians are capable of class friendliness because they

b. The Religious Character of Liberalism and Progressivism

seas Chinese who criticize the CCP.

face a common enemy: the capitalists. In

China, the way to show patriotism is to

hate America, hate France, hate Japan,

hate Korea, hate Taiwan, and hate over-

Liberalism and progressivism have now become the standard of "political correctness" in the West. In fact, they have been pushed to the point of becoming a secular religion.

Western leftists have used different labels throughout history, sometimes calling themselves "liberal" and sometimes calling themselves "progressive." The two concepts do not differ significantly.

The ultimate concept of liberalism and progressivism is similar to that of communist ideology. Proponents advocate "freedom" and "progress" as absolute moral good and attack any dissenting opinion as heresy.

Similar to communism, atheism, evolution, and scientism, liberalism and progressivism replace the belief in God with humanist reason, effectively taking man himself to be a god.

They share the same enemies as the communists and blame social problems on perceived injustices or defects in the capitalist system, which they intend to subvert or overthrow.

Their methods are similar to those of communists. They think their cause is so important that no means are off-limits to them; they can use violence or deception as called for in different situations.

The quasi-religious characteristics of liberalism and progressivism are inseparable from the historical background of their origin

Rapid scientific progress since the 18th century greatly strengthened humankind's confidence in its own ability and fuelled the progressive intellectual trend. French philosopher Marquis de Condorcet, a pioneer of progressive thinking, stated in his work "Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind" that reason leads people to the path of happiness and morality or goodness. Following this, progressivism became more aggressive and began pushing reason onto the altar of worship.

Progressive thinking allows one to view reason, conscience, and the Creator as separate, fostering the idea that man does not need the Creator's salvation: He can use his own rationality and conscience to sweep away the evils of greed, fear, jealousy, and the like; and man can establish paradise on earth and do away with the divine.

The arrogance of progressivism is exhibited in a statement by 19th-century French politician and art critic Jules Castagnary: "Beside the divine garden from which I have been expelled, I will erect a new Eden. ... At its entrance, I will set up Progress ... and I will give a flaming sword into his hand and he will say to God, 'Thou shalt not enter here.'"

Filled with this kind of thought, people entertain an illusion of controlling humanity's destiny and manipulating its future—that is, mankind wants to play the role of God—to create a utopia without God, a "paradise on earth." This is the essential idea of communism. The struggle to achieve this paradise has caused a deluge of blood and misery.

 $See \ next \ edition \ for \ the \ next \ installment.$

China and the Fall of the Berlin Wall

ART HARTMAN

Commentary

Thirty years ago, I was an eyewitness to history, as jubilant East Germans danced on the Berlin Wall and took their first awe-eyed steps into freedom. I led the "Berlin Wall Freedom Expedition" to meet East Germans discovering their new life of liberty, and to march with them in a massive rally for freedom.

History records that the Berlin Wall fell, and like dominoes, so too did the eastern European dictatorships and then the Soviet Union. With miraculously little bloodshed. I stood on the blood-stained steps in Timisoara Romania where dictator Ceauşescu's troops failed to crush the spirits of demonstrators.

But why? After all, it took World War II to remove the bloody Axis regimes of Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan and Fascist Italy, yet the Soviet empire evaporated to dust in just two years.

In the mid-1980s, the Soviet Union was at their pinnacle of worldwide expansion and power. They directed Communist revolutionary forces around the world, built terrifying weapons and maintained an iron grip on their homeland. They seemed as eternal as the pyramids.

President Reagan famously joked "Here's my strategy on the Cold War: we win, they lose," but back of that was a multi-level strategy that rejected 'Kissingerian' appeasement with a determined effort to destroy the power of the Soviet Union.

Economically, Reagan gained the cooperation of the Saudis to crash the price of oil, thus robbing the Soviets of much of their foreign revenue. Militarily, his rapid modernisation of our armed forces forced the Soviets to bankrupt themselves in trying to keep up, and his initial development of missile defence may have been the final straw. At the time (pre WTO and NAFTA), we still manufactured virtually everything and harnessed our immense industrial capability to rebuild our military in years, not the decades it may take today.

The final Soviet dictator, Mikhail Gorbachev was forced onto the defensive, and talked of "perestroika" (restructuring) and "glasnost" (openness) along with fighting corruption to make it appear he was following the public demand for freedom. Yet, Gorbachev only slightly relaxed the dictatorial hold on the Soviet people.

I do not believe Gorbachev intended his empire to collapse, but unwittingly and unknowingly opened an avenue to the collapse that faintly echoed President Reagan's famous "tear down this wall" speech and the messages and

inspiration of Pope John Paul II. Unlike today, our NATO and other allies were firmly supportive and willing to defend their liberty, presenting a resolute rear guard to Reagan's strategy.

What dealt the actual final blow to the Soviet empire could be described as "rising expectations." This principle, well known in foreign policy and psychology, is what in the months leading up to the fall of the Berlin Wall motivated eastern European leaders to loosen and remove border barriers, and inspired people to cross into western Europe. And it is what made people rush to the Wall on November 9, 1989. And it is what made the East German regime afraid to fire the guns on that wondrous day.

Once the horses had left the barn, it was too late to close the gate, and this tidal wave of a sense of freedom swept the Communist regimes to the scrapheap of history. It may be that the Soviet leadership was too demoralised and overwhelmed to order the genocidal crackdown that would have been necessary to restore their tyranny.

This sense of rising expectations was felt halfway around the world in China, filling Tiananmen Square and cities across China with millions demanding their freedom. They almost succeeded.

Today, Hong Kong citizens are experiencing a similar sense of popular rebellion. Millions fill the streets and disrupt official activities in a desperate move to protect their precious freedom. The difference is that this uprising follows the corollary principle of "crushed expectations." Both rising and crushed expectations have each historically sparked popular revolutions.

The world watched this in 2009 as the Iranian people reacted to the stolen presidential election by taking to the streets in protest. The regime was frozen for many days, expecting President Obama would rally our allies in public support of the people. The Iranian crackdown occurred only after Obama made it clear he sided with the dictatorship and turned his back on the people.

What Hongkongers are rallying together for is opposing the bill (since withdrawn) which would have allowed Communist China to extradite Hong Kong citizens to China, which would allow Beijing to send many to China's Laogai (concentration camps), prison or to be executed. This was crushed expectations that their freedom protected under the "Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" was suddenly endangered.

Beijing's top fear is of a "coloured revolution," like the "Orange revolution" in Ukraine or the "Green Movement" in Iran, Juan Guaido's



West Berliners crowd in front of the Berlin Wall as they watch East German border guards demolishing a section of the wall in order to open a new crossing point between East and West Berlin, near the Potsdamer Square, on Nov. 11, 1989. Two days before, Gunter Schabowski, the East Berlin Communist party boss, declared that starting from midnight, East Germans would be free to leave the country, without permission, at any point along the border, including the crossing-points through the Wall in Berlin. The Berlin concrete wall was built by the East German government in August 1961 to seal off East Berlin from the part of the city occupied by the three main Western powers to prevent mass illegal immigration to the West. According to the "August 13 Association" which specialises in the history of the Berlin Wall, at least 938 people - 255 in Berlin alone - died, shot by East German border guards, attempting to flee to West Berlin or West Germany.



People place flowers in remains of the Berlin Wall during a commemoration ceremony to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall at the Wall memorial site at Bernauer Strasse in Berlin, Nov. 9, 2019.

In the mid-1980s, the Soviet Union was at their pinnacle of worldwide expansion and power. They directed Communist revolutionary forces around the world, built terrifying weapons and maintained an iron grip on their homeland. They seemed as eternal as the pyramids.

almost successful revolution in Venezuela and even the ill-fated "Arab Spring," all of which were examples of rising expectations sparking popular revolutionary movements.

The answer to Beijing's thugs and princelings on the anniversary of the Berlin Wall's demise is, "you ain't seen nothing yet!"

Regardless of whether Hong Kong's popular revolution will spread to China, the end of the Communist regime is only a matter of time. It's basic human nature.

The time will come in spite of the censorship, Orwellian surveillance and tracking, Laogai concentration camps, "social credits" and the all-pervasive fear of the military-police state. The time will come in spite of the obsequious bowing and appeasement to Beijing by much of the world's nations and corporate empires. And the time will come suddenly and overwhelmingly.

Why? Rising-or crushed-expectations will one day spark the coloured revolution Xi Jinping most fears. And the date will join in the

annals of human freedom with the honoured dates of the fall of the Berlin Wall, "V-E" Day and "V-J" Day in World War II and Armistice Day in World War I.

On this thirtieth anniversary of the greatest end to tyranny in history, let's look forward. To a China that throws off their Communist dictators. And to regimes in Iran, North Korea, Venezuela, Cuba, and other tyrannies that crumble to popular revolts. And to a future where human freedom is no longer an endangered species, but the established and cherished norm around the world.

Art Harman is the President of the Coalition to Save Manned Space Exploration. He was the Legislative Director and foreign policy advisor for Rep. Stockman (R-Texas) in the 113th Congress, and is a veteran policy analyst and grassroots political expert.

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



Honeyed Desserts for a Sweet New Year

Sweet treats from Jewish cookbook author Leah Koenig make for happy endings to a Rosh Hashanah feast. See B2





The Tower We Build

How does our modern age mirror the ancients' attempt to build a tower to heaven?

See B8

NOVEMBER 14 - 20, 2019 **B1**

LIFE

THE EPOCH TIMES



FINE ARTS

The Lessons Scandals Teach

Two ancient Chinese paintings on humility and integrity

MIKE CAI

Scandals allure and entice us. While scandalous events are feverishly debated today, the ancient Chinese used such incidents as subjects of art, often to teach moral lessons. These incidents became timeless through art and thereby offered insights into ancient Chinese thought and values that remain relevant to modern-day society.

NOVEMBER 14 - 20, 2019. THE EPOCH TIMES

Honeyed Desserts for a Sweet New Year



CRYSTAL SHI

n Rosh Hashanah,
"sweetness is paramount," writes Jewish
food authority Leah
Koenig in her cookbook,
"Little Book of Jewish Sweets." The
festive meals of the Jewish New Year,
which this year begins at sundown on
Sunday, Sept. 29 and ends at sundown
on Tuesday, Oct. 1, are full of food symbolism. Sweet foods, a common theme,
are meant to usher in a sweet new year.

The meal on the first night traditionally begins with slices of apple dipped in honey, with the roundness of the fruit and the sweetness of both embodying wishes for a full and sweet

year to come, Koenig explained.

Challah is another staple, studded with raisins for sweetness and wound into a spiral for roundness and fullness, and often also dipped in honey to eat. (Koenig, an Ashkenazi Jew, grew up dipping pieces into her chicken soup instead: "a combination that sounds a bit incongruous but was the stuff of miracles," she said.)

Ashkenazi Jews also eat apple cakes (apfelkuchen) and honey cakes (lekach), "baking the apple and honey tradition directly into dessert," Koenig said. In "Little Book of Jewish Sweets," she combines the two into a handsome, best-of-both-worlds honey-apple cake, sweetened with honey, perfumed with warm spices and coffee, and cut

through with a layer of tender, cinnamon-spiced apples. The "apple half" of the cake is based on her mother's recipe.

The book also has a recipe for teiglach, a traditional Ashkenazi treat made from balls of baked dough doused in honey syrup. The dessert has "ancient roots to some of the earliest rudimentary desserts that boiled nuggets of dough in honey," Koenig said, but today is often dismissed as old-fashioned and unappealing—no thanks to modern Jewish bakery renditions that tend to be "overly saccharine and regrettably dry." To revive the classic, Koenig pierces through the monotone sweetness with bright lemon zest and crystallized ginger.

The symbolism goes beyond sweetness, too: tradition also dictates eating seedy pomegranates, for instance, representing a desire for a year of abundance and plentiful good deeds; and introducing a "new fruit," one that hasn't been had all year, to be eaten after a blessing giving thanks for entering the new season. Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews, meanwhile, traditionally partake in an elaborate seder of symbolic foods, each one preceded by a blessing and representing a different intention, often derived from a pun on its name.

Here, Koenig shares her recipes for honey-apple cake, teiglach, and baklava-guarantees for a sweet and delicious year ahead.





For Ashkenazi Jews, Rosh Hashanah tables tend to feature one of two desserts: honey cake or apple cake. The former (lekach) is sweetened with honey and flavored with strong coffee and spices like cinnamon, ginger, and cloves. The latter (apfelkuchen) comes chockablock with tender apples that give the cake an extra moist crumb. But really, why choose? This version combines the best aspects of both desserts into one cake that celebrates the full, complex sweetness of the autumnal New Year season. It tastes lovely right away, but the flavors deepen and blossom the second day.

SERVES 8

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 21/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup strong brewed coffee
- 11/3 cups packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup honey
- 3 large eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract4 cups finely chopped, peeled baking
- 4 cups finely chopped, peeled baking apples (3 or 4 medium)
- Confectioners' sugar for serving

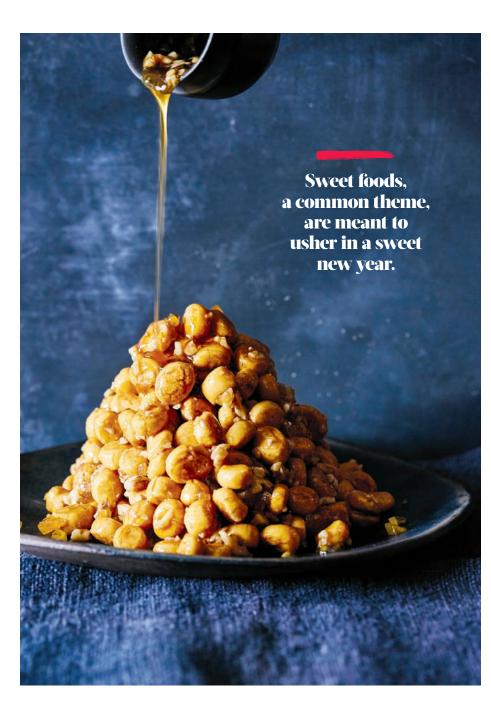
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F and lightly grease a 10-inch Bundt pan. Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, 1 1/2 teaspoon of the cinnamon, ginger, allspice, cloves, and salt into a large bowl.

In a stand mixer or using a handheld electric mixer, beat the oil, coffee, 1 cup of the brown sugar, and the honey on medium speed until fully combined. Add the eggs, one at a time, followed by the vanilla, beating to combine after each addition and scraping down the bowl as necessary. Add the flour mixture in two additions, beating on low speed until just combined.

Stir together the apples, the remaining 1/3 cup brown sugar, and the remaining 1 teaspoon cinnamon in a medium bowl.

Spread about half of the batter evenly into the prepared Bundt pan and spoon the apple mixture evenly over the top. Spread the remaining batter over the apples. Bake until a cake tester inserted into the center comes out clean, 50–60 minutes. (Start checking at 50 minutes to avoid overbaking.) Remove from the oven. Set the pan on a wire rack for 30 minutes to allow the apples inside to cool and set.

To unmold the cake, run a sharp knife between the cake and the pan, then gently invert the cake onto a wire rack to cool completely. Just before serving, transfer the cake to a serving plate and dust the top with confectioners' sugar. Serve at room temperature. Store covered at room temperature for up to 5 days, or wrap tightly in plastic wrap and freeze for up to 3 months.



TEIGLACH (HONEY DUMPLINGS WITH CRYSTALLIZED GINGER)

Teiglach is one of those Ashkenazi dishes that often gets dismissed as hopelessly old-fashioned, and that is a shame. Traditionally served on Rosh Hashanah, when sweetness is paramount, it is made from small nuggets of dough (and sometimes nuts) that are boiled in honey syrup, resulting in a sticky-sweet jumble that is a joy to eat. This version adds crystallized ginger to the mix, which gives the dessert an extra kick.

SERVES 8

FOR THE DOUGH

- 13/4 cups all-purpose flour, plus more as needed
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 3 large eggs
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- FOR THE SYRUP

 1 cup honey
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
- 11/2 cups walnut halves, coarsely chopped1/2 cup finely chopped crystallized ginger

Make the dough: Whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt in a medium bowl. In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, oil, and vanilla until fully combined. Add the flour mixture to the egg mixture and stir until the dough begins to come together. Transfer to a lightly floured surface and knead, adding a little more flour as needed, until

the dough is smooth and supple. Shape the dough into a ball and place back in the bowl. Cover the bowl with a kitchen towel and let rest for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F and line two large rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper. Divide the dough into four equal pieces. Working with one piece at a time (and keeping the others covered with a kitchen towel), roll into a long, very thin log about 1/2 inch thick. Cut the logs into 1/2-inch pieces and place on one of the prepared baking sheets. Repeat the rolling and cutting process with the remaining pieces of dough. Bake until just puffed and lightly golden, 5–8 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool, gently separating any pieces that stuck together during baking.

Make the syrup: Stir together the honey, sugar, ground ginger, and lemon zest in a large saucepan, and set over medium-high heat. Bring to a boil, then turn the heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the honey turns a deep golden color, 5–10 minutes. Add the baked and cooled dough pieces and cook, stirring occasionally, until the dough begins to take on some color, about 10 minutes. Add the walnuts and crystallized ginger, and continue cooking, stirring often, until the mixture is dark brown and very sticky, 5–10 minutes.

Pour the teiglach and honey syrup back onto the parchment-lined baking sheet and let cool. Using wet hands, transfer the teiglach to a serving plate and shape into a mound. Alternatively, to make individual portions of teiglach, make smaller mounds (2–3 inches high) and place in muffin cups. Let cool completely and serve at room temperature. Store covered at room temperature for up to 5 days.

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FIG BAKLAVA

Baklava is a triumph of a confection—a mix of gorgeously crisp phyllo pastry, decadent layers of nuts, and a copious drizzle of fragrant syrup. The dessert is central to Turkish and Greek cuisines and has also spread widely across the Middle East and the Balkans. Jewish communities serve baklava on holidays (typically Rosh Hashanah and Purim) and at special occasions such as weddings and bar mitzvahs. This version adds jammy dried figs to an otherwise traditional walnut filling, yielding a confection that is at once familiar and new.

SERVES 8

For the baklava:

1 pound walnut halves

 ${\bf 11/2}\, \text{cups dried Mission figs, stemmed and }$ coarsely chopped

2 tablespoons light brown sugar

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

One 1-pound package frozen phyllo dough, thawed

1 cup unsalted butter, melted, or coconut oil or vegetable oil

For the syrup:

or the cyrup.

11/4 cups granulated sugar

3/4 cup water 1/4 cup honey

1 cinnamon stick

2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

 $\textbf{1}\, teaspoon\, rose\, water$

Make the baklava: Preheat the oven to 350

degrees F and lightly grease a 9 by 13-inch baking dish. Place the walnuts, figs, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt in a food processor, and mix until the walnuts and figs are finely ground.

If necessary, trim the phyllo to fit the baking dish, then place on a flat cutting board and cover with a damp kitchen towel. Fit one sheet of phyllo in the bottom of the baking dish and generously brush with melted butter. Repeat seven times, brushing with butter after each layer to make a stack of 8 phyllo sheets. Spoon half of the nut and fig mixture over the phyllo, and spread evenly. Repeat the process with 4 more phyllo sheets, brushing with butter between each layer. Spread the remaining nut and fig mixture over the top, and repeat the process with 8 more phyllo sheets.

Bake until the top is lightly golden and crisp, 30–35 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool for 5 minutes, then use a sharp knife to cut the baklava

into squares or diamonds in the pan.

Meanwhile, make the syrup: Stir together the granulated sugar, water, honey, and cinnamon stick in a medium saucepan, and set over medium-high heat. Bring to a boil, then turn the heat to medium-low and cook, stirring often, until the syrup thickens slightly, about 5 minutes. Remove from the heat, and stir in the lemon juice and rose water. Let cool slightly. Discard the cinnamon stick.

Carefully spoon the warm syrup over the slightly cooled and cut baklava, taking care to pour syrup along the cut lines. Let the baklava sit for at least 2 hours before serving to allow the syrup to soften the filling. Serve at room temperature. Store covered at room temperature for up to 3 days.

All recipes reprinted from "Little Book of Jewish Sweets" by Leah Koenig with permission by Chronicle Books, 2019.

ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY SHUTTERSTOCK







NOVEMBER 14 - 20, 2019 THE EPOCH TIMES

FINE ARTS

The Lessons Scandals Teach

Two ancient Chinese paintings on humility and integrity

Continued from **B1**

During the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644), artists often depicted women as a common motif. Among these artists, Tang Yin (1470–1524) and Qiu Ying (1494–1552), who were two of the Four Great Ming Masters, featured court ladies and courtesans in their works and drew inspiration from past scandals for their themes.

With symbolism and allegories that went beyond mere depiction of the outward beauty of the ladies, Tang Yin and Qiu Ying provided the ancient Chinese with opportunities to reflect on their own characters and their paintings served as reminders to uphold integrity.

A Rendezvous With Humility

Tang Yin's "Tao Gu Presents a Poem" depicts a seemingly innocent encounter between Tao Gu and a courtesan. The setting is when the Song Dynasty (960–1279) was first establishing itself as a central power, and the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms (908–979) were disintegrating.

Tao Gu (903–970) was an official from the Song court and served as a diplomat to the Southern Tang empire (937–975), which was one of the Ten Kingdoms. Coming from the Song court, Tao Gu always assumed an air of arrogance as he faced the Southern Tang ruler Li Houzhu.

Outraged by Tao Gu's insolence, Li Houzhu contrived a scheme to expose Tao Gu's impudent behavior. The ruler sent a famous courtesan, Qin Ruolan, to seduce Tao Gu while he was traveling to the Southern Tang.

Courtesans like Qin Ruolan were essentially female entertainers who were not bound by marriage. As professional hostesses, they were highly educated in areas such as music, dance, and calligraphy, and one of their main roles was to use their talents to alleviate tension between scholars and officials in business settings.

In the painting, both Tao Gu and Qin Ruolan are portrayed in the middle of a tryst in a garden. However, as the story of the event tells us, Tao Gu is unaware of her courtesan status, as Qin Ruolan is disguised as an officer's daughter.

She wears an embroidered blouse and sits with her legs crossed as she elegantly plucks the strings of a pipa, which is a four-stringed, pear-shaped instrument traditionally associated with courtesans.

Artists
Tang Yin and
Qiu Ying
provided
the ancient
Chinese with
opportunities
to reflect on
their own

characters.







A detail from
"Tao Gu Presents
a Poem," by Tang Yin.
Hanging scroll, ink and
colors on silk, 66 1/2
inches by 40 1/4 inches.
National Palace Museum
in Taipei, Taiwan.

At first sight, their encounter is a seemingly decorous one, but a closer look reveals otherwise.

Tao intently gazes at her as he listens to her play, with a brush and some paper beside him.

The story reveals that he, enamored by her beauty and losing himself in the music, composes a poem as a gift for her. Since courtesans were stigmatized by society and did not occupy a high status, his behavior would have been seen as indiscreet and a breach of ancient Chinese etiquette.

Symbols in the Details

Tang Yin subtly portrays the intimacy of the meeting with hints and clues. Behind Qin Ruolan is a painted screen, which sequesters the couple in a secluded space. In the lower left, a child hides behind some garden rocks to eavesdrop on their conversation, indicating the unseemly nature of the situation. A burning candle in between the two further accentuates the secrecy of the rendezvous and suggests that it is nightfall.

In addition, meticulously painted garden motifs are incorporated into the scenery. The couple sits under the shade of a willow tree, the dangling foliage being a symbol for a woman's hair. In the foreground, several plantains sprout from the ground, symbolizing her beauty.

Tang Yin also included some bamboo shoots in right periphery of the painting. While bamboo is associated with the value of integrity, here it is situated away from the main scene, signifying Tao Gu's inappropriate behavior.

The story ends the next day when the Southern Tang ruler, Li Houzhu, hosts a banquet for Tao Gu after he arrives. Again, Tao puts on a façade of condescension and conceit. Li Houzhu then asks Qin Ruolan to come forth and perform a song with lyrics from the poem that Tao had written for her.

Tao, now ridiculed in front of everyone by a courtesan, loses his dignity and feels humiliated. Soon after, his status as an official diminishes.

Thus, in this painting, the importance of the ancient Confucian value of humility is the theme hinted at. Tao Gu felt like he was above everyone in the Southern Tang Kingdom since he came from a more powerful empire. However, acting in a condescending way did not earn him respect, but rather made him appear foolish and led to his downfall in the end.

Confucius said, "Humility is the solid foundation of all virtues." Indeed, the ancient Chinese believed that a Confucian leader should be unassuming, humble, and empathetic, and one who listens to people and is always sensitive to their needs. Only with these qualities could a leader be truly influential and inspirational.

A Portrait of Integrity

Qiu Ying's "Spring Morning in the Han Palace" is a long handscroll depicting court ladies in the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 220) palace. The handscroll opens on the left with the Han palace gates and takes us through opulent architecture and court-yards, with trees and garden rocks interspersed between the buildings. The first few scenes give us a glimpse of palatial life as elegant court ladies engage in various leisurely activities.

At the outskirts of the palace, one lady leans over the rails with her children to watch the fish in the lake. Two peacocks anxiously await their meal as a lady tosses food at them.

Here, court ladies are gathering to form an ensemble and play musical instruments such as the lute and pipa. One lady adjusts and tunes the strings of a zither while a second lady unwraps another zither and is about to join in. To the right, two ladies have some snacks while others appear to be dancing to the music.

The status of the ladies can be differentiated by their hair adornments; the higher-ranking court ladies had fancier coiffures with jade and gold hairpins, while the maids had plainer hairstyles.

Moving further along the handscroll, we see a court lady walk up the stairs while carrying a sheng, which is a Chinese reed instrument made of numerous pipes. Her posture and the manner in which she stumbles up signify the traditional practice of foot binding. To the left, several ladies arrange flowers, while two ladies at the upper left enjoy a novel.

In another scene, the court ladies play a game of weiqi, which is an ancient Chinese board game. To the left, some are preparing a roll of newly woven silk, while directly above, some are weaving an intricate tapestry. Beside them is a mother playing with her two children.



"Spring Morning in the Han Palace" by Qiu Ying. National Palace Museum in Taipei, Taiwan.

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Court artist Mao Yanshou paints the lady Wang Zhaojun in "Spring Morning in the Han Palace" by Qiu Ying. National Palace Museum in Taipei, Taiwan.

A Swindle

So far, these depictions present the harmonious side of court life. But the next scene shows the more competitive aspect of court life. Qiu Ying has actually painted a narrative depicting the concubines of Emperor Yuan of the Han Dynasty.

It was an ancient Chinese custom for the emperor to be presented with portraits of the women at his court before meeting with them so that he could decide whom to choose as a consort.

The scandal depicted involved one particular court lady.

In order to attract the emperor's attention, the court ladies often bribed court artist Mao Yanshou to paint them more beautiful than they actually were. One court lady, Wang Zhaojun, out of her righteous heart, refused to bribe the artist. As revenge, Mao Yanshou depicted her as ugly, with moles on her face.

In the painting, Wang Zhaojun sits in

front of a screen as the artist paints her portrait. The other concubines on the side bicker and gossip among themselves as they watch the painting progress.

One lady jealously peeks around the back of the screen to spy on the scene. Two eunuchs in the foreground converse with each other with smirks on their faces, as they are aware of the bribes and of Mao Yanshou's fraudulence. Eunuchs were castrated men who guarded court women to ensure that they weren't impregnated by anyone but the emperor.

The story goes that upon seeing Mao Yanshou's distorted portrait, Emperor Yuan never visited Wang Zhaojun, and she remained a lady-in-waiting of low status.

One day, the ruler of the Xiongnu empire from the north came to the Han court to seek a friendly relationship through marriage. The emperor, who saw the smaller empire as full of barbarians, chose Wang Zhaojun as the bride, believing that Qiu Ying
has actually
painted a
narrative
depicting the
concubines
of Emperor
Yuan of the
Han Dynasty.

Mike Cai is a graduate of the New York Fei Tian Academy of the Arts and the University of California–Berkeley. she was the least attractive of his ladies. However, only when she was summoned did Emperor Yuan realize that she was actually the most beautiful woman at court. But it was too late; the offer had been made. Enraged by Mao Yanshou's deceit, the emperor ordered the artist to be executed.

This scene in the painting warns against the sins of bribery and emphasizes the significance of the Confucian values of justice and righteousness. By willingly accepting bribes and harming Wang Zhaojun's chances at court, the artist determined his own fate.

Confucius said, "The superior man is aware of righteousness; the inferior man is aware of advantage." Confucian thought emphasizes having the moral acumen to make decisions based on the responsibility to do good rather than being swayed by gain and profit. Only with a virtuous heart can there be beauty in the character.





Court ladies play a board game.

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

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8			9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16				17		18					19					\vdash		
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80			81			Г		82	83		Г		84	85		86		Г
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91	92	93				94	95					96				Г		
97				98	99					100	101						102	103
104									105					106			\vdash	
107									108						109			

Across

1. Ancient Egyptians held it sacred

5. Colorado resort

9. A type of loose connective tissue

16. Japanese poem type

18. Way back when 19. Beat

20. "Garmin" expertise

23. Bridge action

24. Alum

25. Estimate follower

26. Roman shield 28. Anagram for "tree"

30. One on the "The Green

Hell" is 12.9 miles long

32. Pea container 33. Like some pigs

on a computer

44. Low-tech missile

50. "The thrill of victory

and the of defeat"

Half Men" co-star

56. "Billboard" listings

59. Lawyer's org.

63. The 'booster' is the

40. Proposal

42. Old English character 43. "I changed my mind"

45. Photosynthesis need

52. Former "Two and a

53. Blow

55. Yorkshire river

60. Water cannon target

62.100 Ethiopian cents

first one

66. Spring sound

68. Modem pulses

70. Floats

75. "Wheel of Fortune" buy

76. "Ditto," in footnotes

78. "That's awful!"

79. Delicate 80. It runs through

California

86. Shut out

87. Do-over

88. Slick

89. Like most sonnets

91. Romantic interlude 94. Abandon

96. Draconian

97. Megalomania

104. Train engineer garb

107. Clam's plate 108. Stew 109. "Now!"

105. Run away

106. Abrupt

Down

1. The "I" in T.G.I.F.

2. Farm call

3. Unwelcome visitor

4. Shooting sport

5. Empty

6. Colony member 7. Chill

8. Pants measure

9. Gung-ho

10. Between lg. and sm. 11. Part of B.C.E.

12. Well-armed marine

creatures

13. Hideaway

14. Old Testament book

15. "But I shot a man in _, just to watch him die."

("Folsom Prison Blues" lyric)

17. "Help!" is one 19. Egg cells

21. "City of Kings"

22. Neck of the woods

26. ___ and span

27. Last part

28. Pine product

29. Canyon effect

30. Jack-in-the-box part 31. Buffalo's cousin

34. Stevedore

35. Pakistani language

36. Number two

37. Teapot part

38. Uptight 39. "Long Tall Glasses

(I Can Dance)" singer Leo

41. Laughable

46. Amp's relative 47. Capone nemesis

48. Mediterranean ship

49. "A Kiss Before Dying" author Levin

51.1 followed by 100

zeroes

of old.

54. Well-groomed 56. 2003 summit participant with Sharon and Bush

57. Jungle vine

58. UCLA player

59. Well-kept secret,

for some 61. Connections

64. Rank

65. Peak

66. Sired, biblically 67. Where Pearl City is

69. Kind of wave

71. Dennis the Menace's

dog

72. Amateurs

73. "Absolut Berri"

ingredient

74. Harmony

77. '50s wildlife threat

81. Attraction

82. Throws in

83. Walk to the gate,

before 9/11

84. Italian bread

85. Jeer

90. Jiltee of myth 91. False god

of fire)

92. Agni ___ (Hindu god

93. Primordial substance

94. Cherry 95. "Star Trek" extra: Abbr.

96. Algonquian Indian

98. Mineo of "Exodus" 99. "___ Never Fall in Love

Again"

100. Winter bug 101. Masterpiece

102. Inits. on a rocket

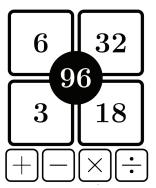
103. Kind of theater

Large: Hard

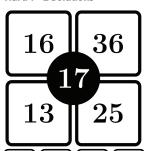
Easy 2 - 1 Solution

4NUMBERS CONSTRUCTED BY C. CHANG

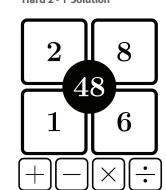
Use the four numbers in the corners, and the operands (+, - X, and ÷) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one "unique" solution but, there may also be "equivalent" solutions. For example: 6 + (7X3) + 1 = 28and 1+(7X3)+6=28



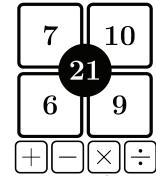
Hard 1 - 2 Solutions



Hard 2 - 1 Solution



Easy 1 - 1 Solution



WORDSEARCH CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON EPOCH TIMES STAFF

Help with Today's Crossword Puzzle? AGONYOVERALLSRS SCUTUMMAPSTAGEP ERINTRUDERTJBSO RUUCDCRHRXOAAIU UETIIETESEMUUNT BBTGMRRBVEINV TEMONAEUHEGUD RAIECLLLDCRYPEP IRLRBLWRABSQNGA GOEBATUXSMEENAR OVALUSEOMSEIPTE ODBIBMKRNHOLFKO GNBAUDSESBFBLIL

AGONY **ALBUMS ALLURE BAUDS BEGAT** BOING **BRUIN** CRUEL ERUPT GOOGOL IAMBIC

INTRUDER

LAMELLA

A B E O L A R

LNSAYEROCTOPILR LENGTH LIANA MEDEA OCTOPI **OVERALLS** OVERCAME REBID RESIN RIOTER SAYER

SCUTUM

SEE OFF

SHEEN

SKEET

SPOUT

STAGE

TANKA

TAUNT

TENSE

TERSE

XEBEC

ABBAS

ABSURD

AREOLAR

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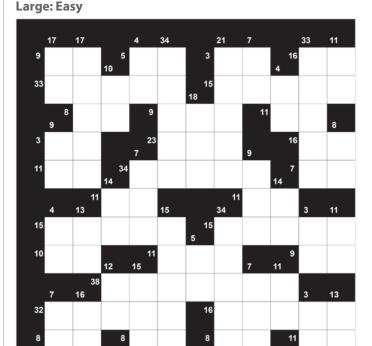
OTANKATKEEFURAA

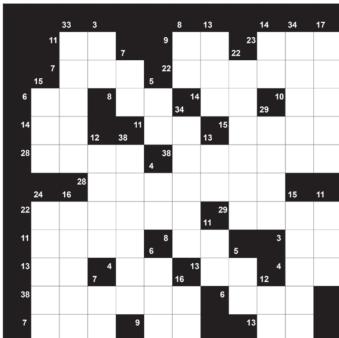
KAKURO

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.

WORK SPACE





SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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HARD 1 $81 - 8 \times (8 + 28)$ $81 + \xi \times (8 - \xi)$

HARD 2 $81 + (81 - 82) \div 88$ EASY 1 $8 \times 8 \times (1 - 2)$ EASY 2 $9 - 9 \times (7 - 01)$

4 NUMBERS

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.

			1		4	F			9	0				3	
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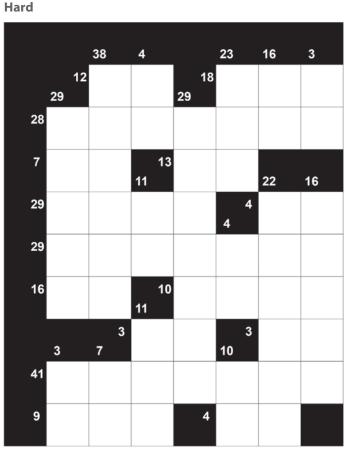
Fill in the boxes using numbers between 1 and 9 so that each column, each row, and each 3x3 square contain all nine numbers only once. Hard **Easy**

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

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

KAKURO

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 CONSTRUCTED BY EPOCH TIMES STAFF is filled, the puzzle is complete.



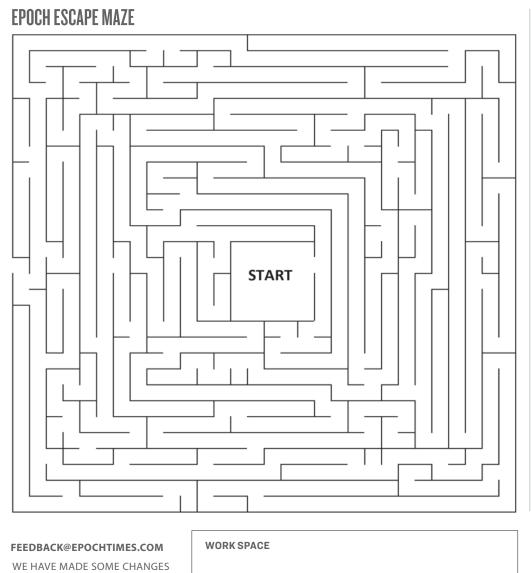
Guess the hidden saying, phrase or word(s) suggested by the picture!

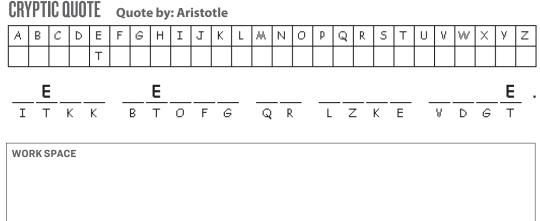
SOLUTION BELOW



Alan Morgan









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

KEN 賢 KEN

top-left corner.

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	3÷				2 ÷
4		5—	3-		
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SOLUTIONS

SUPERSUDOKU

TO OUR PUZZLE PAGE IN RESPONSE TO PUZZLER'S FEEDBACK. LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

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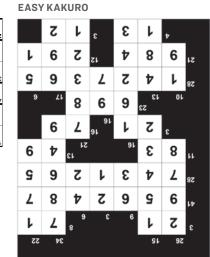
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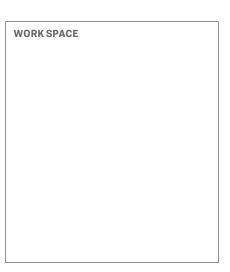
EPOCH DOKU

CRYPTIC QUOTE - Aristotle Well begun is half done.

OUTSIDE THE BOX An uphill battle



HARD KAKURO 7



В8 NOVEMBER 14 - 20, 2019 THE EPOCH TIMES



"The Tower of Babel," 1563, by Pieter Bruegel the Elder. Museum of Art History, Vienna.

LITERATURE

The Tower of Babel We Build

JAMES SALE

ver since the Enlightenment of the 18th century, it has become increasingly difficult to talk of myths and mythology in a world that increasingly craves science. And what this means is that people want facts and are suspicious of anything other than facts. This is the case despite the fact that facts themselves aren't always what they are cracked up to be.

For we have lost sight of the distinction between facts and truth; indeed, in our post-modern world there is no truth.

So we need to clearly understand that it is not facts that make religions and myths powerful and accepted. No, they depend on being true, which is a completely different idea.

When we talk, for example, of King Arthur and the Round Table, its truth is independent of the existence of King Arthur; moreover, Arthur's specific existence is unimportant compared with the narratives about him.

As Northrop Frye put it: "A myth is designed not to describe a specific situation but to contain it in a way that does not restrict its significance to that one situation. Its truth is inside its structure, not outside." For the most important things in life are invisible and not subject to "facts": Love is invisible, values are invisible, and our souls are invisible.

To take that last illustration—that we have an actual soul-the whole testimony of mankind from the beginning of human history testifies to its reality. Still, that doesn't make our soul a fact from a scientific point of view, though it be true nonetheless.

We need to return to the myths of old, which reveal profound truths about ourselves and our condition, and which may well help prevent us from falling into serious error-errors that in the context of today may have apocalyptic consequences.

The Tower of Babel

Let's turn to the story of the Tower of Babel in the Bible, which occurs in the first nine verses of Chapter 11 of the book of Genesis. It occurs just after the Flood story, and so is the last great prehistoric story before we encounter the more historical-type stories beginning with Abram/Abraham and the creation of the Jewish race.

The story relates that the whole earth had "one language and few words" as mankind settled in the East, in the land of Shinar. The word "Shinar" seems to have two primary etymological meanings: first, to express intense negative emotion or the experience of violence; and second, to be very afraid. This latter definition seems possible as the men explicitly express a fear of being "scattered abroad." They also want to make a "name for themselves."

To make a name for yourself, gain a reputation, and to be famous is considered an antidote to that fear of being scattered, reduced, and coming to nothing-an existential fear, in other words.

Thus, they decide to counter their own impotence and fear by building a city, and especially a tower with a "top" that penetrates heaven. And they will do it, significantly, not with natural (that is, Godmade) products like stone, but with

man-made substitutes, like bricks. God views this construction, and specifically comes down to see it, and (in the New American Standard Version, 1973) concludes, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; and nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them."

So God, to prevent this, confuses the languages of the world and thereby scatters the people, which prevents the structure's being completed, as human beings can no longer communicate effectively.

Falling Away From God

Fundamentally, the story of the Tower of Babel is about heresy, an alternative myth, that simply never goes away and which always leads humans astray.

In essence it says this: Human beings are perfectible, godlike creatures whose hopes and aspirations can be achieved solely through human agency, and the primary vehicle that will enable this to happen is what we call education. Education will lead us to a better tomorrow.

The condition of Western society manifests as confusion, fragmentation, polarization, the absence of any agreed-upon values, and the self being enthroned as its own god.

That this is the opposite of what all the great ancients thought is shown by one simple "fact": Namely, the ancients (for example, Greeks, Egyptians, Indians, to mention only three venerable cultures) believed that the world had fallen away from a Golden Age and was in, or heading for, a brutal Iron Age.

Regression, therefore, not progression was what the trend of human history demonstrated. But clearly, for those building a Tower of Babel, the Golden Age lies ahead.

We have

lost sight of

the distinctio

between facts

and truth.

Let's take a remote and arcane example of those believing in humankind's perfectibility: the Pelagian heresy of the fourth and fifth centuries. This heresy, which constantly resurfaces in Christianity in innocent of evil and so be good.

Those Who Build a 'Perfect' World

here, we can surely detect the Greek word "hubris" in the idea that we can become godlike and good ourselves without reference to God or the gods. Zeus would not have liked it and almost certainly would have punished it. But if this seems remote, let's take a

much more up-to-date example: Marxism and its offspring, communism. It has often been observed that communism is a religion, but a religion without God. And it is a perfect example of that secularization which is the Tower of Babel, and whose drift can be summed up in one word: progress.

Communism stipulates that we don't need God; we can create our own value system, our own morality, and our own purposes. This sense of alienation from God or the gods has infected our culture ever since the 19th century.

The Marxist progress is the classless society that must happen: pure utopia, and pure perfection of humanity. Pure false and rationalistic myth.

Of course, socialism mirrors—perhaps "apes"-this kind of Marxist thinking, as does, counterintuitively, "progressive liberalism" in our own day. The philosopher John Gray commented, "What is striking is how closely the market liberal philosophy that underpins globalization resembles Marxism. Both are essentially secular religions, in which the eschatological hopes and fantasies of Christianity are given an Enlightenment twist."

They are all engaged in building the perfect world, but without any reference to God or the gods: a veritable Tower of Babel.

ern societies stems from "babel," as in its etymology from the Hebrew verb (balal), meaning to jumble or to confuse, and from which our own word "babble" seems associated. It manifests as confusion, fragmentation, polarization, the absence of any agreed-upon values, and the self being enthroned as its own god.

Consider that never before has there been so much transmission and so little communication, as solipsistically we are all talking to ourselves while no one

All the while technology, science's twin,

promises ever more utopia just ahead: AI, robotics, cures for cancer, living on Mars, living to 150 or 200, and every other fantasy beside. It seems to be two sides of a coin: On one side is complete fragmentation, which is pitched alongside the fantasy-the modern myth-that all will be well because our technology will save us.

Late in the 19th century, L.L. Zamenhof published the first book on Esperanto, an artificial language (still spoken by approximately two million people as a second language in 115 countries) that sought to overcome the curse of Babelthe curse that prevented humans doing what God or the gods could do. But this kind of language proved inadequate for

The real language to reverse the effects of Babel was created in the 20th century and is now flourishing in the 21st: It is, of course, the digital language of our computers and cellphones and almost any current device-fridges, cars, missiles, you name it. At last mankind has found a language that all humans understand and as a result can make exponential progress in building its new and latest Towers of Babel.

And there is the danger. We think we

can defeat God and subvert his will for us. Of course, the secularists don't believe in God or the gods, but even John Grayan atheist philosopher-said: "Secular thinkers have turned to a belief in progress that is further removed from the basic facts of life than any religious myth."

In other words, the building of the Tower of Babel is one more example of a colossal mistake that will have dire consequences. As Ayn Rand expressed it: "We can evade reality, but we cannot evade the consequences of reality." There's the rub: The modern dream of progress is just that-a dream, a fantasy, a false myth that needs to be deconstructed for what it is.

The Tower of Babel, on the other hand, is an enduring myth that speaks true. And if from this we wish to consider a solution to the current impasse we are in, then we need go no further than to the root problem: "facts" as a substitute for "truth."

When people, when cultures start to value truth, then the facts resume their proper place in the scheme of things, and the dangerous, utopian fantasies begin to recede. So let us look at the traditional myths with new eyes, new hearts, and new minds, and let us embrace their truths.

James Sale is an English businessman whose company, Motivational Maps Ltd., operates in 14 countries. He is the author of over 40 books on management and education from major international publishers including Macmillan, Pearson, and Routledge. As a poet, he won First Prize in The Society of Classical Poets' 2017 competition.

various forms, denies the cardinal virtue of accepting that it is by the grace of God, and not by human will, that salvation is found. Pelagius maintained that humans through their own willpower could be Irrespective of Christian theology

A Metaphor for Today

The quintessential condition of all West-

THE EPOCH TIMES NOVEMBER 14 - 20, 2019

Is It OK to Cry at Work?

Before the tears start flowing, consider the cause

CHLOE ANAGNOS

I'm not quite a decade into my career and I know that I have cried on the job at least four or five times.

As work life and personal life have become increasingly integrated, boundaries and social etiquette practices have continued to shift, such as bringing your dog to work, going barefoot in the office (still gross!), and crying.

According to a study from Monster, crying at work is not uncommon.

Their poll of 3,000 workers found that eight out of 10 people have cried at work. Bosses or co-workers were cited as the reason for tears at the office, according to 45 percent of respondents.

More than 15 percent of people said they cried because of their workload, while almost 13 percent said they were upset about workplace bullying.

Is it OK to show emotion and even cry at work? Absolutely.

But if it's happening every week—or worse, every day—then it's best to figure out the source of the tears or find a new work environment.

Take these points into consideration if you or a colleague are frequently experiencing waterworks.

Who Are You Surrounded By?

Is it your boss? Trusted colleagues? Understanding the people around you may determine the appropriateness of crying based on context alone.

For instance, there's a distinction between breaking down in front of the CEO of your company because your cat died over the weekend or being overwhelmed by a verbally abusive boss. Before the tears start flowing, know your audience and use discretion to determine if it's appropriate.

What's Causing the Tears?

When the tears come, think back to the trigger that brought them in the first place. Was it because you were treated poorly by a boss or coworker? Were you unprepared for a meeting?

Determining the source can help you personally address if the cause is justifiable or not. Look back at the trigger to decide if the cause is work-related or irrelevant.

Is It Work-Related or Personal?

Sometimes, our own baggage can serve as a barrier when we let it affect our daily ability in the office.

If you are struggling with a personal



One of the biggest indicators of professional growth is learning to openly confront our feelings.

matter, it may not always be appropriate to continue to resolve it while on the job.

However, there is power in being vulnerable when appropriate with your coworkers if something major is going on. If your issue is work-related, it may be time to have a conversation with your human resources department.

Is This an Isolated or

Ongoing Concern?
Though crying at
work should not become a regular habit,
an emotional release
given the appropriateness of the circumstances can and should
be acceptable. But when it
becomes more frequent, it may
be time to ask for help either from human resources or a professional counselor
or therapist.

Remember, crying at work is a personal decision that completely depends on your own level of comfort. If you are comfortable and justified in your tears and are actively seeking a resolution to what may have caused them, then more power to you.

Why It Matters

We spend a lot of time at work and most of us spend more time with our coworkers than our own families during the week. One of the biggest indicators of professional growth is learning to

openly confront our feelings.

If we bury our feelings and run from conflict, not only does it undermine our work but it doesn't help us grow professionally or personally.

Red Hat CEO Jim
Whitehurst argues
that expressing your
feelings reflects your
passion for what you do.
"You might see tears
from time to time, but I

think that signals that the person cares about what is happening," Whitehurst said. "Emotions at work can help you understand how others truly feel—that's a good thing."

Chloe Anagnos is a professional writer, digital strategist, and marketer. Although a millennial, she's never accepted a participation trophy. This article was originally published on FEE.org

FIZKES/SHUTTERSTOCK

WISE HABITS

Transforming Overwhelm, Burden Into Something Powerful

Before the tears

start flowing,

audience and

use discretion

to determine if

it's appropriate.

know your

Change in mindset can work wonders, open up new worlds

LEO BABAUTA

How many of you have felt overwhelmed recently by everything you have to do?

How many of you have felt something you have to do-or everything you have to do-is a burden?

Many of us feel like the tasks of life are overwhelming. Almost all of us see things this way sometimes. It seems like it's something hardwired into us.

It stems from how we look at the world and our life. But it's changeable. It starts by shifting our perspective.

Instead of seeing the world as a burden, can we see it as a gift?
Instead of seeing the world as difficulty

and struggle, can we see it as a possibility and opportunity?

Instead of thinking that we have too much to do, can we see the joy in each task, and see that a pile of tasks is an abundance of possibility?

Yes, we have many things to do, and we

feel like we don't have enough time to do them all. But we all have the same amount of time, and all we can

do is one task at a time. We can get better at choosing which tasks to do (prioritizing), but in the end, there's never any certainty that we're doing the right tasks.

While we can expand our capabilities through automation, delegation, and outsourcing, experience tells us that even doing all of that, we still have too many tasks to do. The problem doesn't go away with these resources.

The amount of tasks isn't the problem, because we'll always have too many to do. The problem comes partly from overcommitting to too much, but even if we get better at that, we often still feel overwhelmed and burdened.

The only real solution is a change in mindset: to see everything we have to do as a gift, as possibility and opportunity, as an abundance of joy. We need to accept that

Instead of seeing the world as a burden, can we see it as a gift? we simply can't do everything, and there will always be more things to do than we can ever get done.

So here's a practice to deal with having too much to do:

- 1. When you are overwhelmed, burdened, or fearful, pause and feel it. Let yourself be fully with it, experience it, feel it fully, and open up to it. Can you be curious about it? Can you find a way to love the feeling?
- 2. See if you can see the tasks in front of you as a gift. You choose to do these things because you want to. They benefit you and others. Do them with love, and be grateful for the gift of each one.
- 3. See if you can see the possibility and opportunity in each one. What can be done with them? How are they more open and vast than you think they are?
- 4. Can you experience the abundance of joy in your list of tasks? If each one is a joyful gift, then isn't there pure abundance in your list? You can dive into what you have to do and pull out an opportunity for joy and growth. It's your chance to give something to the world.

Mindset shifts aren't something we can just flip like a switch. They need to be consciously practiced, but new worlds open up if you do.

Leo Babauta is the author of six books, the writer of "Zen Habits," a blog with over 2 million subscribers, and the creator of several online programs to help you master your habits. Visit ZenHabits.net

RELATIONSHIPS

Solve Your Problems Actively

But first, define your problem carefully

MICHAEL COURTER

For nine weeks, Salvador and I had been working together on reducing anxiety when he came into my office and announced this was our last session. He had decided that he couldn't finish his classes this semester and was going to move back to his hometown to live with his aunt. Besides, he told me, half of his teachers can't stand him and will probably fail him anyway.

Problems eventually arise for all of us. If you pay attention carefully, you will notice that you solve minor problems routinely all day long. "The subway line is closed today, I need to find a different way to work." "I have a meeting at 4:30, who can pick up my cat from the vet?" "Martha called in sick, who is going to contact her clients?" We solve these simple problems without much thought. But some problems have more complicating factors and require an active and thorough process to be handled effectively.

When complex problems arise we often try to use the same abbreviated problem-solving strategies we use for simpler problems. We rush into poor decisions or become passive, allowing other people or circumstances to dictate the outcome while losing opportunities and short-changing our options.

A Structured Process

With complicated problems, it is useful to go through a purposeful, structured process. The basic steps of the process are: define your problem, brainstorm solutions, analyze your options and make a plan, implement your plan, evaluate the results, and repeat the steps until the problem is solved. You will be surprised and elated by the options that appear and the doors that open when you are patient, thoughtful, and creative.

Incorrectly defining a problem is the most common mistake in this process. People get started down the wrong road when they don't have a careful and complete understanding of the problem they are trying to solve. Some of the most common mistakes are to define the problem too narrowly, cutting off a wider range of possibilities or trying to eliminate the symptoms of a bigger problem instead of solving it at the root, causing the problems to recur or resurface. Or, we simply misdiagnose what we really want or

How can you make sure you are solving the correct problem? Follow these steps.

1. Write down the problem on a piece of paper or a whiteboard. I really like to use a whiteboard to make it easy to take in different aspects at a glance.

- 2. Write down a list of all of the relevant facts you know about the problem. Answer the who, what, where, and when that are involved. Make a separate list of assumptions, things that you think you know but are not completely sure of. Label them as assumptions.
- 3. What information are you missing? Write down the facts that you do not know. Ask yourself if it is possible to solve the problem without all of the facts or if there is research you need to do. Is this information easily accessible? Who would know the answers? Researching often ends up being one of the first steps in your plan to make sure you know all of the relevant facts.
- 4. Do you have strong emotions compelling you to act in a certain way? Ask yourself: Do you have an internal conflict that is causing you to change your mind frequently? Write down the various sides of it. Are you feeling an urge to decide quickly or impulsively? Are you avoiding something that you need to do because it makes you uncomfortable? These emotions are often happening beneath the level of your awareness and influencing your decisions without your realizing it. By acknowledging and writing down these emotions, your awareness will shed light on their hidden influence. You may want to account for them in your solution or push through them, depending on what serves the needs of your situation.
- 5. Finally, ask yourself: Are you sure you have the right problem? After going through the steps above, has your view of the problem changed? Rewrite the problem if necessary. Imagine that the problem was solved by some miracle. What exactly would change? Would the problem really be gone at that point? Once you can say yes to that question, you have defined your problem correctly.

Brainstorming

Only after you have defined your problem correctly are you ready to move on to the next step, brainstorming possible solutions.

Let's look at Salvador's case an example. Salvador, normally a good student, had been ill for a week and missed some big assignments. He jumped to the assumption that he was going to fail his classes. His aunt had offered to let him stay with her for a few months without paying rent and that easy out was all he needed to make a hasty decision without taking the time to think about his options.

Since Salvador had already decided that he had failed, he had narrowed down his options to what he was going to do now that

With complicated problems, it is useful to go through a purpose ful, structured

process.

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the semester had been lost. When we dug deeper he realized that he was avoiding the whole problem because he was terrified to talk to his teacher about the missing assignments. He unconsciously assumed that they would chastise him and that he would be humiliated.

Once Salvador realized that he was rushing into a decision because of his anxiety, his problem became how he could manage the anxiety while he reached out and discussed his options with his teachers. This was a very different problem, and I was able to help Salvador write out and rehearse some scripts that he could use to prepare for his conversations with his teachers. The preparation brought his anxiety to a manageable level. As you can guess, the newly confident Salvador was able to work out arrangements with his teachers and get all of his credits for the semester.

Do you think you are working on the wrong problems in your life? Go through the steps above and see if you can shed new light on them.

Michael Courter is a therapist and counselor who believes in the power of personal growth, repairing relationships, and following your dreams. He can be reached at mc@CourterCounsel.com. His website is CourterCounsel.com



EDUCATION

8 Reasons to Get Involved in Your Child's School

BARBARA DANZA

Being in

often will

allow you

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school more

You know that mom who is always at your child's school? She makes all the cupcakes, she's all over the PTA, she's always sending out emails and Facebook notifications about this or

informed and that event, she is forever the class parcommunicate ent, she's at pick up, she's at drop-off, she's frequently always there. with your I mean, enough of school the first time around? That mom may be onto something. Schools are set up today in a way

that distances families from what goes on inside. While notices home often proclaim the importance of being an involved parent, in reality, most schools in practice discourage involvement and operate in a way that offers only the narrowest window into what goes on in there all day. You'll likely be told very little (if anything) about the curriculum that is being taught to your child, testing requirements, and perhaps even issues that relate specifically to your child.

The best way to see the bigger picture, to understand the culture inside the school, and to get a sense of what is being taught to your child, is to be "that" mom. Raise your hand--you'll bring the cupcakes.

Here are eight reasons to get involved in your child's school.

Understand What Is Being Taught

Many parents today are in the dark about what is and is not being taught to their child. The reality can be

When you're informed in this regard you can supplement where needed, help with homework more effectively, and speak up if you find elements that

do not align with your family's values.

Become Connected to Your Community

Being the mom who's always there will allow you to get to know the people in your neighborhood. Being connected to a community is a blessing for sure.

Encourage Accountability

A frequent presence at school will increase the accountability of the teachers and administration. It's all too easy for a child to get lost in the shuffle at school.

Being in school more often will allow you to be well-informed and communicate more frequently with your child's teacher.

Experience the Environment for Yourself

The environment your child spends upwards of seven hours a day has a major impact on them. Get to know this environment and ensure that it's one you're happy to immerse your child in day after day.

Make a Positive Impact on the School

Of course, being a volunteer and getting to work on things that need doing will lead you to have a positive impact on your child's school. Depending on the extent of your involvement, your contribution may become significant. What a wonderful thing to make the school in your community even better than you found it.

Be an Informed Advocate for Your Child

When it's not all roses at school, you'll have well-established relationships with teachers and administrators you can communicate with and advocate for your child's needs.

Show Your Child Support

Your child will love seeing you in school (even if the older ones may not admit it). Your presence there shows a high level of support and gives a sense that you're in this together.

Have Confidence in Your School Choice

Today's parents have more choices than ever before when it comes to how and where their children are educated. Maintaining a strong presence in your child's school will either reinforce your decision to enroll in that school or inform a different decision. Either way, you'll have greater confidence knowing you're fully informed.

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Travel as Education

Lessons learned on the road can be eye-opening

BARBARA DANZA

"Experience, travel. These are an education in themselves."

-Euripides

Few experiences can offer an education as whole as traveling. Rather than feel guilty or ashamed the next time you take your children away from their classroom in favor of a family adventure, pat yourself on the back and recognize the educational benefits at

To fully capitalize on the learning opportunities inherent in traveling, take time before and during your trip to explore different aspects of the places you visit. Reading or watching documentaries about your destination ahead of your departure will enhance your experience.

Here are some facets to focus on:

Geography

First things first–take out a map or a globe, and make sure your children know where you're going, and its relation to your home and the rest of the world. Explore and discuss the climate and terrain there. Are you headed to the mountains, the coast, the city, the plains? Are there natural land masses or bodies of water to take note of? Is your destination in a different time zone, climate, or hemisphere? Simply looking at a map can inspire curiosity and many learning opportunities.

Animals and Nature

Your map discussion may very likely lead you to a discussion about nature and animals. Might you see a waterfall, a bear, a whale, a glacier? Even the youngest of children become excited about the possibility of seeing a new animal. What a wonder to explore the many aspects of nature around our globe. A checklist can make this extra fun.

Whether you're heading to Machu Picchu or Disney World, every place has a history. Look for age-appropriate content to explore that history with your children. Visiting The

White House, for example, takes on even greater significance if your children have watched documentaries about it being built, know that John Adams was the first president to reside there, that it suffered great damage in a fire during the War of 1812, and that it has been refurbished under numerous subsequent presidencies. It's not simply where the current president lives, but tells the tale of U.S. leadership through time.

Food

No matter where you and your family find yourselves, the local cuisine speaks volumes about the place you're visiting. In anticipation of your trip, get your family excited to try the foods your destination is known for. Whether you'll be tasting gelato in Rome, beignets in New Orleans, baguettes in Paris, or chocolate in Brussels, your appreciation for the experience will be enhanced simply by appreciating the city's claim-to-fame

Additionally, understanding the local cuisine and noting its relation to the local climate and natural resources will turn every meal into a learning experience.

Important People

Biographies are another great way to deepen your understanding of a place. One might balk at the idea of a Disney vacation being educational, but the story of Walt Disney– his life and his ability to create—is inspiring. If you're visiting the Lincoln Memorial, make sure your children know who Abraham Lincoln was. If you're visiting Versailles, dive into the life of Louis XIV.

Art and Music

What fun it is to explore the art and music of an area. If you're headed to a major city such as New York, of course, the study could be endless. Focus

and your family find yourselves, the local cuisine speaks volumes about the place you're visiting. on what you plan to see or hear, and dive into (Left) Take out a map or a that. Most places, globe, and make sure your though, can be children know where defined by speyou're going.

as blues in Memphis, or classical music of Vienna, or chapel paintings in Rome.

Setting off to a different place where tra-

ditions, languages, customs, landscapes, and attire are different is eye-opening and

educational in a way that a week or two of

Wherever you're going, take the time to

truly learn and experience all that a place

has to offer you and your family. Your chil-

dren are sure to remember these lessons

(Bottom) Diners in Paris. No matter where you

Culture and Customs

school can't compare with.

for a lifetime.



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family.

AT THE FAMILY TABLE

At the Wilsons', Dinner for 15

On the importance of the family meal

JANI ALLAN

For centuries, families have gathered to eat and talk. Anthropological evidence from every culture and era show that human beings, by nature, live in families, and their identity and their traditions were kept alive by these family rituals.

When I was growing up, mealtimes were a ritual that we observed strictly. I helped set the table and cleared away the plates. No elbows were allowed on the table, and there was to be no reaching across or talking with one's mouth full of food. In the olden days—think Downton Abbey—people dressed for dinner.

I worked in a restaurant for many years, and it soon became clear that few bus kids seemed to know how to set a table. They had no idea of where the cutlery was placed or which implements one used. When I questioned a young girl, she said, "We aren't a sitting-around-the-table family. My dad lives with his new girlfriend. We tend to get takeout whenever," she shrugged.

These days, it seems there's a void once occupied by family life.

"It is not money, but the family that is the foundation of public life," social scientist James Q. Wilson observed in 1997. "As it has become weaker, every structure built upon that foundation has become weaker."

Around the Table

And so it was with much curiosity and joy that I met and visited with Chuck and Kim Wilson in New Hope, Pennsylvania.

Chuck Wilson is the pastor of the New Hope Community Church. He and his wife, Kim, have 13 children, ranging in age from 2 to 28. "When all the children were under age 14, we had a family get-together every night," Kim told me. These days, the multiplicity of schedules and commitments doesn't allow for a simultaneous gathering, but Kim still prepares a family buffet by 5 p.m. and the Wilson kids trickle in at various times.

"Whatever the number at the dining room table, we talk together and discuss the activities of the day," Kim said. "Usually the older kids have some stories to share from school, and we all discuss."

On Sundays, they are en famille after church. "Someone says grace and then we all eat together," said Kim.

The Wilsons love to sit together as a family because it gives them a chance to interact with their siblings. Mealtime gives everyone an opportunity to reconnect with each other after a busy week.

"The kids love Sunday meals together," said Chuck. "They actually like to be with each other."

On the Menu

Despite her hectic schedule as a very active pastor's wife, Kim plans weekly menus and posts them on the fridge so that the kids know what to expect. She's even put together a recipe book of favorite recipes.

The family favorites are usually reserved for Sundays: a Mexican-themed taco spread; an Italian feast of pasta, meatballs, garlic bread, and chicken parm; brunch complete with eggs, bacon, bagels, and hash browns; or grilled foods, such as hot dogs, hamburgers, or chicken.

"I know when I'm not making enough of the foods that they like," Kim said. "I'll get a note—a polite note—saying, 'Mom, these are some dinners we would like to have."

"I love to prepare food that they all en-



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The kids love Sunday meals together. They actually like to be with each other.

Chuck Wilson, father

joy," she said. "It shows them that I take into consideration their tastes and what they enjoy, and try to have something for each one of them.

"It's a challenge when there are 15 people eating, but I really do try. Some kids are gluten-free, others don't eat meat ... but we do our best."

Strong Roots

Until the middle of the 20th century, our family was our primary community. Our parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, and cousins placed us in society. They provided a community to which we belong. They helped us answer the questions "Who are you?" and "Why are you here?"

These questions are as relevant today as they were then. Family time is precious; this is when memories are made.

It occurred to me as I watched Josh Wilson being sent off to the Philippines to join a Christian ministry at the tender age of 19, that he knows who he is and what his purpose in life is, probably because of his strong roots in a supportive family.

After all, he first spoke of his desires at a Wilson dinner many years ago.

Jani Allan is a South African journalist, columnist, writer, and broadcaster.



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