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INSIDE

AU.....	A2
World.....	A3
China.....	A4
US.....	A6
Opinion.....	A8

FEATURES

Food.....	B1
Travel.....	B8

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Adherents of Falun Gong reenact the forced organ harvesting of prisoners of conscience by the Chinese regime at a protest in Vienna, Austria, on Oct. 1, 2018.

HUMAN RIGHTS

‘It Will Make You Physically Sick’

Professor Recounts Probe Into Organ Harvesting in China

CATHY HE

Imagine if the fridge at the local deli, along with chilled drinks and cured meats, displayed a new kind of product: human livers, kidneys, and corneas.

As macabre as it may sound, this is how Arthur Waldron, China historian at the University of Pennsylvania, describes what the Chinese communist regime is doing today—it’s killing prisoners of conscience for their organs to sell in the transplant market.

“They’re ... engaged in a very sinister commerce, which is commerce in the bodies of murdered Chinese citizens,” Waldron told The Epoch Times in a 2019 interview.

“Most Westerners are not aware of this at all.”

The professor is now an expert on this grisly practice, after spending a year over 2018 to 2019 investigating the issue as a member of an independent panel, known as the China

Tribunal. The panel was composed of six other members with backgrounds in international law, medicine, business, and international relations.

After reviewing testimony from over 50 witnesses from two hearings in London, and large volumes of written and video evidence, the tribunal in June 2019 concluded—beyond reasonable doubt—that, in China “forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience has been practiced for a substantial period of time involving a very substantial number of victims.”

The tribunal’s final judgment, a 160-page report, was released on March 1.

“There’s a certain kind of evil that passes just human [social] causes. The evil behind organ harvesting—that’s something else,” Waldron said.

Continued on A4

There’s a certain kind of evil that passes just human [social] causes. The evil behind organ harvesting—that’s something else.

Arthur Waldron, China historian at the University of Pennsylvania

FINANCE

US Senator Seeks End to World Bank Funding for China

BONNIE EVANS

It’s time to stop the World Bank from giving loans to China, said Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), who has introduced legislation to block the organization from issuing more funding to the world’s second-largest economy.

As the United States is the largest contributor to the World Bank, it’s all the more important to ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars aren’t funding Beijing’s abuses of human rights, Grassley said at a recent event sponsored by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, a nonprofit organization established by Congress under the Clinton administration.

Amnesty International and several news organizations have reported that 1 million or

more Muslim Uyghurs are being held by the Chinese regime and forced into re-education programs, which are designed to detach them from Islam and reorient them psychologically to accept a fully secular Chinese identity.

While the regime has said that facilities widely documented as camps of mass detention in Xinjiang Province are just ordinary vocational and training centers, Grassley, who serves as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said this claim is “nonsense.”

Referring to secret documents that have recently come to light, Grassley said that these centers had purchased barbed wire, body armor, and tear gas, “using other funds.”

Meanwhile, the World Bank continues to operate a “techni-



This undated photo shows Chinese 100 yuan, 10 yuan and one yuan notes in Beijing.

cal and vocational educational project in Xinjiang,” he said at the event on Feb. 23. “Just having such an ongoing project in Xinjiang with that name, and the seal of approval of the World Bank, lends legitimacy to China’s disingenuous claim to be concerned about vocational skills for local Muslims.”

Continued on A7

AU

No Need to Panic Over Toilet Paper, Says Morrison

Australians have been told it’s not sensible to bulk buy toilet paper as the number of coronavirus cases rises across the country, including in Sydney where an aged care worker has tested positive.

Some 10,000 people across the country have been tested for the virus with more than 40 confirmed cases as of Wednesday, of whom 21 have now been cleared.

Chief medical officer Professor Brendan Murphy says most cases in Australia are people who had travelled from affected countries and there’s only “limited community transmission” in NSW.

“We are trying to reassure people that removing all of the lavatory pa-
Continued on A2

SAMIRA BOUAOU/THE EPOCH TIMES



Joshua Philipp, senior reporter at The Epoch Times, and Morgan Zegers of Young Americans Against Socialism speak at the CPAC convention in National Harbor, Md., on Feb. 28, 2020.

SOCIALISM

Panelists Break Down Roots of Socialism at CPAC

BOWEN XIAO

FORT WASHINGTON, Md.—Panelists broke down the realities of socialism during a segment on the third day of the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC)—the largest conservative gathering in the country, whose theme this year is “America vs. Socialism.”

Morgan Zegers, CEO of Young Americans Against Socialism, and Joshua Philipp, a senior investigative reporter with The Epoch Times, spoke about the roots of the ideology during a morning discussion at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center.

Continued on A6

AFGHANISTAN

Afghan President Opposes Aspect of US-Taliban Peace Deal

ZACHARY STIEBER

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani said March 1 that he won’t free thousands of Taliban prisoners ahead of all-Afghan peace talks, aiming at a provision outlined in the recently signed U.S.–Taliban deal.

The Taliban later said it wouldn’t take part in the intra-Afghan talks unless the prisoners were released.

According to the agreement, up to 5,000 Taliban prisoners would be released by March 10, when intra-Afghan peace talks are scheduled to start. The Taliban would release up to 1,000 prisoners.

But Ghani said at a news conference in the Kabul that the United States couldn’t promise the release of prisoners, adding that the decision was one for the Afghani people. He wouldn’t release any before intra-Afghan peace talks start March 10.

“The request has been made by
Continued on A3

Accuracy & Integrity

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

Coronavirus Presents Opportunity for Middle-Sized Powers, Says New Government Advisor

KATABELLA ROBERTS

The head of ANU’s National Security College and new adviser to the Morrison government, Professor Rory Medcalf, says the current coronavirus crisis is an opportunity for Australia and other middle-sized powers in the region to deal with the Chinese regime in a stronger and more confident manner and reduce tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.

A former diplomat, Medcalf, who was just last week appointed to the advisory board of the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations, said Tuesday that the

The book challenges the idea that China or the United States will dominate the region in the future, instead highlighting that “middle players” coexisting and cooperating are the key to ensuring stability.



Prime Minister Scott Morrison with Senator Marise Payne (R) speak to media in Sydney on May 13, 2019.



PETER PARKS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

One of three Chinese warships is seen docked at Garden Island naval base in Sydney on June 3, 2019.

TRACEY NEARMY/GETTY IMAGES

way the coronavirus epidemic has been dealt with by the Chinese authorities has prompted the Chinese people to lose confidence in the country’s leadership.

He made the comments at the launch of his new book, “Contest for the Indo-Pacific,” attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Marise Payne and opposition foreign affairs spokeswoman Penny Wong in Canberra. The book challenges the idea that China or the United States will dominate the region in the future, instead highlighting that “middle players” coexisting and cooperating are the key to ensuring stability.

In a written piece published by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Medcalf added that the out-

break has caused “lasting damage to the People’s Republic of China, which was already weaker than it liked to look,” and is a reminder that the country will “struggle to maintain the internal obedience and international sway it needs for its Indo-Pacific strategic ambitions.”

Medcalf said that these vulnerabilities presented the perfect opportunity for middle-sized powers in the region such as Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, and India to “define a future based on mutual respect for sovereignty.”

“The challenge now for Australia and other ‘middle players’ between the United States and China is to redouble their efforts to build security cooperation and define

a future based on mutual respect for sovereignty of nations large and small,” Medcalf said.

“The COVID-19 emergency is a black swan event—an improbable catastrophe obvious in retrospect—that will disrupt the connected, contested Indo-Pacific region we have seen evolve in recent decades. The opportunity now for Australia, as we protect our own population and offer international cooperation in combating coronavirus, is to demonstrate a creative mix of resilience, national interest, and partnership.

“This prolonged crisis could hasten the day when China will need to find a strategic settling point for its regional ambitions,” the former diplomat added.

No Need to Panic Over Toilet Paper, Says Morrison

CONTINUED FROM A1

per from the shelves of supermarkets probably isn’t a proportionate or sensible thing to do at this time,” Murphy told a Senate hearing on Wednesday.

“We are a well-prepared health system but even the best-prepared health systems can face a challenge if you have large outbreaks.”

NSW Health Minister Brad Hazard on Wednesday confirmed a worker at the Dorothy Henderson Lodge aged care centre in Sydney had been diagnosed with COVID-19, placing elderly residents at risk.

The woman aged in her 50s has not recently travelled outside Australia and began experiencing flu-like symptoms from about Feb. 24.

Eleven of the 13 residents for whom she was carer have been placed in isolation.

One of the residents, a 95-year-old woman, has died following a respiratory illness with authorities expected to confirm later on Wednesday if her death was COVID-19-related.

Another resident, an 82-year-old man, also has respiratory symptoms and is a suspected COVID-19 case.

Murphy said it’s “very unfortunate” the woman may have been working while she was sick, potentially putting elderly residents at risk.

“Obviously this is a concern for residents and relatives,” he told reporters in Canberra.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison is urging people to go about their normal lives but use common sense.

He’s consulted supermarket giants Coles and Woolworths about the virus’ impact on supply chains and consumer behaviour.

Woolworths said in a statement the four-pack loo roll limit - both in-store and online - would shore up stock levels in the face of “higher



TRACEY NEARMY/GETTY IMAGES

Health Minister Greg Hunt (L) and Prime Minister Scott Morrison speak to media in the Blue Room at Parliament House in Canberra on March 3, 2020.

Kimberly-Clark, which manufactures toilet paper, is opening up its manufacturing lines in South Australia to deal with the increased demand.

than usual demand”.

“Woolworths has today moved to apply a quantity limit on toilet paper packs to ensure more customers have access to these products,” the company said.

Coles said it was talking to suppliers, government stakeholders and transport partners to determine how best to improve availability on popular products such as long-life pantry staples and healthcare items.

“We have increased deliveries from our distribution centres and our teams are working hard to fill the shelves as quickly as possible,” a Coles spokeswoman told AAP in a statement.

“While there may be some temporary stock shortages, the vast majority of products in our stores and via Coles online remain available for customers.”

Costco managing director Patrick

Noone says there has been an influx of customers across all warehouses this week, with transaction limits placed on toilet paper, milk, eggs, rice and soap products.

“We are reviewing and changing this regularly as needed,” Mr Noone said in a statement on Wednesday.

Kimberly-Clark, which manufactures toilet paper, is opening up its manufacturing lines in South Australia to deal with the increased demand.

“Australia, don’t panic! We are working around the clock at our mill in South Australia to keep the supermarket shelves stocked ... As you can see we won’t be running out anytime soon,” the company said on Facebook alongside a photograph of toilet paper in its warehouse.

The prime minister is expected to announce an economic stimulus package within days as the virus wreaks havoc on Australian trade,

supply chains, and businesses.

The fiscal response would need to be targeted, measured and “very scalable,” he told the ABC.

“We’ll be announcing those soon and we’ll be announcing the key areas we will be targeting at that time.”

There are now more than 92,000 cases worldwide in 78 countries, including Ukraine and Morocco.

Australia is considering travel bans for South Korea and Italy where coronavirus outbreaks have taken hold. Bans are already in place for China and Iran.

“There are now a very large number of countries with outbreaks,” Murphy said.

“Broad travel bans on many countries are unlikely to do more than slow the rate of importation, and they have a lot of other consequences and they’re hard to enforce.”

Murphy says anyone returning from a high-risk country needs to be mindful of their health.

“The most important thing is those travellers report any ... symptoms of fever, cough or the like, and contact their medical centre or their hospital to get tested and get advice,” he said.

Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt says while there are “real challenges,” the government is working to make sure Australians are prepared.

He added there’s been an “overwhelming national compliance” with self-isolation within Australia.

Biosecurity control orders can direct Australians suspected of carrying the coronavirus to remain in lockdown.

Human health “response zones” can also be declared, banning people from attending places of mass gatherings like schools and shopping centres.

From AAP

Afghan President Opposes Aspect of US–Taliban Peace Deal

CONTINUED FROM A1

the United States for the release of prisoners, and it can be part of the negotiations,” said Ghani, who also called on the Taliban to “sever their ties with all terrorist groups” after the group committed to cutting ties with Al Qaeda.

The Taliban responded on March 2, with a spokesman saying militants wouldn’t take part in the intra-Afghan talks until the prisoners are released, according to Reuters.

The proposed release of prisoners was near the top of the U.S.–Taliban agreement. “The United States is committed to start immediately to work with all relevant sides on a plan to expeditiously release combat and political prisoners as a confidence-building measure with the coordination and approval of all relevant sides,” it stated.

Any Taliban prisoners released would “be committed to the responsibilities mentioned in this agreement so that they will not pose a threat to the security of the United States and its allies.”

Asked about Ghani’s comments on March 1 during an appearance on CBS’ “Face the Nation,” U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo referred to the document.

“It says that we will work with all relevant parties to build on confidence, to create confidence-building measures amongst all of the parties, the Afghan government, non-Taliban, and others in the Afghan. We want this to be an inclusive process,” he said.

Referencing past prisoner releases from both sides, Pompeo said the United States “will know” the identities of the militants released when asked if they’d stay off the battlefield if they’re released.



U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper (L), NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (C) and Afghanistan’s President Ashraf Ghani (R) arrive for a joint news conference in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Feb. 29, 2020.

The request has been made by the United States for the release of prisoners, and it can be part of the negotiations, but it cannot be a precondition.

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani

The United States has focused on the Taliban’s responsibility, tying the slated withdrawal of U.S. troops to efforts by the group.

“All of our decisions moving forward are conditions-based and require the Taliban to maintain the ongoing reduction in violence. If the Taliban fail to uphold their commitments, they will forfeit their chance to engage in negotiations with the Afghan government, and will not have a say in the future of

this country,” Secretary of Defense Mark Esper told troops in Afghanistan last week.

The ultimate goal, he said, is to reduce the U.S. presence in Afghanistan down to zero. The initial reduction would see the troop level drop from 13,000 to 8,600.

President Donald Trump told reporters over the weekend that he’d be meeting personally with Taliban leaders “in the not-too-distant future.” He didn’t say where the meet-

ing would be held, and Pompeo said he wasn’t sure when or where the meeting would take place.

“I really believe the Taliban wants to do something to show that we’re not all wasting time. If bad things happen, we’ll go back,” Trump said. “I let the people know: We’ll go back, and we’ll go back so fast, and we’ll go back with a force like nobody has ever seen. And I don’t think that will be necessary. I hope it’s not necessary.”

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‘It Will Make You Physically Sick’: Professor Recounts Probe Into Organ Harvesting in China

CONTINUED FROM A1

The tribunal found that the organs were mainly sourced from imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners. Adherents of the spiritual practice Falun Gong have been subject to intense persecution by the Chinese regime since 1999, a campaign involving arbitrary detention, forced labor, brainwashing, torture, and even death.

The London-based tribunal was chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, who previously led the prosecution of former Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic at the International Criminal Tribunal.

Two years ago, Waldron was asked by transplant ethics group and the organizer that initiated the tribunal, the International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China, to be the China expert on the panel.

The Epoch Times in 2006 first reported on claims by whistleblowers that the Chinese regime was killing prisoners of conscience for their organs.

The regime has consistently denied such allegations, saying that since 2015, all organ transplants have come from voluntary donors. Prior to that, the regime claimed organs for transplant surgeries came from executed prisoners.

Harrowing Evidence

The tribunal over two public hearings in December 2018 and April 2019 heard evidence from researchers, medical professionals, journalists, and survivors from China's detention system.

The survivors who testified included Falun Gong practitioners imprisoned for their faith and Uyghur Muslims detained under the Chinese regime's purported campaign against "extremism" in the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

They all shared graphic accounts of torture and abuse while in detention. One Falun Gong practitioner, Yu Ming, recounted how police placed books on his chest and back and then used hammers to smash them, causing internal wounds rather than injuries that could be seen on the surface.

An Uyghur survivor, Mhriqul Tursun, told the tribunal that she was strapped into a chair with a helmet placed on her head and electrocuted.

Alongside the torture, these witnesses uniformly spoke of being regularly blood tested and receiving other medical exams while incarcerated.

These tests were consistent with testing for organ status, Nice said in London in June 2019 when delivering the tribunal's findings. Non-Falun Gong prisoners were not tested, and medical results were never explained to inmates.

The tribunal also received a personal account of organ harvesting from former surgeon Enver Tohti, who in 1995 was ordered to extract the liver and kidneys of a live prisoner in Urumqi City, Xinjiang. The death-row prisoner had been shot in the right side of his chest but was still alive.

"What I recall is, with my scalpel, I tried to cut into his skin, [and] there was blood to be seen. That indicates that the heart was still beating. ... At the same time, he was trying to resist my insertion, but he was too weak," Tohti said during tribunal hearings in December 2018.

Being immersed in these kinds of accounts took a toll on Waldron, who said that "after a day of listening to these witnesses, you will go back to your hotel room and you'll just collapse."

"To hear these people talk, it will make your stomach turn. I mean it will make you physically sick," he added.

"And when you realize that this is not some crazy Hollywood movie that was invented by some sick Hollywood directors, but this [organ harvesting] is actually something

And when you realize that this is not some crazy Hollywood movie that was invented by some sick Hollywood directors, but this [organ harvesting] is actually something that is really going on ... it's a lot to ask you to bear psychologically.

Arthur Waldron, China historian at the University of Pennsylvania

that is really going on ... it's a lot to ask you to bear psychologically."

Witness testimony and undercover phone calls made by researchers to Chinese doctors revealed that "extraordinarily short" timeframes for organ transplants—as little as two weeks—were promised by doctors and hospitals in China. Such brief wait times are "completely impossible" in typical organ donation systems, Nice said in June 2019.

Statistical data based upon investigations by independent researchers painted a picture of the scale of the disturbing enterprise in China. In 2016, an in-depth report found a huge discrepancy between China's official transplantation figures and the number of transplants performed in the country's hospitals.

The report was conducted by Ethan Gutmann, China analyst and investigator; David Kilgour, former Canadian Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific); and David Matas, Canadian human rights lawyer. All three had spent more than a decade investigating this issue.

"These people have done a very, very thorough investigation," Waldron said of the three researchers.

By analyzing the public records of 712 Chinese hospitals that carry out liver and kidney transplants, the report showed that roughly 60,000 to 100,000 transplants were being conducted each year, far outstripping the officially reported number of 10,000 to 20,000 per year.

Organ harvesting, Waldron said, has become extremely lucrative for cash-strapped hospitals in China. Hospitals with large transplant units, charging tens of thousands of dollars for each operation, can generate significant revenue.

"So there is a financial incentive to increase the scale of this busi-

ness," he said.

"This is an industry with thousands of people involved in it, producing large amounts of money, and helping to keep hospitals afloat, as well as helping to make certain people very, very rich," Waldron added.

No Stone Left Unturned

Waldron said the tribunal made major efforts to obtain all relevant evidence, including contrary evidence, relating to organ harvesting.

"Every conceivable scrap of evidence was gathered," he said.

He noted that the tribunal asked the Chinese embassy in London and health officials in China to provide contrary evidence, but no negative witnesses came forward.

The inquiry, led by two experienced jurists, Nice and Hamid Sabi, a London-based lawyer and counsel for the tribunal, was conducted in a manner that was "absolutely professional," Waldron said, adding that "this was not amateur hour."

The panelists thoroughly examined each piece of evidence.

"Even though some of us had prior knowledge, ... we approached it saying the evidence is all that counts ... forensically using the most rigorous legal standards," he said.

"And then once you have enough evidence, you start discussing what it means."

In response to those who may still dispute the existence of forced organ harvesting in China, Waldron had the following message: "Please do me the favor of reading the [previous reports on organ harvesting] ... and the final report of the tribunal.

"I want you to come back with errors and mistakes. I want the mistakes to be circled, and tell me which piece of evidence is wrong," he said.

Going Mainstream

Waldron believes the tribunal judgment will trigger wider discussion about this previously under-the-radar issue, and an eventual change in public policies.

"This will become mainstream," he said.

He had already noticed this issue being brought up more often in casual conversations.

"A year ago I would not have heard them talking about organ harvesting," Waldron said.

The issue has even found its way into popular culture. An October 2019 episode on the comedic cartoon show South Park satirizing the Chinese regime's repressive practices included a scene in which a character references allegations of



The China Tribunal Panelists (L-R) American historian Professor Arthur Waldron, Malaysian lawyer Andrew Khoo, Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery Martin Elliott, Sir Geoffrey Nice QC (Chair), businessman Nicholas Vetch, Iranian human rights lawyer Shadi Sadr, American lawyer Regina Paulose in London, on Dec. 8, 2018.



The Chinese panelists at the "Never Again: Appeal to the World" forum on organ harvesting death camps in China walk through the infamous "Work Shall Set You Free" gate at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, on May 9, 2006.

This is an industry with thousands of people involved in it, producing large amounts of money, and helping to keep hospitals afloat, as well as helping to make certain people very, very rich.

Arthur Waldron, China historian at the University of Pennsylvania

organ harvesting.

A scene from the 2019 movie "The Laundromat" directed by Steven Soderbergh also graphically depicts forced organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners.

Waldron said the matter will become a "world concern," noting that governments, such as Israel, and Taiwan, have already banned their citizens from engaging in transplant tourism.

Last September, Sabi presented the panel's findings to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

Sabi said that given the evidence, the council and U.N. member states now have a "legal obligation" to address China's "criminal conduct."

Waldron said given that the tribunal has concluded, beyond reasonable doubt, that the regime has committed crimes against humanity against Falun Gong practitioners and Uyghurs, the next step would be for a country to commence action against Beijing at the International Criminal Court.

While the panel stopped short of concluding that genocide had been committed, it noted that nations nonetheless have a duty to investigate whether the crime has taken place.

Growing international pressure will also force the Chinese regime to start answering questions about its organ harvesting practices, Waldron said.

"People will say ... 'I wonder why it is they [the regime] won't defend themselves. If this [organ harvesting] is all perfectly legitimate, then the simplest thing in the world should be to ... explain away all the problems,'" he said.

The communist regime, the historian said, has in the past created an elaborate false narrative of Chinese history, and is now in a position of "falsifying yet another aspect of reality."

"At a certain point if you falsify enough, the whole thing falls down," he said, adding that the regime is close to reaching this point.

But, ultimately, "the truth is going to come out," he said.

Transplant for Coronavirus Patient

Meanwhile, a Chinese state-run newspaper has reported the nation's first lung transplant to a coronavirus patient in China's Jiangsu Province. While the report said the lungs were donated voluntarily, ethics and virology experts have raised concerns about whether the surgery could have involved forced organ harvesting.

They also questioned the effectiveness of transplanting organs into an infected individual. Reports have not elaborated on the condition of the 59-year-old organ recipient.

Coronavirus Has Infected Very Few Children: WHO–China Report

ZACHARY STIEBER

There have been relatively few children infected with the new coronavirus in China, according to a new report from the World Health Organization and Chinese authorities.

The international health group conducted a joint mission with China and released a report on Feb. 28 about what researchers found.

Findings included signs that the new virus, which causes a disease called COVID-19, passes much more frequently to adults than to children aged 18 years old or younger.

Data from Chinese authorities indicate that no children tested positive for the virus in November or December 2019 or the first two weeks of January, researchers wrote in the report. Some of the children who were tested for the new disease tested positive for the flu.

Data nationwide suggest “there is a relatively low attack rate” in youth, accounting for just 2.4 percent of all reported cases. Additionally, a very small proportion of those under 19 years old developed severe (2.5 percent) or critical (0.2 percent) disease.

“From available data, and in the absence of results from serologic studies, it is not possible to determine the extent of infection among children, what role children play in transmission, whether children are less susceptible or if they present differently clinically (i.e. generally milder presentations),” the researchers wrote. Serologic studies look at serum, a liquid separated from blood, and other bodily fluids.



A man and a girl wearing face masks wait to cross a street in Beijing, China, on Feb. 28, 2020.

But we don’t know whether they’re infected and not as sick or whether there are a lot of kids that aren’t getting infected even when they’re exposed.

Marc Lipsitch, epidemiologist and head of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health’s Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics

The WHO–China mission learned that infected children have largely been identified through contact tracing in households of adults, researchers said in the report. They said members of the team couldn’t recall episodes in which transmission occurred from a child to an adult.

The case and death numbers reported by the Chinese Communist Party are widely believed to be lower than the actual figures, according to experts, Chinese workers, and internal documents obtained by The Epoch Times.

Limited information published from the past serious coronavirus outbreaks—SARS and MERS—indicates that infection among children was “relatively uncommon,” the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says on its website.

Experts don’t currently know whether children aren’t getting



A South Korean child wears a mask to prevent catching the coronavirus (COVID-19) while riding a scooter in Seoul, South Korea, on Feb. 27, 2020.

infected as much as adults or whether they’re just not showing strong symptoms, Marc Lipsitch, an epidemiologist and head of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health’s Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics, said in an interview posted on Harvard’s website this week.

One of the most important questions yet to be answered, he said, is the role that children play in transmission. Research is needed to back up plans to close schools, he said. Japan announced this week that schools there would close for most of March and U.S. officials said this week that schools could close in the United States if America sees community spread of the new virus. China had already extended its spring break for a month.

“We need detailed studies in households of children who are exposed to an infected person. We

need to find out if the children get infected, if they shed virus, and if that virus is infectious,” Lipsitch said.

While data officially released from China shows few children getting sick enough to get tested in Hubei Province, the epicenter of the virus, the difference between children and adults outside the province is smaller, Lipsitch said.

“Children are still underrepresented, but they’re a larger part of the total than inside Hubei province. That would suggest that part of the equation is that they are getting infected but they’re not that sick—it’s easier to identify less-severe cases in a system that’s not overwhelmed as it is in Hubei,” he said.

“But we don’t know whether they’re infected and not as sick or whether there are a lot of kids that aren’t getting infected even when they’re exposed.”



Workers wearing facemasks polishing eyeglass frames at the Azure Eyeglasses Company in Wenzho, China, on Feb. 28, 2020.

Supply Chain Shift Away From China Gains Steam

FAN YU

News Analysis

Later this year, U.S. consumers will begin to see Microsoft Surface laptops and Google Pixel smartphones labeled “Made in Vietnam,” as a manufacturing supply chain shift away from China, which began during the U.S.–China trade war, accelerates because of the coronavirus crisis.

Despite calls by Beijing leadership to restart factories quickly, many production facilities are still lacking upstream supplies or workers, as migrants are largely still quarantined due to the coronavirus outbreak. That’s one reason the Dow Jones Industrial Average slumped 3,600 points last week, the worst weekly drop since the 2008 financial crisis.

Concurrently, companies are stepping up their efforts to move manufacturing capacity away from China, which has gained increasing urgency since the outbreak began.

Microsoft will start production of its PC hardware, such as Surface laptops and tablets, in Vietnam as soon as the second quarter, sources with knowledge of the matter told Nikkei Asian Review.

“The volume in Vietnam would be small at the beginning, but the output will pick up and this is the direction that Microsoft wants,” sources told Nikkei.

Alphabet Inc. is also set to make the Google Pixel 4A and Pixel 5 smartphones with partners in Vietnam “as soon as April.” The company is shifting production of smart home devices such as the Google Nest Mini to Thailand from China.

Apple is also shifting some production capabilities out of China. Assembly of a portion of its new iPad Pros, AirPods, and Apple Watch will shift to Taiwan from China, according to Taiwan News. Apple is widely expected to launch a new iteration of the iPad Pro in March, and the supply constraints from lowered China production and a partial shift to Taiwan will lower the initial supply of the popular tablet.

Coronavirus Latest Catalyst for Shift

Previously, the hardware manufacturing capacity of all three tech companies rested almost entirely within China, underscoring the huge dependency of U.S. companies on Chinese

manufacturing.

But the January coronavirus outbreak became the latest catalyst in an accelerating shift of production out of China, a trend that began two years ago during the U.S.–China trade war.

In July 2018, The Epoch Times wrote that Vietnam would be the biggest beneficiary of the manufacturing shift. President Donald Trump in August 2019 also urged U.S. businesses to diversify out of China.

Companies operating on the lower end of the value chain—such as apparel and toys—are slightly ahead in shifting production out of China. That was more of a cost consideration, as tariffs enacted two years ago by the Trump administration and the uncertainty of increased tariffs, made production in China less cost-effective to continue. It’s also much easier to shift production of lower-tech items, which don’t require as much technical expertise, than computer components, for example.

A Yearslong Process

Chinese factories unable to fulfill procurement contracts have been increasingly invoking “force majeure” clauses, which under most legal contracts are deemed to be outside the control of the suppliers and thus, they’re not required to pay penalties for breach of contract.

As of Feb. 17, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade has issued more than 1,600 such “force majeure” certificates to companies covering a total contract value of 110 billion yuan (US\$16 billion), according to Chinese state-controlled media Xinhua.

Despite the effect on supply chains, there’s a practical limit as to how quickly companies can shift production abroad and it will be a yearslong process.

Another constraint is existing infrastructure. China became the manufacturing hub it is because of a decadelong buildup of infrastructure—highways, rail network, and ports—that don’t always exist in other emerging markets.

Chinese Province Orders Officials to Destroy Virus-Related Data

NICOLE HAO

In recent weeks, the Chinese regime has reported fewer novel coronavirus diagnoses across the country, making it appear as if the outbreak is leveling off.

The Epoch Times previously obtained confidential internal documents showing that in the coastal province of Shandong, authorities were purposefully underreporting the number of diagnostic kit test results that turned up positive.

Eyewitnesses in Hubei Province, where the outbreak is most severe, also told the publication that many people were unable to be diagnosed and treated at hospitals due to overcapacity, but were exhibiting symptoms and self-quarantining at home.

Now, it appears some local authorities have been required to destroy data they compiled relating to the outbreak.

The Epoch Times obtained a copy of a Feb. 23 document sent from the Chaoyang city health commission to its provincial counterpart, the Liaoning health commission. The city is located in the country’s northeastern region, thousands of miles away from the virus epicenter in Hubei.

In compliance with provincial instructions, the city has inquired and checked within its government departments and agencies that previously received “documents and data” related to the outbreak, and have duly destroyed them, the document stated.

Staff who had access to the data were also required to sign a “letter of commitment,” which stipulated that officials must delete relevant documents from their laptops, computers, smartphones, external drive, and other devices. Signees also were directed to delete any screenshots and photos that were made of the documents, and not share the contents of the documents with any party.

The publication also received screenshots of the Chaoyang city health commission’s internal database. A document with the following title is listed as “deleted”: “in-



Chinese office workers wear protective masks as they line up for the bus after leaving work in Beijing, China, on March 2, 2020.

formation about the close contacts of people with novel coronavirus, supplied by China’s Center for Disease Control and Prevention Information Center.” Parenthetically, the document title explains that the provincial government’s new command center for combating the virus had required that such data be distributed to individual cities and the provincial police bureau.

The information center is an internal database that is used to distribute information to provincial centers for disease control, hospitals, and other related users.

According to the screenshots, 13 different departments within the Chaoyang government also submitted and signed the “letter” of non-disclosure, including the civil affairs bureau and county government offices.

The Epoch Times has previously reported that Shandong Province’s Center for Disease Control and Prevention had compiled internal data sets, including the daily number of new positive diagnostic results. In the month of February, those numbers ranged from 1.36 times to 52 times greater than the officially published data by the Shandong health commission.

The Wuhan health commission announced that 27 people contracted “an unknown viral pneumonia” on Dec. 31, 2019. Central government authorities only began describing the severity of the outbreak on Jan. 20, when they conceded that the virus was contagious.

Trump Campaign Sues The New York Times Over Russia Opinion Article

JANITA KAN

President Donald Trump’s reelection campaign has sued The New York Times for libel, claiming that the newspaper had published “false and defamatory statements” about the campaign in an opinion article last year.

The campaign, Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., filed the libel lawsuit on Wednesday alleging that the newspaper had intentionally published false statements claiming that the campaign had an “overarching deal” with Russia to help the campaign against 2016 Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton for a pro-Russian foreign policy.

“The Times was well aware when it published these statements that they were not true,” the campaign’s complaint stated.

The campaign asserts that the New York Times’ own reporting had also confirmed the falsity of the statements in the op-ed but published the statements anyway, “knowing them to be false, and knowing it would misinform and mislead its own readers.” It claims that the newspaper published the statement because of its “extreme bias against and animosity toward the campaign” and in an attempt to “improperly influence the presi-

The complaint alleges The Times was aware of the falsity at the time it published them, but did so for the intentional purpose of hurting the campaign while misleading its own readers in the process.

Jenna Ellis, the Senior Legal Adviser to Donald J. Trump for President, Inc.



People walk by the front of the New York Times building in New York on Sept. 6, 2018.

dential election in November 2020.”

The 2019 op-ed in question, titled “The real Trump-Russia quid pro quo,” was written by Max Frankel, who was the newspaper’s executive editor from 1986 to 1994. The article claims that Trump’s campaign and Russia had an agreement in order to defeat Clinton in the 2016 presidential election.

“There was no need for detailed electoral collusion between the Trump campaign and Vladimir Putin’s oligarchy because they had an overarching deal: the quid of help in the campaign against Hillary Clinton for the quo of a new pro-Russian foreign policy, starting with relief

from the Obama administration’s burdensome economic sanctions,” Frankel wrote in the op-ed. “The Trumpites knew about the quid and held out the prospect of the quo.”

Former special counsel Robert Mueller, in his investigation into whether the Trump campaign and his associates had colluded with Russia to interfere in the 2016 presidential election, was unable to establish any evidence the Trump campaign had “conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities.”

The complaint also stated that prior to publishing the opinion

piece, the newspaper had already confirmed that Mueller would “eventually conclude” that there was no “deal” or “quid pro quo” between the campaign and Russia. It also states that the article does not “allege or refer to any proof” for its claims of a deal. Instead, the article selectively refers to previous reports about contacts between a Russian lawyer and people connected with the campaign.

“The Defamatory Article ... insinuates that these contacts must have resulted in a quid pro quo or a deal, and the Defamatory Article does not acknowledge that. In fact, there had been extensive reporting, including in The Times, that the meetings and contacts that the Defamatory Article refers to did not result in any quid pro quo or deal between the Campaign and Russia, or anyone connected with either of them,” the complaint states.

Jenna Ellis, the Senior Legal Adviser to Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., said that the statements in the article were “100 percent false and defamatory.”

“The complaint alleges The Times was aware of the falsity at the time it published them, but did so for the intentional purpose of hurting the campaign while misleading its own readers in the process,” Ellis said in a statement.

In an emailed statement to The Epoch Times, a New York Times spokesperson said, “the Trump Campaign has turned to the courts to try to punish an opinion writer for having an opinion they find unacceptable. Fortunately, the law protects the right of Americans to express their judgments and conclusions, especially about events of public importance. We look forward to vindicating that right in this case.”



(L-R) Ian Walters, CPAC communications director, Morgan Zegers of Young Americans Against Socialism, and Joshua Philipp, senior reporter at The Epoch Times, speak at the CPAC convention in National Harbor, Md., on Feb. 28, 2020.

Panelists Break Down Roots of Socialism at CPAC

CONTINUED FROM A1

Philipp said socialism is the “dictatorship of the proletariat,” which involves the government seizing every aspect of society and driving it toward its ultimate goal—communism. The Feb. 28 discussion was hosted by Ian Walters of the American Conservative Union.

“‘The Communist Manifesto’ says that communism destroys all religion and all morality,” Philipp said. “We make the mistake of negotiating with these socialists just on the basis of economics when in reality it is about metaphysics and ontology—it is about attacking and destroying your values, your culture, your ideas and the foundations of your society.”

Philipp pointed to the Chinese Communist Party, which he said uses a system of “socialism with Chinese characteristics.” Under the rule of the party, between 50 million to 70 million people died of unnatural causes during peacetime.

The regime is also at the forefront of religious oppression.

“To this day they [China] still have concentration camps, they still kill people for believing in religion, they still dictate what you can or can’t believe,” he said. “They still say that if you want to be a Christian you have to recognize the state first and God second.”

Chinese people today are living “under a tyrannical regime that masquerades as a capitalist society” according to Philipp.

Philipp added that young people living in the United States today think that socialism is going to free them from the corporations, when in reality, “[socialism] is state capitalism.”

Zegers said recent polls on socialism are worrying but she still feels optimistic about the future of the country.

“I know a recent poll came out a few months ago that said 70 percent of people my age would vote for a socialist,” she said at the conference. “My counter to that is I don’t think 70 percent of people my age want to ‘seize the means of production.’”

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), a Democratic socialist and 2020 presidential candidate, has been under fire since praising the communist regime of Fidel Castro, the Cuban dictator who imprisoned and killed dissidents during his decades in power. Sanders said during a recent interview with CBS’s “60 Minutes” that it was “unfair to simply say everything is bad” about Castro’s regime and lauded what he called its “massive literacy program.”

In response to criticism of his comments—including from some Democrats—Sanders told the audience at the Gailard Center in Charleston, “Of

course you have a dictatorship in Cuba.”

Philipp said socialism does not resolve any issue its followers believe they are fighting against. He called it a “system of slavery” that involves the state seizing control of the factories which then leads to the control of every economic power in the country.

“It is one that takes control of every single part of your life, denies you the access to the fruits of your labor, tells you what you can and cannot think, and tells you what you can and cannot believe,” he said. “That is slavery in every single form, down to a level beyond what we’ve ever seen before. Down to your spiritual level and your ability to think freely.”

At an earlier panel discussion on the same topic, Jarrett Stepman, a contributor to the Daily Signal, said that in the United States, there is a “concerted effort” to rewrite history and to “change the narrative about what we are.”

“It’s for the sole purposes of changing what America is, changing us to become a nation that embraces ideas like socialism, radical ideas that are very much against the original American concept,” Stepman said.

However, Philipp said he sees a “resurgence where people are waking up and seeing [socialism] for exactly what it is.”

Hillary Clinton Can Be Deposed About Email Server, Judge Orders

JACK PHILLIPS

Former First Lady and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton can be deposed for a lawsuit about her use of a private email server while she was in office, said a federal judge in a ruling on Monday.

District Court Judge Royce Lamberth granted a request to conservative watchdog organization Judicial Watch, authorizing the group to question Clinton and others about whether she carried out State Department business on a private email server. The organization for years has been seeking emails related to the deadly 2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya.

“Any further discovery should focus on whether she used a private server to evade [the Freedom of Information Act] and, as a corollary to that, what she understood about State’s records management obligations,” Lamberth wrote in his order.

Lamberth said that the record-keeping “does not sufficiently explain Secretary Clinton’s state of mind when she decided it would be an acceptable practice to set up and use a private server to conduct State Department business.”

The judge, who was appointed by former President Ronald Reagan, noted that Clinton, who unsuccessfully ran for president in 2008 and 2016, responded to written questions in another case. But Lamberth said her responses were “incomplete, unhelpful, or cursory at best,” while leaving “many more questions than answers.”

Ultimately, the FBI investigated and recommended against criminal charges against Clinton just months before the 2016 election. The agency, however, did find dozens of messages in Clinton’s account that officials said had highly classified information.

But “even years after the FBI investigation, the slow trickle of new emails has yet to be explained,” Lamberth wrote.

Lamberth said Clinton still needs to answer several questions related to her emails: “How did she arrive at her belief that her private server

Lamberth said that the recordkeeping “does not sufficiently explain Secretary Clinton’s state of mind when she decided it would be an acceptable practice to set up and use a private server to conduct State Department business.”

emails would be preserved by normal State Department processes for email retention? Who told her that—if anyone—and when? Did she realize State was giving ‘no records’ response to FOIA [Freedom of Information Act] requests for her emails? If so, did she suspect that she had any obligation to disclose the existence of her private server to those at State handling the FOIA requests? ... And why did she think that using a private server to conduct State Department business was permissible under the law in the first place?”

Former Clinton aide Cheryl Mills, a former chief of staff, can now be deposed under Lamberth’s order. He also approved a subpoena to Google for any Clinton emails that it might have on its servers.

Lamberth placed a 75-day timetable on the collection of depositions and evidence related to the case.

On Monday, Judicial Watch chief Tim Fitton re-posted a Twitter video from last year about the case: “I want to know” if Clinton’s “emails can be found.” Fitton had explained that Judicial Watch’s lawyers were able to discover more information about her email server after the FBI and Congress wasn’t able to do so.

Clinton and Mills have not publicly issued comments about the latest ruling.

US Senator Seeks End to World Bank Funding for China

CONTINUED FROM A1

He also said that giving loans to China, the second-largest economy after the United States, doesn't align with the World Bank's mission. "The World Bank was created to help economic development in the world's poorest countries," he said. "China ought to be embarrassed claiming it is a developing country." Grassley noted that China passed its "graduation date" from the World Bank in 2016, when its income level exceeded the World Bank's own threshold for loan qualification.

China's Influence

Kyle Bass, founder and principal of Hayman Capital Management and longtime China critic, questioned the World Bank's ties with China. "Over time, and especially under the supervision of World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim, the World Bank has grown to be under the increasingly outsized influence of China," he said. The World Bank, Bass noted, was created in 1944 for the purpose of aiding war-torn and poor nations to rebuild and to develop.

"Why does the world continue to lend development money to China?" he asked.

"How can we fight [the Chinese Communist Party's] infiltration and exploitation of the World Bank?"

In January 2019, the World Bank appointed Hua Jingdong, a Chinese national, as its treasurer. Hua oversees a "US\$200 billion debt portfolio and an asset portfolio of nearly US\$200 billion" as well as a "derivatives portfolio of US\$600 billion ... and annual cash-flows of over US\$7 trillion equivalent," according to his official profile.

Yang Shaolin, a Chinese national, serves as managing director and World Bank Group chief administrative officer. According to the World Bank's biographical data, Yang previously served as "Director General for International Economic and Financial Cooperation at the Ministry of Finance of China, in charge of economic and financial cooperation between China and foreign governments as well as international financial institutions."

Such senior Chinese government positions are almost invariably filled by members of the Chinese Communist Party.

Since fiscal year 2016, when China should have no longer been eligible for loans, Beijing has received \$8 billion in World Bank funding.

Public World Bank documents detail the Procurement Plan for the Xinjiang project identified by both Grassley and Bass. The project, known as the "Xinjiang Technical and Vocational Education and Training Project," revised on Jan. 3, 2020. Line items for "school-based reform and innovations" include a comprehensive training center for an actual amount of just over \$5 million.

According to the World Bank docu-



Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) talks to media after the closing arguments of the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump in Washington on Feb. 3, 2020.

Meanwhile, the World Bank continues to operate a "technical and vocational educational project in Xinjiang."



International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva speaks with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during a press conference in Beijing, China, on Nov. 21, 2019.

ment, goods to be procured include a "Xinjiang Uygur medical college new campus network campus construction plan" for nearly \$2 million, nearly \$143,000 for a "virtual reality training room of Urumqi Vocational University and school-enterprise cooperation," as well as close to \$24,000 for a "Xinjiang Uygur medical college students mental health and counseling center." About \$83,000 is designated for a "development of national common language teaching platform," while \$111,000 goes to "Urumqi vocational university students large original stage musical." A national common language teaching platform refers to Chinese Mandarin language teaching, required throughout China as the language of instruction, bypassing local languages. Production of plays and musicals promoting CCP propaganda are common political tools that have been used for decades in schools and workplaces. All media in China are supervised and censored by Party authorities.

Ending Funding

Grassley has introduced two bills to end World Bank funding for China. Senate Bill 3018 is "a bill to require the United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to oppose

assistance by the Bank for any country that exceeds the graduation threshold of the Bank and is of concern with respect to religious freedom." That speaks directly to Grassley's concerns that China is ineligible to receive World Bank assistance, and that the illegitimate assistance it is receiving is going directly to programs to deny a population of its religious freedoms. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and its sister organization, the International Development Association, are collectively known as the World Bank, as they share personnel. Senate Bill 3017, the "Accountability for World Bank Loans to China Act of 2019," is designed to pursue the "expeditious graduation of the People's Republic of China from assistance by the IBRD." The bill notes that "the IBRD examines a country's potential graduation when the country reaches the Graduation Discussion Income (GDI), which amounts to a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita of \$6,975," and that "the World Bank calculates China's GNI per capita as equivalent to \$9,470," showing that China is 35 percent above World Bank's own graduation guidelines.

'You Don't Want to Play Laser Tag With Us,' US Navy Tells China Over Pacific Incident

PETR SVAB

The U.S. Navy has sent an apparent warning to China that it better stop harassing American service members, following an incident in which a Chinese warship aimed a military-grade laser at a Navy P-8A Poseidon surveillance plane. "You don't want to play laser tag with us," the Navy posted on its official Instagram account on Feb. 28. The incident happened on Feb. 17 in international airspace over the Pacific Ocean about 400 miles west of Guam, a U.S. territory, according to the military. "The laser, which was not visible to the naked eye, was captured by a sensor on board the P-8A. Weapons-grade lasers could potentially cause serious harm to aircrew and mariners, as well as ship and aircraft systems," the Navy said in a Feb. 28 release, calling the incident "unsafe and unprofessional" on the

part of the Chinese. The Navy has also been increasingly arming its vessels with lasers—both destructive ones and so-called "dazzlers," which can illuminate aircraft cockpits and blind pilots. Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) said in a Feb. 20 report that the Navy's Optical Dazzling Interdictor, or ODIN laser weapon, was recently installed on the USS Dewey guided missile destroyer. The new laser-based drone defense system is capable of tracking, disabling, and jamming the sensors of enemy drones, according to a Congressional Research Service report from December 2019, titled "Navy Lasers, Railgun, and Gun-Launched Guided Projectile." While the Navy indicated it won't be deterred from operating in the region, it isn't clear whether the United States plans to engage in a tit-for-tat with the Chinese.

"U.S. Navy aircraft routinely fly in the Philippine Sea and have done so for many years. U.S. Navy aircraft and ships will continue to fly, sail, and operate anywhere international law allows," the Navy said. The Feb. 17 incident appears to have involved a dazzler onboard what reportedly appeared to be Hohhot, a Type 052D or Luyang III-class destroyer in the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy. It's not known if the pilots of the American P-8A suffered temporary blindness. The Navy pointed out that the incident violated the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea, "a multilateral agreement reached at the 2014 Western Pacific Naval Symposium to reduce the chance of an incident at sea." The Navy Instagram post included an aerial picture of Woody Island, one of China's largest island outposts in the South China Sea,

with an inset picture of a laser show at a music concert. "Meanwhile, in the South China Sea," the text on the picture says. The image is likely illustrative as the Feb. 17 incident didn't occur near the island. For years, China has been criticized for harassing planes and vessels with lasers. In 2018, the United States accused Chinese forces stationed in the East African nation of Djibouti of using a laser on C-130J aircraft, injuring American pilots. Last year, Australia's defense department reported multiple incidents where its aircraft and vessels were targeted with handheld lasers. Military insiders blamed Chinese fishing boats operating as part of Beijing's "maritime militia," ABC News reported.

Isabel Van Brugen and Jack Phillips contributed to this report.



YouTube logo seen at the entrance to the Google offices in Los Angeles, Calif., on Nov. 21, 2019.

YouTube Not Bound by First Amendment in Censorship Challenge: Appeals Court

GQ PAN

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed a First Amendment lawsuit against YouTube, ruling that the video hosting platform is a private entity and, therefore, not subject to the Free Speech Clause. The lawsuit was brought in October 2017 by conservative education organization Prager University (PragerU), which runs a YouTube channel that boasts more than 2 million subscribers.

Headed by conservative columnist and radio host Dennis Prager, PragerU accused Google-owned YouTube of violating its constitution-guaranteed freedom of speech by placing more than 200 of its videos under "restricted mode." Those videos that are flagged by YouTube as "inappropriate" cover a wide range of topics, from the Korean War to racial profiling in law enforcement.

PragerU claimed that YouTube targeted it because of its "political identity and viewpoint as a non-profit that espouses conservative views on current and historical events." In a short clip it made to explain the lawsuit, PragerU argued that YouTube, which is not a government agency, performs the function of a "public forum" and thus should be bound by the same rules as public-funded government agencies.

In a decision released Wednesday, however, a panel of three judges of the 9th Circuit unanimously maintained a lower court ruling, dismissing the conservative non-profit's lawsuit against the video-sharing website.

"PragerU's claim that YouTube censored PragerU's speech faces a formidable threshold hurdle: YouTube is a private entity. The Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment prohibits the government—not a private party—from abridging speech," Circuit Judge M. Margaret McKeown, a Clinton appointee, wrote in a court opinion.

"Despite YouTube's ubiquity and its role as a public-facing platform, it remains a private forum, not a public forum subject to judicial scrutiny under the First Amendment," wrote McKeown.

PragerU CEO Marissa Streit said in a statement following the 9th Circuit's decision that they will continue to seek legal battle in California courts.

"As we feared, the Ninth Circuit got this one wrong, and the important issue of online censorship did not get a fair shake in court," said Streit. "Sadly, it appears as if even the Ninth Circuit is afraid of Goliath—Google. We're not done fighting for free speech, and we will keep pushing forward."

In recent years, Google has faced accusations of ideology-driven censorship. In 2018, President Donald Trump accused Google of manipulating search results. "Google search results for 'Trump News' shows only the viewing/reporting of Fake News Media," Trump wrote on Twitter. "In other words, they have it RIGGED, for me & others, so that almost all stories & news is BAD."

OPINION



Harvey Weinstein arrives with his legal team at the Manhattan Criminal Court in New York City on Feb. 24, 2020.

Not Everyone Rejoiced at Weinstein Verdict

DIANE DIMOND



The verdict in the Harvey Weinstein sex crimes case was described as both a disappointment and a victory. Some

court watchers felt the shamed movie mogul should have been found guilty on all counts. Others said the decision ushered in a new era for survivors of sexual assault and tamped down, once and for all, defense attorneys' tactics of blaming the victim.

For Denise Conroy of Chicago, none of those things was the point.

"Watching that trial," she told me, "I just kept getting madder. Why didn't (those women) report it when it happened? I thought, 'What the hell took you so long?'"

Conroy was 23 years old in 1982 when she was dragged between two houses while walking home from her waitressing job early one morning. Her voice still cracks when she speaks about what happened when two Hispanic men put a gun in her mouth and took turns violently beating and raping her.

"They kicked me and stabbed me. I was sodomized. And that gun. I'll never forget that gun. I said, 'Oh, God, please stop,' and he said, 'God is not here.'" At the hospital, doctors nicknamed her "the murder victim who refused to die." The crime was reported to police immediately.

Watching coverage of the Weinstein trial triggered Conroy's panic memory. She admits to yelling at the screen as Court TV recounted the women's testimony against Weinstein. Each witness conceded that she had delayed re-



Actress Rosanna Arquette speaks alongside a group of Silence Breakers who have fought for justice by speaking out about Harvey Weinstein's sexual misconduct, during a press conference following Harvey Weinstein's guilty verdict in Los Angeles, Calif., on Feb. 25, 2020.

This didn't happen in a vacuum.

Denise Conroy, survivor of sexual assault

porting Weinstein's sexual attack. In the case of actress Annabella Sciorra, it took more than two decades before she told authorities Weinstein had forcibly raped her.

Since the first revelations about Weinstein's criminal behavior surfaced, more than 90 women have come forward to say the once high-powered Hollywood mogul sexually victimized them. (Weinstein still faces similar sex assault charges in California.) It does beg the question how so many women stayed silent for so long about such an obvious predator. Their fear of being erased from Hollywood outweighed their desire to report Weinstein's criminal behavior.

"What's the price of your soul?" Conroy asked as she recounted the agony of feeling like the guilty party, post-rape, when detectives' first questions were about what she had been wearing and why she

was out so late. She earnestly wonders why the Weinstein women weren't able to stand up for themselves at the time of the attacks, as she did so many years ago. Just facing her attackers and pointing them out in court was torture, she said. But it was also empowering.

"I don't want to victim-bash," she said to me in an urgent tone. "But if it happened, then report it! We won't get anywhere if people don't report. I know it's a double-edged sword," she said. "I know how hard it is. It's embarrassing and humiliating, but it must be done."

Today, Conroy, now 60, volunteers as an advocate for women at risk. She worries that the star-studded #MeToo and #TimesUp movements have lost focus on the countless noncelebrity women who are victims of sexual assaults and domestic violence. And the

media, she says, seems transfixed on only the super sensational sex crime cases like Bill Cosby, Jeffrey Epstein and, yes, Harvey Weinstein.

Conroy is also troubled by another thing: those who seem to equate all sexual harassment and assault with the same outrage and gravitas. Complaining about a co-worker who makes suggestive comments or has wandering eyes is nowhere near as serious as a forcible sex act, and she believes more public support needs to be aimed toward actual crime victims.

While the Weinstein verdict gave her some hope, "What about the co-conspirators at Miramax?" Conroy asked, referring to top executives at Weinstein's now defunct company, including his brother, Bob. "They had Harvey sign contracts agreeing to stay away from women. They need to be held responsible. This didn't happen in a vacuum."

Conroy sounded a bit bitter when she spoke about the pedestal on which Weinstein's victims have been placed. "They're glorifying these women who didn't come forward for years. Calling them heroes. What about people like me, women who have lived through unspeakable things? It sort of feels like a slap in the face."

While taking nothing away from the Weinstein victims, Conroy has a point.

Diane Dimond is an author and investigative journalist. Her latest book is "Thinking Outside the Crime and Justice Box."

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

Trump Ready to Expose Intelligence Community’s ‘Resistance’ and Incompetence

MICHAEL WALSH



The election of 2016 revealed the fault lines in U.S. political culture in a way that no event has since the Civil War.

Now, as then, Americans suddenly realized they had no idea who their brothers, husbands, fathers, and neighbors really were; that people they thought of as fellow countrymen, defending the same principles and way of life, actually were near-total strangers.

In 1856, it was nearly inconceivable that a third of the country would refuse to accept the results of a duly constituted election—and yet, four years later, it did exactly that. The Democrats, irate at the election of the first Republican president, began a secession movement that eventually included 11 states, and fired on Fort Sumter, thus opening hostilities in the bloodiest war in U.S. history.

Flash forward to 2016. The election of outsider Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton, a former first lady, not only stunned the media and the establishments of both political parties, it created a mortal threat to the real powers in Washington—the embedded bureaucracy, the regulators who wield more power than the average congressman, and, most importantly, to the Intelligence Community, spearheaded by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Its decadeslong, cozy modus vivendi—not only with America’s professed enemies, but also with the politicians and journalists it so carefully nurtured and stroked at home—suddenly stood to be exposed. With their outright refusal to accept Trump as president, the forces arrayed against him in D.C. and across the country have revealed to the nation just how fundamentally different—how anti-American—they really are.

Fusion Party

The first blow was to the orderly succession of power from one wing of the Permanent Bipartisan Fusion Party to the other: the line of dynastic succession that had begun with the presidency of George H.W. Bush (a former CIA director) and continued through Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and was to have continued with Hillary Clinton in 2008. But the upstart Barack Obama jumped the queue, defeating Hillary for the nomination and winning two terms in the White House.

In 2016, with the fix in, Hillary turned away a challenge from socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders and was poised to resume the Habsburgian order against a hapless nonentity like Jeb Bush when the brash businessman Trump destroyed his Republican competition and then outpointed Clinton in the Electoral College to win the



SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

presidency.

And thus the “Resistance” was born, with the past three years of endless, manipulated investigations as the undemocratic and dangerous result. On his way out of office, Obama inexplicably widened the National Security Agency’s distribution lists, giving access to extremely sensitive personal information about U.S. citizens to other American intelligence agencies and officials.

In short order, Mike Flynn, the national security adviser, was caught in a perjury trap by a weaponized FBI that had come into possession of his private communications with the Russian ambassador, Sergey Kislyak. Then, with Flynn gone, the “Russian collusion” hoax was born, and Trump’s every move was now under the scrutiny of an unholy alliance of media types, Democrat politicians, and spooks from the swamps of Langley and elsewhere.

All of this was, and remains, stunningly illegal. By charter, the CIA is forbidden from operating within the United States, and yet, by all appearances, has been running a counter-intelligence operation (fronted by its stooges in the FBI) against the White House. Former IC officials, such as CIA Director John Brennan and his nominal superior, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, have been outspoken in their

U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell in Berlin, Germany, on Nov. 8, 2019.

The sudden departure of Grenell’s predecessor, Joseph Maguire was occasioned by the disastrous briefing given by Maguire’s deputy, Shelby Pierson, who on Feb. 13, with no evidence, told the House Intelligence Committee that Russia was working to support Trump in the 2020 election.

JOHANNES SIMON/GETTY IMAGES



Nancy Pelosi speaker of the U.S. house of representatives, and U.S. ambassador to the federal republic of Germany Richard Allen Grenell chat together during the 2020 Munich Security Conference in Germany on Feb. 15, 2020.

contempt for Trump, as has been James Comey, the fired FBI chief.

Even the so-called “whistle-blower” who triggered the absurd impeachment charade last year seems to have been a CIA plant inside the West Wing. If and when it is proven that the agency was quarterbacking the get-Trump operation (and there can be little or no doubt that it was), many former and perhaps current officials need to go to jail.

Cleaning House

Which brings us to the appointment of Richard Grenell as acting DNI and why it has thrown Washington into such a tizzy. The sudden departure of Grenell’s predecessor, Joseph Maguire (who, like Grenell, was also acting DNI), was occasioned by the disastrous briefing given by Maguire’s deputy, Shelby Pierson, who on Feb. 13, with no evidence, told the House Intelligence Committee that Russia was working to support Trump in the 2020 election.

That the House Intelligence Committee headed by Rep. Adam Schiff was the driving force behind both the Russian collusion hoax and the Ukrainian impeachment stunt was entirely non-coincidental. Six days later, a furious Trump fired Maguire and brought in Grenell, the current ambassador to Germany, to clean house.

It’s about time. For three years, Trump has suffered the death of a thousand cuts from the “resistance” operatives still working in his administration—Obama holdovers who bear him no love and have worked diligently behind the scenes to frustrate his objectives and destroy his reputation.

The recent book “A Warning” by an anonymous mid-level official is just the latest example of open insurrection on the part of the president’s enemies. It’s taken the president, who prides himself on his ability to get people to like him, to finally realize there are some people—deep ideological enemies—that he can’t bully, charm, buy, wheedle, or cajole.

Grenell’s job, to which he is eminently suited by talent and temperament, is not only to gain control of the nearly useless Office of the Director of National Intelligence (a Bush-era accretion that was superimposed upon the entire

IC in the wake of 9/11), but also to root out the fifth column throughout the executive branch.

Trump has been excellent on keeping his campaign promises, but the weakness of the first term—inevitably, because he isn’t a professional politician—was his overreliance on Beltway insiders and party hacks, which gave us the parade of Reince Priebus, Rex Tillerson, John Kelly, John Bolton, Omarosa Manigault, Anthony Scaramucci, and Jeff Sessions.

The reconstruction of the IC has already begun, with the dramatic downsizing of the National Security Council under national security advisor Robert O’Brien, which had ballooned to more than 230 policy analysts and is currently shedding up to 70 members—including the impeachment farce’s star witness, Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman.

And there are skeletons aplenty within the IC, perhaps foremost among them why the vaunted CIA hasn’t managed to get a single thing right throughout its post-war existence—from Guatemala in 1954 to Iran in 1953 and 1979, to East Germany and the Soviet Union in 1989–1991. It’s a stunning and frankly intolerable record of failure that needs a fearless, and very public, airing.

Grenell and his deputy, Kash Patel, who largely authored the memo released by Rep. Devin Nunes outlining the FBI’s abuse of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act processes at the beginning of the Russian collusion investigation, are the right men for the job—but they only have a short time before Grenell’s term as acting director expires.

Still, it’s a start—and a harbinger of what a second Trump term will bring should the president be reelected this fall.

Michael Walsh is the author of “The Devil’s Pleasure Palace” and “The Fiery Angel,” both published by Encounter Books. His latest book, “Last Stands,” a cultural study of military history, will be published later this year by St. Martin’s Press. Follow him on Twitter @dkahanerules

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

Coronavirus Isn't the Biggest Threat We Face, by Far

SEBASTIAN GORKA



As I write this, America has seen just two cases of individuals infected with coronavirus person-to-person in the United States. But you wouldn't know it.

If a newly landed Martian had to judge the size of this threat to our nation, they would be excused for thinking that the Spanish flu or bubonic plague had reemerged in new antibiotic- and prophylactic-resistant strains and that the end of Western civilization is just around the corner.

From the doom-laden music used to undergird CNN's coverage of the virus, to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer lambasting President Donald Trump for his putative mismanagement of the "emergency" and his decision—which apparently has outraged the Democratic National Committee—to make his deputy, Vice President Mike Pence the lead co-ordinator for our nation's response, the impression is one of disaster.

One is reminded of President Barack Obama's chief-of-staff and all-round hatchet man, Rahm Emmanuel, and his now immortal phrase: "You never want a serious crisis to go to waste."

According to Forbes and Statista, America is more ready to deal with this—or any similar threat—than any other country in the world. From the size of our economy, to the trained experts available to us, and the cutting-edge technology and medicines we have at our disposal, we have capabilities that other nations only dream of and will never attain.

But it should appall all decent Americans that the mainstream media and one of our two political parties seek to so cynically exploit this international



The Capitol Building in Washington on Jan. 30, 2018.

"You need to understand that the seventh floor of the Hoover Building [the leadership of the Bureau] looks at this White House as 'the Enemy.'"

FBI insider

contingency so willingly for their own profit. But truly, it should surprise no one. Since their attitude and behavior is intrinsically linked to something that really is an existential threat to our nation, a threat that didn't emerge from some biological weapons research facility in China or reach us via a cruise ship. That threat is the Deep State.

Deep State

When I joined the Trump White House, at first, I refused to even use the term "Deep State," publicly or in private. It smacked to me of tinfoil-hat territory. While I love conspiracy theories as a form of diversionary entertainment, there's a reason they are called "theories" and not "facts." But then, I experienced the Deep State up close and personal.

First, it was subtle. As a matter of course, I would attend National Security Council meetings in the classified SCIF (Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility) facilities under the West Wing and in the Eisenhower executive building. Whatever the issue would be—how to defeat ISIS, the threat from China, how to deal with Russia—I saw a clear pattern.

At the highest national security policymaking level of the nation, outside of the Oval Office, I saw the same behavior. However long the meeting, one hour or longer, whoever was in the room and on the secure outstation screens—the CIA, DIA, Joint Chiefs, NSA, et cetera—no one in the room or on the net would mention the commander-in-chief's name, or what the president had said with regard to the specific issue we were there to grapple with.

As a result, it would be left to me, time and again, to the legal immigrant with the foreign accent who was there as deputy to the president for strategy, to remind all involved what the president's explicit objectives were, since it was clear that the GS-15s, the SES and SIS executives—collectively, the "careers"—considered themselves the true authorities on the matter.

The unelected bureaucrats couldn't care less that 63 million Americans had chosen a new president and a new path for America—they were America's collective master.

Then, after I had waited six months for three of my former pupils, who were now members of the Intelligence Community, to be detailed by name to work for me in the White House on a special project I was running—a personnel action that was otherwise routine and should have taken 10 days at most—I was enlightened as to why they still hadn't been sent over to the White House to work for me.

A visiting "career" from the FBI, one of the agencies that was meant to have sent me their employee months ago—and who happened to be a Trump voter—informed me behind closed doors, "Sebastian, you need to understand that the seventh floor of the Hoover Building [the leadership of



U.S. President Donald Trump (L) seen through an Oval Office window speaks on the phone to King Salman of Saudi Arabia, watched by Senior Advisor Jared Kushner (C), and National Security Advisor Michael Flynn, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on Jan. 29, 2017.

the Bureau] looks at this White House as 'the Enemy.'"

It was hard for me to believe this at the time. But now, we have the evidence.

Now, we know that John Brennan, Obama's CIA director, voted for the Communist Party just before he joined the CIA. We now know that the Obama White House okayed the first-ever inter-agency—FBI, CIA, and NSA—counterintelligence operation against a presidential campaign and then a presidential administration.

We now know that they were prepared, not only to issue multiple secret surveillance warrants against members of the Trump campaign, but that at least two of the warrants were illegally obtained. And that, most egregiously, FBI agents were ready to forge CIA documents in order to obtain said warrants and to railroad a three-star U.S. Army general, Lt. Gen. Mike Flynn.

It's remarkable that President Trump has survived so far against a federal bureaucracy so riven through with seditious and criminal actors, let alone achieved so much in just 3 1/2 years.

If he survives the continued machinations of the Deep State and its collaborators in the mainstream media and is, God willing, reelected, his biggest challenge will not be natural or manmade biological agents from abroad. It will be the enemy that lies within the halls of his own government.

President Trump needs to grab the Deep State by the throat right now. Before it's too late.

Sebastian Gorka, Ph.D., is a former deputy assistant for strategy to President Donald Trump, host of the nationally syndicated America First, and author of the new book "The War for America's Soul." His website is SebGorka.com. Follow him on Twitter @SebGorka.

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How the Specter of Communism Is Ruling Our World

The Communist Economic Trap

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 Nine (Cont.)

6. Hatred and Jealousy: The Origin of Absolute Egalitarianism

Communism advocates absolute egalitarianism. Superficially, this may sound like a high-sounding term, leading many to blindly believe in its rectitude. However, it also evokes hatred and jealousy. One consequence of egalitarianism is that people can’t tolerate the success of others, with others being wealthier and having better lives, easier work, and more luxurious living conditions. Everyone must be equal, in this reading: I should have what you have, and I can get what you get. In such a universe, everyone is equal and the whole world is alike.

Absolute egalitarianism is reflected in at least two ways. First, when people are not yet equal, they become dissatisfied with their economic status, which is a fast route for evildoers to incite envy and hatred. People come to covet what others have and even seek it through improper or violent means. In extreme cases, they destroy others’ property and even kill to get rich. The worst manifestation of these tendencies is violent revolution.

In order to provoke dissatisfaction, Marx divides society into two opposite classes: those who own the means of production, and those who don’t. In the countryside, this becomes the landlord and the peasant; in the city, it’s the capitalist and the worker. The aim is to incite class hatred and use the supposedly disenfranchised to carry out violent revolution. The landlords are rich and the peasants are poor—seize their wealth! Why are the landlords rich? Everyone should be rich.

Thus, the Chinese Communist Party called on peasants to engage in “land reform”—that is, attacking landlords and dividing up the land. If the landlords refused to go along with it, they were killed. The Communist Party first incited hooligans to make trouble, then encouraged the peasantry to rise up and attack the landlord class. The heads of millions of landowners fell.

Second, absolute egalitarianism also manifests within groups that have basically achieved a state of “equality”: If there are benefits, everyone gets an equal share. Anyone who stands out is censured. Everyone is treated the same whether one works more, works less, or even doesn’t work at all.

People appear the same on the surface, but each individual’s personality, intellect, physical strength, morality, occupation, role, education, living conditions, extent to which they can endure hardship and persevere, spirit to innovate, and so on are all different, and what one contributes to society is also different. Thus, why should the same outcome be sought for all? In this sense, inequality is actually true equality, while the equality pursued by communism is true inequality and true injustice. The ancients in China say that the way of Heaven is to reward those who work hard, and that Heaven will reward one according to the effort one puts in. Absolute egalitarianism is impossible in the real world.

Under absolute egalitarianism, you get the same outcome whether you do things well or do poorly, whether you are hardworking or lazy. Under the cover of egalitarianism, the lazy benefit, while those who work hard and are capable are penalized and even resented and viewed with hatred. Everyone slows down their pace to match the speed of the slowest. In actuality, this causes everyone to become lazy, to wait for someone else to contribute so that one can take advantage of it and jump on for the ride, gaining something for nothing or grabbing from someone something that one does not have, resulting in widespread moral decline.

The hatred and jealousy that motivate absolute egalitarianism are the poisonous roots of communism’s economic perspective. Human nature has both good and evil inherent in it. Western faiths refer to the seven cardinal sins, while Eastern culture teaches that man has both Buddha nature and demon nature. Buddha nature manifests itself as kindness, the ability to endure hardship, and consideration of others. Demon nature manifests as selfishness, laziness, jealousy, malice, plunder, hatred, rage, lust, tyranny, disre-

gard for life, inciting discord and creating trouble, creating and spreading rumors, getting something for nothing, and so on. The economic perspective adopted by communism deliberately stimulates demon nature, amplifying people’s jealousy, greed, laziness, and other evil factors, causing people to lose their humanity and forsake the traditional values held for thousands of years. It amplifies the worst in human nature and turns people into communist revolutionaries.

In “The Theory of Moral Sentiments,” 18th-century economist and philosopher Adam Smith said that morality is the foundation of mankind’s prosperity. Observing these general rules of morality “is required for the very existence of human society, which would crumble into nothing if mankind were not generally impressed with a reverence for those important rules of conduct.”

Lawrence Kudlow, director of the U.S. National Economic Council, believes that economic prosperity must exist alongside morality. He wrote that if the United States can abide by the “foremost principle”—to adhere to the moral values that America was founded on—the development of the United States will be limitless.

The negative consequences caused by absolute egalitarianism in countries around the world are not surprising. Communist egalitarianism uses the authority of the state to plunder private property and wealth belonging to others. On the one hand, this strengthens the authority and power of communist ideology, and on the other, it convinces people that it’s their right to get something for nothing. This is precisely how communism deceives people.

a. The Promotion of Economic Egalitarianism: A Stepping Stone to Communism

Under the influence of absolute egalitarianism, there are vigorous calls in the West for “social justice,” as well as minimum-wage laws, affirmative action, equal pay for equal work, and other demands. What lies behind these demands is a desire for an equality of outcome; behind them are elements of communism. If careless about these matters, man can easily find himself falling into a trap.

From the communist perspective, it doesn’t matter whether these vulnerable groups obtain equality or their social status improves. They are merely pawns for inciting resentment. If communists get what they demand, then they will simply make new demands for equality, and there will be no end to it. If they don’t achieve their demands, they will wage a war of public opinion, incite resentment, strengthen people’s notions about the justice of equality, and turn these notions into a major platform on which to influence public opinion.

Because communism incites resentment in multiple fields and via so many different means, once all the resentment explodes at the same time, social turmoil and perhaps even revolution will be the result. Communists will always be able to find vulnerable groups and then demand financial equality for them, repeating the process until absolute equality is achieved. These demands for so-called social justice become a stepping stone for the path toward communism. Free countries in the West have been eroded by communist ideology—this is simply the reality.

In reality, the implementation of these policies often results in the opposite of what is intended. Those who are supposed to be protected by these policies are instead discriminated against and attacked. Take the minimum-wage law, for example. On the surface, its goal is to protect the rights of workers, but the effect is that many factories simply stop hiring because it is uneconomical for them to do so. As a result, even more workers lose their jobs.

Skills are not gained all at once. There’s a continuous process of progress and elevation of skill, capability, and work ethic. The result of enforcing a minimum wage is that people don’t get trained and socialized in lower-wage jobs and then work their way toward higher-paying jobs. The one-size-fits-all approach also violates

economic theory and results in excessive government intervention in the economy.

People also use the excuse of “equal pay for equal work” to demand social revolution. They cite statistics and claim that the average wage of black males is less than the average wage of white males, that the average female wage is less than the average male wage, and that these discrepancies are the result of racism and sexism. In reality, such comparisons are not appropriate.

When comparing apples and apples, the results are different. Some scholars’ research found that for black families in which both husband and wife graduated from college or higher, their income is, in fact, higher than similarly situated white families. Simply because black families of this type are relatively fewer, there are discrepancies between the races overall in income. Making meaningful and accurate comparisons would appear to be common sense, but when communist elements are inciting discord and struggle, people seem to suffer a selective loss of vision.

Communism does not care about the well-being of vulnerable groups. It is simply interested in slogans that drag people down the road to communism and thus destruction.

b. Communism’s Use of Unions to Undermine Free Societies

The loss of jobs in the manufacturing sector in the United States is a well-known phenomenon. But many people don’t realize that unions are one of the main culprits. Unions claim to help obtain benefits for the working class, but they do the opposite. How? This is made clear by tracking the history of unions and the transformation of their mission.

Trade unions were initially founded by members of the working class with few or no skills, for the purpose of negotiating with management. To a certain extent, a trade union is able to broker and resolve conflicts between workers and capitalists. But communist elements took the union and turned it into a tool to promote communist movements and policies.

Friedrich Engels wrote on the topic, “The time also is rapidly approaching when the working class will have understood that the struggle for high wages and short hours, and the whole action of Trades Unions as now carried on, is not an end in itself, but a means, a very necessary and effective means, but only one of several means towards a higher end: the abolition of the wages system altogether.”

Lenin believed that the formation and legalization of trade unions is an important means for the working class to seize the leadership of the democratic revolution from the capitalist class. At the same time, he believed that the trade union would become the pillar of the Communist Party and a key force in class struggle. In his speech, Lenin proposed that trade unions become “a school of communism” and a link between the Communist Party and the masses. The daily work of the trade union was to convince the masses and bring them to the transition from capitalism to communism. “The trade unions are a ‘reservoir’ of the state power.”

In the mid-to-late 19th century, communist and left-wing forces used trade unions to incite workers to go on large-scale strikes, make harsh demands on capital, and even take violent measures to destroy machinery and factories. The trade unions became a powerful weapon for communism to combat capitalism and carry out political struggle—creating chaos for the world so that the specter could further its goals.

In October 1905, more than 1.7 million workers in Russia participated in a nationwide political strike and paralyzed the country’s economy. During this time, the Petrograd Soviet, an even more aggressive union organization, was formed. Lenin called it the sprouting of a revolutionary government and believed that it would become the political center of Russia. In other words, the Soviet regime built during the October Revolution of 1917 originated from the trade union.

See next edition for the next installment.

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See B2



See B8

MARCH 5 - 11, 2020 B1

THE EPOCH TIMES



Everyday Umami

A new book helps home cooks harness the 'fifth taste' to punch up everyday vegetables

Continued on **B4**

AMERICAN THOUGHT LEADERS

Inside the Chinese Regime’s Decadelong At

Despite pressure from the regime, Shen Yun is expected to perform in over 160 cities on its 2020

JAN JEKIELEK & IRENE LUO

In May 2009, staff at the Robinson Center Music Hall in Little Rock, Arkansas, received a 13-page letter from the Chinese consulate in Houston, pressuring them not to host the New York-based Shen Yun Performing Arts at their theater. They reported the incident to the FBI.

It was not an isolated occurrence. Proxies for the Chinese communist regime have sent similar letters pressuring theaters or governments across the globe to cancel scheduled Shen Yun performances. Shen Yun’s ticketing website has been hacked, performers’ relatives in China have been harassed or even arrested, and Shen Yun-related web coverage is flooded with negative comments from paid internet trolls.

So why does the Chinese regime care so much about a music and dance performance?

According to Shen Yun emcee Leeshai Lemish, it’s because Shen Yun seeks to revive traditional Chinese culture, which the Chinese regime has systematically sought to stifle and supplant with an atheist, communist ideology.

Traditional Chinese culture is rooted in core values like integrity, honesty, loyalty, and spiritual fulfillment. In contrast, the Chinese Communist Party wants Chinese people to repudiate old ideas about morality and spirituality and to believe instead in communist and social Darwinian ideas about struggle, Lemish said, in an interview with The Epoch Times for the “American Thought Leaders” program.

Shen Yun, which now has seven equally large companies and performs annually in more than 160 cities, has also drawn the ire of China’s ruling regime because it includes depictions of the regime’s ongoing persecution of the Falun Gong spiritual discipline, also known as Falun Dafa.

The practice unites meditation exercises with moral living based on the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. By 1999, it had attracted more than 70 million adherents—more than the number of Communist Party members at the time.

In July 1999, the Chinese communist regime started brutally suppressing and vilifying the practice. Adherents have been arbitrarily detained and subjected to forced labor, brainwashing, and torture. The independent China Tribunal in London concluded in 2019 that Falun Gong practitioners have been killed by the communist regime on a massive scale for their organs, to fuel China’s lucrative organ transplant industry.

Communist Interference

The Chinese communist regime’s stance on Shen Yun stands in stark contrast to how Shen Yun is received on the democratic island of Taiwan, home to many of Shen Yun’s most avid fans. For the 2020 tour, Shen Yun will perform more than two dozen shows across five cities in Taiwan. Some of these seats will be filled by audiences from mainland China. Unable to see Shen Yun in their home country, they fly to Taiwan to see the performance there.

Shen Yun was founded in 2006 in New York by artists who practiced Falun Gong and wanted to create their own artistic production, as an alternative to the propagandistic shows extolling the communist regime that were put on by Chinese embassies and consulates for the Lunar New Year, Lemish said.

Following Shen Yun’s inception, dozens of performing arts companies backed by the Chinese regime quickly sprang up and started performing on the same dates in the same cities.

“There would be Shen Yun on one side of the street, and in the theater opposite it, there would be some performance out of China,” Lemish said. Sometimes, the performances were “blatantly Maoist” ballet, with performers dressed in Red Guard attire.

“Sometimes we’d show up somewhere, and people would say, ‘Oh, we already saw your performance,’” Lemish said. A different company from China had just performed in the same city, right before Shen Yun arrived.

Another common tactic of the regime is to threaten theater managers with

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Shen Yun seeks to revive traditional Chinese culture, which the Chinese regime has systematically sought to stifle and supplant with an atheist, communist ideology.

coercive letters or visits from a Chinese Embassy or consulate. They threaten to cut off any potential business the venue may have with Chinese companies, and also tell managers they will be black-listed from China, Lemish said.

In 2017, the Chinese Embassy in Thailand sent a letter to the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs threatening the Thai government’s relationship with China if it didn’t cancel Shen Yun’s scheduled performance at the Aksra Theatre in Bangkok. The letter stated: “In order to avoid affecting the well-developed relationship between China and Thailand, the ministry is kindly requested to pay close attention to the issue and timely coordinate with relevant authorities to ban” Shen Yun and Falun Gong.

Afterward, the theater refused to host the performance.

Former Soviet bloc countries in Eastern Europe and China’s neighbors in East Asia are especially susceptible to pressure from the Chinese regime, Lemish said, and performances have been canceled at the last minute, as happened in Seoul, South Korea.

In one case, after traveling three days by bus from Turkey to Moldova, Shen Yun artists arrived at the theater the morning of the performance to set up, only to get locked outside and informed by the theater manager that the show had been canceled, Lemish said. She gave no explanation.

Later, Lemish heard from a city hall official that both the Moldova Ministry of Culture and the theater had been visited by officials from the local Chinese Embassy.

He also learned that Moldova had been promised a \$1 billion loan by China a few months prior. The sum equaled a 10th of Moldova’s gross domestic product.

For many Shen Yun performers from China, the ultimate dream is to be able to return to their homeland to perform. In 2010, Shen Yun was set to perform seven sold-out shows in Hong Kong. Local authorities denied visas to key members of the technical crew, so the performances had to be canceled.

Chinese authorities also have threatened performers’ relatives in China, Lemish said. The parents of another Shen Yun emcee would receive visits almost every weekend from the authorities. And the husband of one of the company’s erhu soloists was jailed.

As part of the regime’s disinformation efforts, China Daily, the Party’s official English mouthpiece, published paid inserts calling Shen Yun “blasphemy that masquerades as art,” in major publications such as The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and The Telegraph. In some cases, only fine print at the bottom identified the content as a paid advertisement.

There’s also “stuff that we can’t really prove,” Lemish said. For instance, when someone searches for Shen Yun on Google, the top-ranking media coverage results are all negative, Lemish said. This is bewildering, given that Shen Yun’s shows consistently sell out at top venues across the globe, from Lincoln Center in New York to the Eventim Apollo in London.

Lemish suspects internet trolls paid by the Chinese regime are involved. Often using grammatically incorrect English, these professional trolls assert the Party line across the internet and are known colloquially as the “50-Cent Army,” because they’re allegedly paid 0.5 yuan (\$0.11) per post.

The Chinese regime has hired as many as 2 million internet trolls, who post an estimated 488 million messages each year, according to a 2017 study by professors at Harvard, Stanford, and the University of California.

They can boost an article’s ranking in search results by commenting on them, linking to them, and posting them on social media.

The negative coverage of Shen Yun often mirrors the regime’s talking points about the company. “Were there people behind the scenes encouraging a certain perspective?” Lemish said.

The fight to control the public narrative about Shen Yun plays out fiercely on Wikipedia, where the Shen Yun entry is constantly changing, as people attempt to insert or remove content, he said.

Sometimes the threats against Shen Yun have gotten physical. In January 2010, while Shen Yun was touring in



BRENDON FALLON/THE EPOCH TIMES



Leeshai Lemish, an emcee for Shen Yun Performing Arts, in New York on Dec. 19, 2020.

Canada, the bus driver discovered slashes on the front tire of the company bus.

The bus driver told The Epoch Times at the time that service personnel had said the cuts were made by a blade.

If a tire is slashed all the way through, the tire goes flat and the vehicle simply can’t move, so people in the vehicle are unlikely to be injured. However, if the rubber on the tire is only partially slashed, as this one was, the tire might blow while the vehicle is moving, leading to serious injuries for passengers.

A few days later, a tire on one of Shen Yun’s buses burst while the company was traveling between Memphis and Little Rock on I-40 West. That same bus was found with slashes on one of its tires again two days later.

In 2015, a Shen Yun promotional vehicle decorated with Shen Yun advertising was found to have corrosive chemicals covering the brake and accelerator pedals. The throttle cable underneath the truck had a 1-inch-long knife slash and was heavily corroded.

Reviving Traditional Values

Despite the regime’s attempts to sabotage performances, Shen Yun has flour-

Attempts to Stifle Shen Yun Performing Arts

2020 world tour



(Above) Shen Yun Performing Arts Global Company's curtain call at the San Diego Civic Theatre on Jan. 26, 2020.



One of the two cuts on the front-right tire of a Shen Yun Performing Arts tour bus, in Ottawa, Canada, on Jan. 13, 2010.

ished, and in 2020, it will perform more than 700 shows for more than 1 million audience members.

The performance challenges the Party narrative over what constitutes genuine Chinese culture and history, offering an alternate understanding of China's identity.

The Chinese communist regime has systematically sought to uproot and eliminate traditional Chinese culture since taking power in 1949. During the Cultural Revolution, the regime burned ancient texts and works of art, and defiled Buddhist monasteries and Confucian temples.

"Now, you have three, four, or five generations who grew up under this, and they don't really even know what the traditional culture was actually about," Lemish said.

For instance, most young Chinese people have heard about the martial arts prowess of the famous general Yuefei of the Song Dynasty. "But you don't learn about the spirit behind what he was doing, which was a sense of loyalty for the dynasty and self-sacrifice," Lemish said.

Stories from ancient China have been stripped of their significance or radically altered. "A lot of the heroes from

Shen Yun Performing Arts tour buses.

Despite the Chinese communist regime's attempts to sabotage performances, Shen Yun has flourished, and in 2020, it will perform more than 700 shows for more than 1 million audience members.

the past are now portrayed as villains," he said.

"In traditional Chinese culture, you really learn from the past." The ancients aspired to live virtuously based on principles like benevolence, propriety, loyalty, and faith.

Spirituality was a mainstay of Chinese civilization for millennia and is a major overarching theme in Shen Yun's performances.

"Traditional Chinese culture is said to be divinely inspired," Lemish said. The belief is that Chinese civilization was imparted to man by heavenly beings and was continually enriched. Ancient stories tell of immortals walking among men, endowing them with calligraphy, agriculture, and medicine.

Shen Yun brings such stories and legends to life. Performances often include vignettes from the classic Chinese novel "Journey to the West," which is based on the true story of a Tang Dynasty monk who walked from China to India to seek and bring back Buddhist scriptures. The novel details how the monk's disciples—the Monkey King, Pigsy, and Sandy—protected him on his journey with their supernatural abilities, fighting demons and goblins along the way.

In China, performances, TV shows,

and cartoon renderings of the classic novel now mainly focus on the Monkey King and his antics, Lemish said. "But really, it's a metaphor for a spiritual path because they go through different tribulations" that test their perseverance and whether they can let go of worldly desires. "And one pass at a time, they have to make it all the way to the end, where they reach their spiritual perfection."

Shen Yun artists believe that to create true art that can uplift and inspire people, "you have to first foster your own inner virtue and purity," Lemish said.

The show's overall message is one of hope, goodness, and a greater spiritual connection, Lemish said, and it is this aspect of the show that often moves audience members to tears.

Omega Medina, former senior manager of classical awards for the Grammy Awards, said after seeing Shen Yun: "I just feel blessed. I come away feeling like a better human being for having experienced this magnificent event. It speaks not only to my intellect but to my heart."

"American Thought Leaders" is an Epoch Times show available on Facebook, YouTube, and the Epoch Times website.

Everyday Umami

A new book helps home cooks harness the ‘fifth taste’ to punch up everyday vegetables

Continued from B1

The book’s 75 recipes provide plenty of accessible inspiration. Try tossing Parmesan rinds into soups and stocks, adding a splash of soy sauce to sautéed greens, folding miso into softened butter to swipe on grilled vegetables or simply spread over toast.

Using different umami-rich ingredients together also significantly ups the umami factor—think Parmesan cheese on tomato-sauced pasta. Pelzel uses that to her advantage: Her simple marinara

gets an extra glug of soy sauce; her mushroom dashi uses dried shiitakes in addition to kombu; while her grilled cheese packs a triple-combo of miso butter, caramelized onions, and aged Gouda.

The recipes are vegetarian, save for the ones in a bonus “umami of the sea” chapter that shines a brief spotlight on seafood, but can be appreciated by vegetarians and omnivores alike. The book is a handy guide for anyone looking to get more vegetables—in intensely flavorful, umami-packed form—into their diets.



CARAMELIZED ONION GRILLED CHEESE WITH MISO BUTTER

Grilled cheese for dinner feels kind of indulgent, like eating pancakes past 5 p.m. Am I right? (Yes.) Here, I add miso to the butter I use to swipe the interior of the bread slices (avoid getting too excited and adding the miso butter to the outside of the bread—the miso will burn up before the bread gets toasty and golden), and I add caramelized onions, too. This would also be great with onion and rosemary jam instead of the onions.

SERVES 2

4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature

1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

1 large yellow onion, peeled, halved, and thinly sliced

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1 tablespoon rice vinegar

1 heaping tablespoon miso paste (I like white miso, but a darker miso works, too)

1 tablespoon whole-grain mustard

4 slices good-quality sandwich bread

1 cup grated Gruyère cheese (or 1/2 cup grated Gruyère with 1/2 cup grated Gouda for extra umami)

Cornichon pickles, for serving (optional)

Melt 1 tablespoon of butter in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add the oil, onion, and salt and cook, stirring often, until the onion is soft and browned in spots, 8–10 minutes. Stir in the vinegar and turn off the heat. Transfer the onion to a small bowl and set aside (don’t wash the pan).

Mix 1 tablespoon of the remaining butter with the miso paste and mustard in a small bowl. Spread one side of each bread slice with the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter. Spread the other side with the miso butter. Place two of the bread slices, plain buttered side down, in the pan. Divide the cheese and onion evenly between them and top with the other bread slices, plain buttered side up.

Cook over medium-low heat until the bread is golden brown, 4–5 minutes (do not press the sandwich down with a spatula—just let it be). Flip the sandwiches over and cook on the other side until the bread is golden brown and the cheese is melted, 3–4 minutes longer. Transfer to plates and serve immediately with pickles. Lots of pickles.

IN SEASON

Buried Treasures

Three underrated root vegetables to cook with this season

OLDWAYS

With fall in full swing and winter around the corner, root vegetables are in season. While they usually aren’t the prettiest vegetables, their rough, gnarled exteriors often hide sweet and creamy insides packed with nutrients.

As an organization focused on heritage diets and nutrition education, Oldways is often asked about how to use certain foods and ingredients. We find that root vegetables are a group of foods that for some seem shrouded in mystery.

A root vegetable, as you might expect from the name,

is the underground root of a plant. Common examples include carrots, beets, and turnips.

Here, though, we’ll explore three lesser-known varieties: yuca, celeriac, and parsnips. They can all be found in grocery stores, specialty markets, or farmers markets across the country.

Oldways is a food and nutrition nonprofit dedicated to improving public health by inspiring individuals and organizations to embrace the healthy, sustainable joys of the “old ways” of eating—heritage based diets high in taste, nourishment, sustainability, and joy.

While they usually aren’t the prettiest vegetables, their rough, gnarled exteriors often hide sweet and creamy insides, packed with nutrients.

YUCA

Yuca is the root of the cassava plant (not to be confused with yucca, which is a completely different plant that doesn’t have edible roots). You may see yuca root labeled in a store or market as cassava, manioc, or mandioca.

About the length of a banana but thicker around, yuca is tapered at the end and covered in a tough, dark brown skin. The skin is so tough, in fact, that you’ll need a sharp knife to cut it away from the edible interior. Yuca must be cooked before it’s eaten, to destroy its naturally occurring calcium oxalate.

A staple starch throughout Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America, yuca is used in many diverse ways around the world. It contains fiber, antioxidants, and many other beneficial nutrients. Its consistency and sweet, earthy flavor are similar to that of potatoes, though yuca tends to be more starchy. A simple, delicious recipe if you’re trying yuca for the first time is yuca fries.

It’s possible that you’ve had yuca without even knowing—it shows up as an ingredient in foods that may surprise you, often in the form of flour. Tapioca flour is made from starch that has been extracted from yuca, while cassava flour, sometimes called yuca flour, is made from the ground root after it has been peeled and dried.

Both flours are commonly used in gluten-



free baking, from breads to pastries, and tapioca flour is also often used as a thickener—similar to cornstarch—for soups, stews, sauces, and puddings.

CELERIAC

Celeriac, which is sometimes called celery root, is a root vegetable that tastes similar to celery, with hints of parsley and anise. Celery and celeriac technically are from the same plant, but are cultivated for different parts—the stalk versus the root—and are often grown separately to ensure the best possible environment for each.

Round, knobby, and covered in bumps and lumps, celeriac has thick light brown skin that needs to be removed with a knife. Originally native to the Mediterranean Basin, celeriac tends to be used more commonly in French and English recipes.

The texture of celeriac changes depending on how it is prepared. When it’s raw, it has a little crunch, but it isn’t stringy like celery. When cooked, it’s reminiscent of a cooked potato.

Once peeled (which is no easy feat!), raw celeriac is a wonderful, tangy addition to salads and slaws. It can also be boiled, roasted, baked, steamed, fried, or pureed into soup. If you’re trying it for the first time, try shredding a little onto a salad, or boiling it with a parsnip and a potato and turning it all into a mash.



TOMATO ‘NDUJA

First, an explanation: Traditional ‘nduja (some people say doo-JA like the “JA” in Jamaica; others say en-dew-ya) is like a cross between pepperoni and a spreadable pâté. It’s very flavorful, fatty, and unctuous and comes from the south of Italy. My vegan version, made with olives, sun-dried tomatoes, and the usual sausage/pepperoni flavors of fennel, paprika (both smoked and sweet), and cayenne for heat, comes right close. In fact, I crumbled some over polenta for a vegan friend, and he said, “Wait, is that meat?” and then refused to eat any more. Which I took as a win for the tomato ‘nduja and its ability to be a great porky, crumbled sausage-y stand-in to top a pizza or focaccia, stuff a quesadilla,

twirl into pasta, or lend anything a bit of meaty funk.

MAKES ABOUT 1 1/2 CUPS

170g mild green olives (choose ones that aren’t too bitter, such as Castelvetrano, Lucques, or Picholine), drained and pitted

1 cup sun-dried tomatoes (drained and blotted dry if oil-packed)

1 1/2 teaspoons garlic powder

1 teaspoon ground fennel

3/4 teaspoon kosher salt or 1 teaspoon smoked flaky salt

1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika

1/2 teaspoon sweet paprika

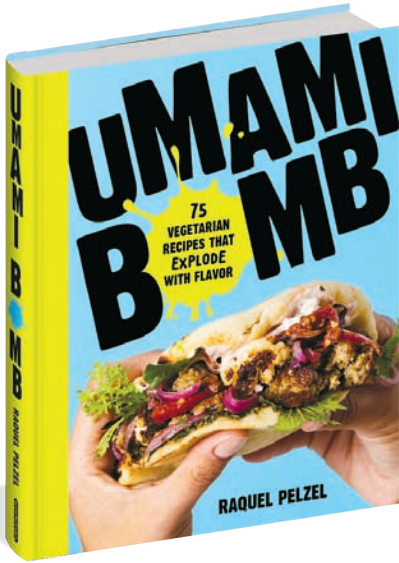
1/2 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Baguette slices, for serving

Place the olives on a stack of doubled paper towels and press firmly to dry and press out any juices. Transfer the olives to the bowl of a food processor and add the sun-dried tomatoes, garlic powder, fennel, salt, smoked and sweet paprika, cayenne, and black pepper. Pulverize until well mixed. Taste and add more salt if needed.

The ‘nduja will keep in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 1 week.



‘Umami Bomb: 75 Vegetarian Recipes That Explode With Flavor’ by Raquel Pelzel (\$28.75 Booktopia site).



ALL PHOTOS BY KATE SEARS

MUSHROOM LARDONS WITH BLACK-EYED PEAS AND GREENS

When you caramelize food, the browning effect can enhance umami by as much as seven or eight times! Here, mushrooms get extra sweet and sticky in the pan, and then they’re tossed in some smoked paprika and soy for an extra umami boost. Black-eyed peas and garlicky sautéed greens make this a super-charged, protein- and nutrient-packed plant-based powerhouse. It’s extra awesome served with polenta with smoked cheddar and kale or cornbread.

SERVES 4

6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

2 medium portobello mushrooms, stemmed, and caps sliced into 1/4-inch cubes

1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

2 tablespoons soy sauce

1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika

5 garlic cloves, peeled and minced

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

2 cups cooked black-eyed peas

6 cups roughly chopped kale, collard greens, or Swiss chard leaves, tough stems removed

Heat 3 tablespoons of the oil in a large

skillet over medium-high heat. Add the mushrooms and cook, stirring often, until they start to brown, 3–4 minutes. Reduce the heat to medium and continue to cook until the mushrooms are very deeply and evenly browned, about 10 minutes longer, reducing the heat to medium-low if they begin to darken too quickly. You want them to shrivel and brown. Add the salt, soy sauce, and smoked paprika and stir until the pan is dry. Transfer the mushrooms to a bowl and set aside.

Place the remaining 3 tablespoons of oil in the pan with the garlic, black pepper, and crushed red pepper flakes and cook, stirring, until the garlic is fragrant, 30 seconds–1 minute. Add the black-eyed peas, and once they start sizzling, add the greens. Stir and shift the greens around using a slotted spoon or tongs, and once they start to wilt, after 1 1/2 to 2 minutes, return the mushrooms to the pan. Cook, stirring frequently, until the greens are tender, 2–3 minutes more. Turn off the heat and serve.

The mushrooms with black-eyed peas and greens will keep in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 5 days.

All recipes excerpted from “Umami Bomb: 75 Vegetarian Recipes That Explode With Flavor” by Raquel Pelzel (Workman Publishing). Copyright 2019. Photographs by Kate Sears.

Using different umami-rich ingredients together also significantly ups the umami factor—think Parmesan cheese on tomato-sauced pasta.

ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY VECTOR TRADITION/SHUTTERSTOCK

PARSNIPS

During colonial times in America, parsnips were once more common than potatoes. They were a staple food, able to be stored for long periods of time during the cold season. These days, they are far less popular, but no less delicious.

Parsnips look like cream-colored carrots, and like carrots, they are thin-skinned and can be easily peeled with a vegetable peeler. While parsnips have a similar sweetness to carrots, they are starchier, with additional herby notes reminiscent of parsley, as well as a hint of bitterness. They’re rich in fiber, antioxidants, minerals, and vitamins including C, K, and B6.

Parsnips can be used in many ways. They can be eaten raw, but since they’re so starchy, are much more likely to be found in dishes where they are boiled, roasted, pureed, steamed, or fried. They add a creamy richness and sweet flavor to soups and stews, and are often eaten alongside roasts. You can even make a sweet wine with them.

We pureed them to create this rich, creamy soup that is both vegetarian and dairy-free. The parsnips are simply cooked right in the broth. For an equally delicious variation, substitute celeriac instead.



YUCA FRIES

Yuca’s consistency and sweet, earthy flavor are perfect for hearty, healthy oven fries. Kids will especially love this recipe.

SERVES 8

2 medium yuca roots, peeled

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

Sea salt

Ground black pepper

Dried or fresh thyme

Preheat oven to 190 degrees C.

Peel the waxy brown skin from the yuca roots and chop each one in half, width-wise at the middle, to make 4 pieces.

Place yuca in a medium

pot or saucepan, cover with water, and bring to a boil with a pinch of sea salt. Cook the yuca until you can pierce it with a fork, about 20–25 minutes.

When cooked, drain the water and place the yuca on a paper towel.

When cool enough, pat the yuca dry and chop the pieces into “French fry” sticks. Place the fries on a baking sheet. Lightly drizzle with olive oil, and season with sea salt, pepper, and thyme to taste. Use as much thyme as needed to dust each fry.

Bake the fries in the oven for 20 minutes, until golden, turning once. Enjoy!



VM2002/SHUTTERSTOCK

SPICED PARSNIP AND APPLE SOUP WITH TAHINI-HONEY SWIRL

Earthy parsnips, sweet apples, and warm spices make this a healthy, warming dish for autumn. Add a dollop of the tahini-honey swirl just before serving, for an extra nutty, slightly sweet flavor.

SERVES 7

For the soup:

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1/2 yellow onion, diced

2 sweet apples, such as Fuji, peeled and chopped

1 1/2 tablespoons ras el hanout spice blend

450g parsnips, peeled and chopped

1 gold potato, peeled and chopped

4 cups low-sodium vegetable broth

3 cups water

2 tablespoons lemon juice

For the tahini-honey swirl:

2 tablespoons tahini

1 tablespoon water

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 teaspoon honey

To make the soup, heat the olive oil over medium heat in a large stockpot.

Add the onions, apple, and ras el hanout, and sauté until soft and beginning to caramelize, about 15 minutes.

Add the parsnips, potato, broth, and water, and bring to a boil. When boiling, cover, reduce to a simmer, and cook 20 minutes.

Blend the soup in a blender or in the pot with an immersion blender, and stir in the lemon juice before ladling into bowls.

To make the tahini swirl, whisk together the tahini, water, lemon juice, and honey, and swirl a small amount into each bowl of soup before serving.

All recipes courtesy of Oldways

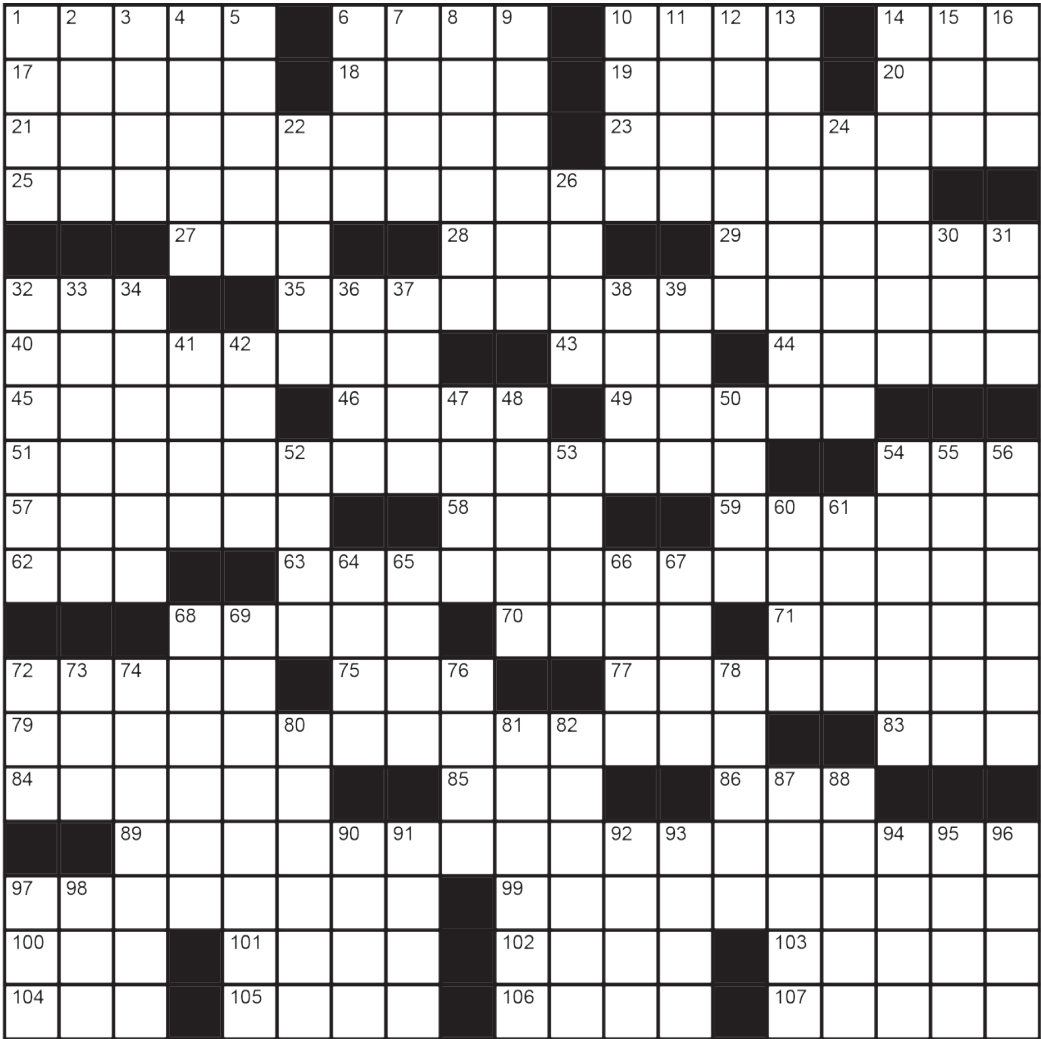


COURTESY OF OLDWAYS

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

CROSSWORD

CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON
EPOCH TIMES STAFF



Across

- 1. Intelligent
- 6. Religious offshoot
- 10. Grammy winner Cohn
- 14. Class-conscious grp.
- 17. Zealous
- 18. Yearn (for)
- 19. Beyond fussy
- 20. Galley need
- 21. Beautifully photo-graphed movie
- 23. Debuts in society
- 25. Megan J. Brennan, since 2018
- 27. Financing abbr.
- 28. Former French coin
- 29. Part of HVAC

- 32. Last: Abbr.
- 35. Ship part
- 40. Break a sweat
- 43. Corn site
- 44. Appalachian feature
- 45. Curry’s cooling accompaniment
- 46. No-win situation
- 49. Syrup flavor
- 51. No NFL or NBA team
- 54. Luau serving
- 57. Not mono
- 58. Jellied delicacy
- 59. Back
- 62. Steamy
- 63. Delicatessen side dish
- 68. “No way!”

- 70. Galley mark
- 71. Garlicky sauce
- 72. Suggest
- 75. Agcy. concerned with drones
- 77. Like transients
- 79. PAC funders
- 83. Prescribed
- 84. Brain cell
- 85. Cool, once
- 86. “___ fallen ...”
- 89. State Department labors
- 97. Bookkeeper’s item
- 99. Conductor, for example
- 100. Half a score
- 101. “Italian” treats

- 102. Comics canine
- 103. Frankincense and myrrh have them, but not gold
- 104. “Farm” animal
- 105. Start for pit?
- 106. Kind of breath
- 107. More than a scuffle

Down

- 1. Trickle
- 2. Waldorf salad ingredient
- 3. Many moons
- 4. “Right on!” to Cicero
- 5. Vagabond
- 6. Bursae
- 7. Authentic, in the state of Thuringia
- 8. Word with big or blue
- 9. Aryan Nations’ goal
- 10. Nutmeg-based spice
- 11. Ever’s partner
- 12. Baroque composer Jean-Philippe
- 13. Like some errors
- 14. “The Hustler” prop
- 15. Letter after sigma
- 16. Workmanship
- 22. Ankles
- 24. Refused 1964 Nobel Prize for Literature
- 26. Sudden burst
- 30. Morsel
- 31. Maiden name
- 32. Sudden increase of emotion
- 33. Shack
- 34. Table protector
- 36. A Pakistani poet might write in it
- 37. “Frasier” actress Gilpin
- 38. Dead center?

- 39. Authentic
- 41. Celeb
- 42. Glazier’s unit
- 47. On the ocean
- 48. Stimulates
- 50. Heraldic fur
- 52. Phoenician letter before resh
- 53. “... ___ like Christmas”
- 54. Superior black teas
- 55. End of a warning
- 56. Put one’s foot down
- 60. “Beat it!”
- 61. Act the P.I.
- 64. Galoots
- 65. Slap in Derby
- 66. Indiana town where Cole Porter was born
- 67. Over
- 68. Andromedas or fet-terbushes
- 69. “Maggie May” and “Amazing Grace”, e.g.
- 72. Sticker
- 73. A couple when wed
- 74. Pupil
- 76. “Arabian Nights” bigwig
- 78. Basket material
- 80. Intertwine
- 81. Walked back over
- 82. Morphine, e.g.
- 87. Indy 500 sound
- 88. Circumvent
- 90. Praiseful poems
- 91. Bungle, with “up”
- 92. Commend
- 93. Spill
- 94. Object of devotion
- 95. Mummy wrap
- 96. Anagram for seer
- 97. “H” on a frat sweater
- 98. Hankering

4NUMBERS

CONSTRUCTED BY C. CHANG
AT 4NUMS.COM

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

1936

34

236

+

−

×

÷

Hard 1 - 2 Solutions

334

78

19

+

−

×

÷

Hard 2 - 1 Solution

710

88

410

+

−

×

÷

Easy 1 - 1 Solution

14

16

14

+

−

×

÷

Easy 2 - 2 Solutions

WORDSEARCH

CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON
EPOCH TIMES STAFF

Help with Today’s Crossword Puzzle?

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

ARÊTE
CHEESE
EAGER
ENLACE
EVADE
INSIST
LEAN-TO
MAPLE
MELEE
ODORS
OPIATE
OSIER

PERSPIRE
PIERIS
POSIT
PSHAW
RAITA
RAMEAU
RECTA
RETROD
SARTRE
SMART
STEREO
STROPHIC

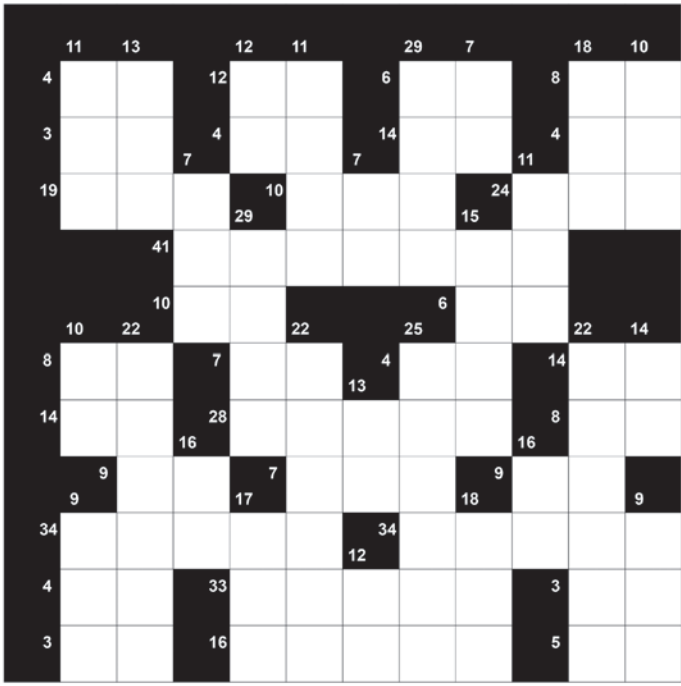
TARSI
TERROR
TRAMP
TRIVET
UPRUSH
VROOM
AIOLI
ASTERN
EYESHADE
PEKOES
RAILROADER
SUPERSTRUCTURE

KAKURO

CONSTRUCTED BY EPOCH TIMES STAFF

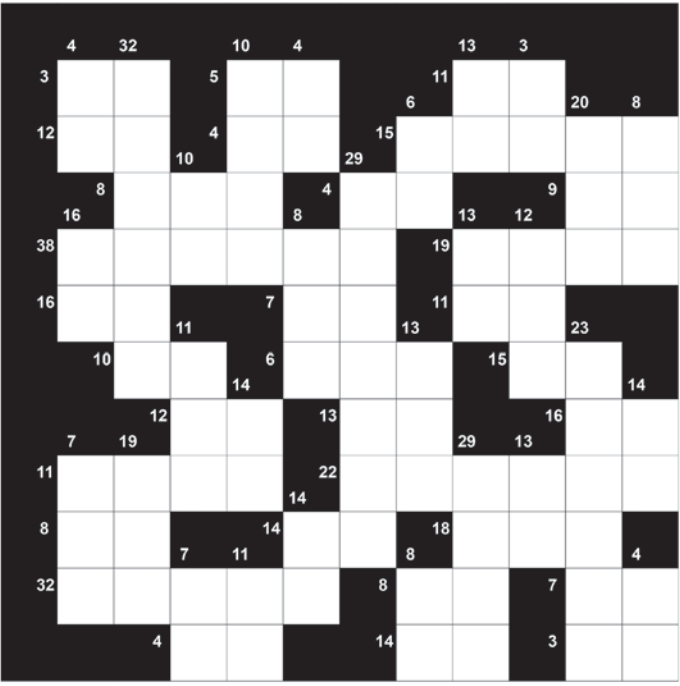
Kakuro puzzles are like crosswords that use numbers instead of words. The goal is to fill the blank squares associated with a clue (called a “run”) with the numbers 1-9 so that the numbers add up to the corresponding clues. Like Sudoku, digits in a run cannot repeat. When the grid is filled, the puzzle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

Large: Hard



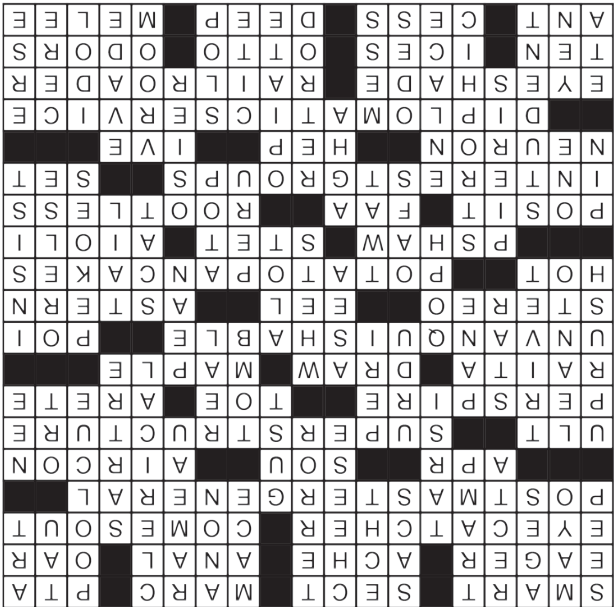
WORK SPACE

Large: Easy

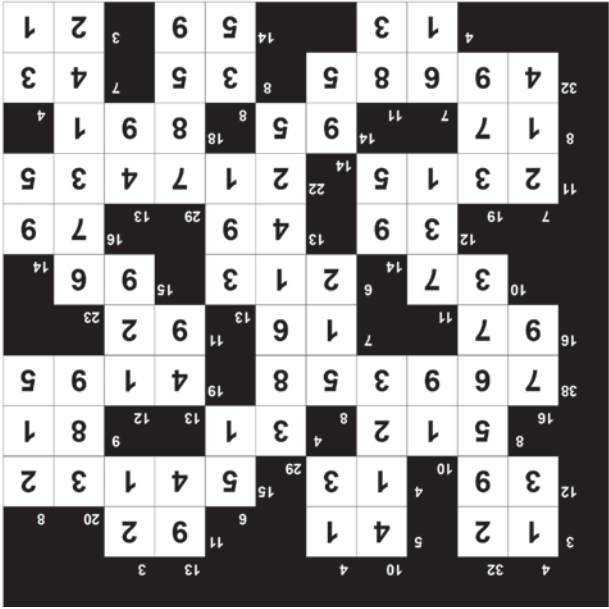


SOLUTIONS

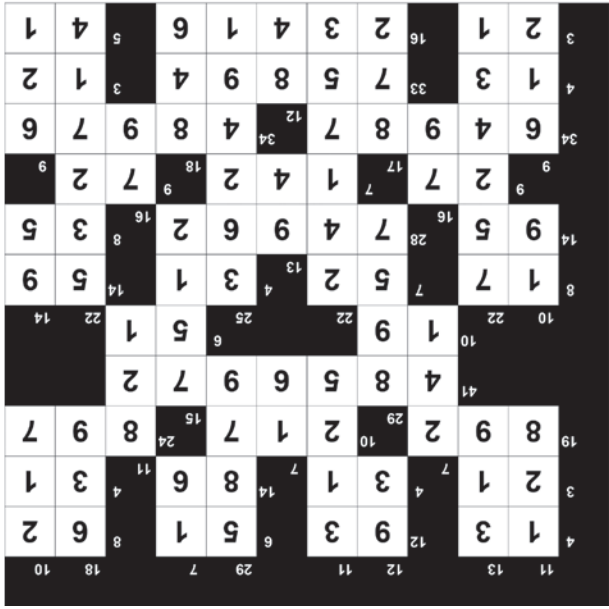
CROSSWORD



KAKURO LARGE: EASY



KAKURO LARGE: HARD



4NUMBERS

HARD 1
2 × 61 = 96
61 ÷ (36 + 2) = 96
HARD 2
3 × (6 - 1 + 1 + 1) = 36
EASY 1
101 = (4 + 10)
EASY 2
(4 + 4) × (1 + 1) = 4 × 4 = 16

ALL PHOTOS BY FRED J. ECKERT UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



The African elephant is Earth’s largest land animal, standing between 8–13 feet high at the shoulder and weighing from 2.5 to 7 tons. They live up to 70 years in the wild.

Experiencing Africa in the Wild: A ‘Five-Star Adventure’ in Botswana

FRED J. ECKERT

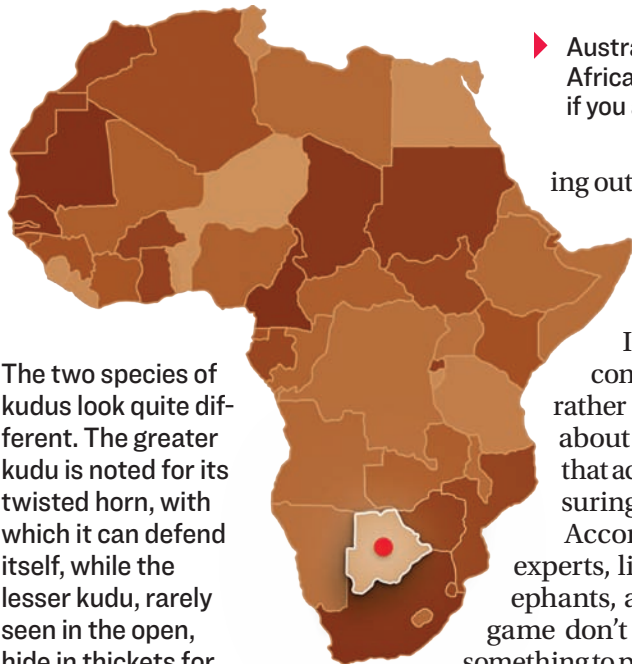
It’s a dark-as-dark-gets night in the remote area of Africa where I’m lying in bed reading by the light of a battery-powered fluorescent light hanging overhead.

I hear sounds of lions roaring. They’re very near. And I’m in a tent! All that stands between me and these lions is the tent’s canvas and, I’m guessing, maybe 30–40 yards.

Informed that this would be my next adventure, family and friends had asked: What about lions? What about leopards? Why wouldn’t they drop by and select you for a takeout meal?

There are very, very few instances of tourists being bothered by wild game while in their tent or riding in a vehicle—and nearly all of those instances occurred because someone ignored the common-sense rules of conduct that are so easy to grasp.

What makes me comfortable about stay-



The two species of kudus look quite different. The greater kudu is noted for its twisted horn, with which it can defend itself, while the lesser kudu, rarely seen in the open, hide in thickets for protection.



▶ Australian citizens travelling for tourism don’t need a visa for South Africa for a stay of 90 days. Be aware that there is separate advise if you are travelling with children. Go to www.smarttraveller.gov.au.

ing out in the wilds of Africa in a tent isn’t the statistical evidence that indicates that I have little to be concerned about, but rather a little knowledge about the explanations that account for the reassuring statistics.

According to wildlife experts, lions, leopards, elephants, and all other wild game don’t view humans as something to prey upon. They are put off by human scent and fear us as much or more than we fear them. Their natural tendency is to avoid us, not to confront us. And for them, any man-made structure, be it a skyscraper or a tent, is something incomprehensible and thus best avoided. Just be sure that you use common sense and keep your tent zipped up so nothing wanders in.

Great that my sturdy tent is huge—28 feet long, 14 feet wide, 10 feet high; a large bed with comfortable mattress and box spring; real furniture; and a “bush toilet,” a wooden seat toilet that looks like the ones back home except that instead of a flushing mechanism, it features a three-foot hole in the ground and a supply of lime and soil mixture that you toss in to maintain hygiene. There’s even a large “safari shower” cubicle so whenever you wish, the staff will heat water to your preferred temperature, pour it into the large canvas bag that hangs above your shower cubicle, and you can have a full-spray, fairly leisurely shower.

But what you really come to Africa for is the game viewing.

Our two or three times a day game-viewing expeditions were conducted in an open-sided, custom-designed four-wheel-drive Toyota Land Cruiser. You have the sense of an African panorama as you gaze at the wide views in front, beside, across, and behind you.

Couldn’t a lion or a leopard leap into an open vehicle? Of course. But you shouldn’t spend any time worrying about that because, as wildlife experts explain, when one of these creatures looks at people in a wide-open vehicle, he sees a strange object that he deems best to keep his distance from.

So when a few lions are a few yards away, sitting quietly looking up at me, what I think of is which aperture to set my camera at, not how far a lion can leap if it wishes to. If, however, I were so foolish as to ignore the guide’s advice and step out of the vehicle, I would quickly discover just how far and how fast a lion could pounce.

The simple truth is that if you carefully follow the advice of the experts and always use common sense, the African creature that is likely to represent the greatest danger for you isn’t any of the big game creatures, but rather the tiny mosquito. That’s because in Africa, many mosquitoes carry malaria, which, of course, you should take the proper medical precaution against.

The Guide Is the Key to a Great Safari

The best thing that can happen to you on safari is to be blessed with a great guide, and the smartest thing you can do on safari is to listen carefully and learn from him.

Our two guides were truly extraordinary. The Disney Company chose Abel July, a Botswana native and former police officer with a diploma in conservation and ecology and long experience as a senior guide, to be one of its consultants when it opened its Animal Kingdom at Disney World.

He can spot game without binoculars better than most guides can with them, and his wide knowledge and engaging personality make him a splendid interpreter of the wild kingdom. When I tried to put him on with that old gag of asking him with a straight face if zebras are white with black stripes or black with white stripes, without a pause, he got me right back by deadpanning that the ones that are white with black stripes are males and the ones that are black with white stripes are females.

A Man Who Talks to Lions

And then there’s Gavin Ford.

“Gavin,” I asked him one day, “How long is that lion likely to lie there like that?”

I was disappointed that a particularly photogenic large lion that had been sitting in a regal pose had suddenly decided to sprawl out on the ground just as I was getting ready to photograph him. Was there any point in waiting around for him to strike a better pose for me?

“He could stay like that all day,” Gavin said. “Unless someone calls him.”

And then he smiled and made a strange,



loud sound.

And then the lion got up, sat down for a while, and then started walking toward us. And I got some great lion photos.

Gavin Ford is the most remarkable guide that I have ever come across anywhere in Africa—or anywhere else, for that matter.

Born and raised in neighboring Zimbabwe while his father served there in the British military, Gavin has a passionate love of Africa and nature that makes being around him an incredibly interesting and extraordinarily educational delight. He seems to be able to talk to lions and other game. He seems to understand what the animals are thinking. Listening to him elucidate about the sweep of nature—plants and trees, soils, water, animals and the stars—is sort of like watching a fascinating documentary unfold before you. No, actually, it's more like feeling that you are part of that documentary.

It was under the direction of this extraordinary man—honors degree in zoology, trained medic, able mechanic, well-read, widely traveled, great storyteller, always pleasant and fun to be around, veteran leader of more than 2,000 safaris—that we experienced the enchanting allure of Botswana and its wildlife.

Seeing Just About Every African Wild Game Imaginable

At a waterhole in the Nxai Pan National Park of the great Kalahari Desert region we twice—twice!—witnessed the drama of a successful lion hunt: a couple of lionesses patiently stalking a large gathering of springbok; the skittish springbok sipping water only when the lionesses seemed not too dangerously close; the lazy lion getting up and seeming to admonish the lionesses to try harder, then returning to rest himself under a shade tree; the springbok making a fatal miscalculation; the rapid surge and flying leap of one of the lionesses; the lazy lion moseying over to claim the kill that is turned over to him without challenge; the lionesses now free to start working for a meal of their own; an elephant coming to the waterhole and shooing away the lionesses; the hyenas and vultures suddenly making an appearance in the area.

In the Moremi Wildlife Reserve of the vast Okavango Delta, an area that boasts some 9,000 species of flora and fauna and is probably the most scenic area in Botswana, we see in great abundance and in close proximity to one another just about every conceivable kind of southern African wildlife—lion, elephant, leopard, buffalo, cheetah, wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, impala, kudu, waterbuck, hippopotamus, hyena, warthog,

baboon, monkey, jackal, bat-eared fox, even several of the endangered wild dog known as the Cape hunting dog or painted wolf. Plus an abundance of incredible birdlife.

Riding in a small boat on the Chobe River, we watch herds of elephant cross the river against the blazing backdrop of the setting African sun.

And so it goes. One delightful experience after another.

A typical safari day starts with a game run that begins at around sunrise and lasts a few hours, after which an English breakfast is served, often followed by more game viewing, then a three-course lunch, with an afternoon game run starting at about 3:30 p.m. and lasting until dark. After showering and savoring a gourmet dinner under the African stars, we sit around the campfire as

Gavin Ford and Abel July enthrall us with tales about Africa. As the sounds of the wild alternatively fade and soar, I fall into a sound sleep in my tent, looking forward to the dawn of another great day on safari.

We spend two days out in the bush in our tents at a remote, unspoiled spot and then move on. As we prepare to fly out for a few days stop at a luxury lodge—one time, it is the camp at Chobe Chilwero, currently being rebuilt, another time, it the fabulous Chief's Camp, where you can even go on walking safaris—the staff disassembles our campsite and loads everything into the specially designed seven-ton truck that carries

all our tents, all our furniture, our kitchen equipment, our food supply, and our huge mobile reservoir of fresh water. They pack up everything, even the garbage, and totally restore the area. If you happened across the campsite you would never know anyone had ever been there.

As we relax at one of these luxury permanent lodges, going on game viewing excursions each day while residing in something more like a hotel, the staff journeys overland to a far distant and distinctly different part of Botswana. We and our two guides fly there a couple of days later. When we arrive back in the bush, the rest of the team greet us with song, and I feel anxious to begin another genuine bush safari adventure experience.

Lovely Images and Fond Memories

And back home in the United States, long lingering in the recesses of my mind, are lovely images and fond memories of a wonderful experience savoring one of the most spectacular wildlife displays available anywhere on earth. How nice it was to have done it all in a manner of style and comfort that an Australian friend summed up as “five-star adventure.”

The African elephant is Earth's largest land animal, standing between 8–13 feet high at the shoulder and weighing from 2.5 to 7 tons. They live up to 70 years in the wild.

All that stands between me and these lions is the tent's canvas and, I'm guessing, maybe 30 to 40 yards.

As the sounds of the wild alternatively fade and soar, I fall into a sound sleep in my tent, looking forward to the dawn of another great day on safari.

The Baines Baobabs in Nxai Pan National Park.



If You Go: Experiencing Africa in Style

Information: Website: The 10-day Botswana Safari in Style is offered by Abercrombie & Kent.

Best time to go: For safaris, choose the dry season, mid-April through mid-October.

Safety: The smartest safety precaution you can take is to listen carefully to your professional safari guide and do what he tells you. There is always the potential for danger in the wild, but it seems to diminish in proportion to one's use of common sense.

Health: Malaria medication should be taken just before, during, and for a while after a visit to Botswana or most other parts of Africa. This is strongly recommended by the US Centers for Disease Control. Other medication or shots may also be appropriate. Be sure to check with your doctor. A safari is normally not a very strenuous activity.

Language: While Botswana has several different ethnic groups, it is a former British colony so just about everyone, except some rural tribespeople, speaks English. English is the country's official language and is the language of instruction from the fifth year of primary school on.

Guidebooks: You probably don't need one if you're booking through a tour operator. Better to get a good guide to African wildlife and a good book on wildlife photography.

Camera equipment: If you are thinking of upgrading your camera equipment, do it before, not after, your African safari. Bringing one lens of at least 200 mm, preferably longer, is just about a must if you intend to return home with some better-than-average photos.

Should you bring the children? No. Don't even think of it. While some safari operators permit children as young as 9 years old—occasionally even younger—to be included, it is not a good idea. Guides are not babysitters, and children, no matter how mature beyond their years, are likely to get bored easily and can't be depended upon to remember to constantly take the common-sense precautions that are essential to a safe safari.

What should you pack? Any good tour operator provides its clients with a comprehensive checklist of what to bring and not to bring. Don't forget the binoculars, eye protection, and insect repellent.

Entry documents: Australian citizens travelling for tourism don't need a visa for South Africa for a stay of 90 days. Be aware that there is separate advise if you are travelling with children. Go to www.smarttraveller.gov.au.

Travel tip for peace of mind: If you ever had to be medically evacuated while traveling, it could cost you tens of thousands of dollars. Many plans that claim they cover this fall far short. My wife and I cover ourselves against this with membership in MedjetAssist.

Fred J. Eckert is a retired U.S. ambassador and former member of Congress. His writings have appeared in many leading publications, including Reader's Digest and The Wall Street Journal. He is also an award-winning photographer whose collection of images spans all seven continents.

KAREL GALLAS/SHUTTERSTOCK



REACHING WITHIN: WHAT TRADITIONAL ART OFFERS THE HEART

‘The Return of the Prodigal Son’: Love and Forgiveness

ERIC BESS

I recently came across Pompeo Batoni’s “The Return of the Prodigal Son” and was immediately struck by the care and warmth between the two figures in the painting. What might this painting and the story it represents provide for us today?

Pompeo Batoni and the Grand Tour
Pompeo Batoni (1708–1787) has been described as Italy’s “last old master.” During the 18th century, he was the most famous painter in Europe and dominated Italian portrait painting. He was also well-known for religious and allegorical paintings. During the 18th century, the Grand Tour, which was a rite of passage for wealthy young men, was very popular. The youths traveled throughout Europe to gain a deeper connection to their traditions and cultural heritage. Many wealthy patrons on the Grand Tour commissioned portraits from Batoni. The artist flattered his sitters by depicting them in a grand historical scene with historical dress. In a way, these portrait paintings became physical manifestations of the patron’s connection with tradition. Alongside his portraits, Batoni’s allegorical and religious paintings were also highly prized. He painted scenes that exemplified Western culture. His painting “The Return of the Prodigal Son” depicts a biblical parable that shares principles of the Western traditions embodied by the Grand Tour.

Parable of the Prodigal Son
Jesus tells the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15: 11-31 (NIV). The story introduces a father with two sons. The younger son requests his inheritance so he can travel, and his father agrees. But after the young son gathers his possessions and leaves for a distant land, he squanders his wealth. A terrible famine terrorizes the distant land, and the young man finds that he needs to work; he ends up tending pigs. As times are so hard, he gets so hungry that he even eats pig feed. He decides to return to his father. Upon seeing his son returning, the father runs to him and embraces him. The young man says, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father rejoices: He gives his young son a robe, a ring, sandals, and a homecoming celebration, stating, “For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” The older son, however, refuses to participate in the celebration. Despite his obedience to his father, he believes that his father is favoring his younger brother. The father pleads with his older son to recognize and appreciate all that he provides for him and to also celebrate the return of his younger brother.

Batoni and ‘The Return of the Prodigal Son’
Batoni depicted the moment the younger son returns to his father. I believe this to be the moment the son falls to his knees and says, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” The father takes his son’s elbow to help him up, and he goes to cover his son’s bare back with his robe.



Though there are just two figures, Batoni maintained the father as the primary focal point through several compositional methods.

“The Return of the Prodigal Son,” 1773, by Pompeo Batoni. Oil on Canvas, 54 inches by 40 inches. Museum of Art History, Vienna, Austria.

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Batoni depicted only the father and young son in his composition. Though there are just two figures, Batoni maintained the father as the primary focal point through several compositional methods.

First, the father has a higher placement in the composition. A hierarchy of importance is suggested between the father and his young son since the son kneels and makes himself lower in the presence of his father.

Next, there are more rendered details on the father than on the young son. The father's clothing has an array of textures: He has donned gold and jewelry and has textured fur and a velvety robe. The son is depicted with a bare back and a simple peasant garment to cover himself. The details and textures make the father a more important compositional figure than the son.

Finally, Batoni used color intensity to maintain the father as the primary focal point. The father's garb is much more colorful than the son's. Batoni incorporated the complementary colors of red and green into the father's clothes. Complementary colors are believed to be colors that naturally contrast one another and thereby hold our gaze longer than an area of lower contrast like the simple browns of the son's clothes.

Even the father's flesh has more color than the son's flesh: The father's rosy cheeks and hands are more vibrant than the son's yellowish tones.

Traditional Values: Love and Forgiveness

I think Batoni wisely made the father the focal point. The father represents much more than just a father. Because of his actions, the father represents the traditional spiritual values of love and forgiveness—values that can be beneficial as the focal points of our lives.

I see the younger son representing a youthful curiosity because of his desire to embrace worldly life and travel to distant lands. I see the older son representing a sense of entitlement because he believes that he doesn't get enough from his father.

The two sons approach the values of love and forgiveness that the father represents in different ways. The young, desiring the pleasures of life, steps away from traditional values and suffers immensely. It is only upon the return home that the young son is given a ring, a robe, and is celebrated for being "alive again"; that is, it is through these traditional values that the young son is truly alive and prospers.

The older son is also tempted by the pleasures of life. He wants more from his father. In other words, he feels that the love and care he has received have not been enough. His desire for more begins a journey down the destructive path of jealousy.

What the older son doesn't realize is how much his father has already provided him. He never disobeyed his father; that is, he never strayed from home, and therefore was always wealthy. But without having embraced the values of love and forgiveness—the spiritual underpinning of life—he was never truly alive.

It is the father who must remind his older son that he has never suffered for lack of comfort or pleasure. The father not only forgives his younger son, but he also encourages his older son to love and forgive his brother. The father is the source of love and forgiveness. Therefore, the father is the focal point of the story.



"Portrait of a Young Man" by Pompeo Batoni. Oil on Canvas, 97 1/8 inches by 69 1/4 inches. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Bringing Tradition Forward
Traditional principles become tradition because they prove to be consistently beneficial to the people who engage in them. The Grand Tour encouraged traditional values by exposing youths to the outward manifestation of Western culture: beautiful architecture, artwork, and the best refinements that each country toured had to offer.

Let's not forget the best of the inward refinements that Western culture offered: the traditional principles of love and forgiveness. With these in mind, maybe, like Batoni, we can be exemplars for reinvigorating these values—a Grand Tour of what it means to be loving and forgiving. Historically, these principles have been beneficial to us when we accept and practice them.

Now when I see Batoni's painting, I am reminded to forgive and care for the people who are only trying to find their way in their own stories. It reminds me that I don't need to wander away from these values in search of life's pleasures, refuse to celebrate with those who seem to have more than I, nor attack people who are acting out their jealousy and entitlement. I need, instead, to embody and encourage love and forgiveness, and perhaps I too can physically manifest my connection to tradition.

All biblical passages are from the New International Version.

Art has an incredible ability to point to what can't be seen so that we may ask "What does this mean for me and for everyone who sees it?" "How has it influenced the past and how might it influence the future?" "What does it suggest about the human experience?" These are some of the questions I explore in my series Reaching Within: What Traditional Art Offers the Heart.

Eric Bess is a practicing representational artist. He is currently a doctoral student at the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts (IDSVA).

SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS

Audience Reactions

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

The Epoch Times is a media sponsor of Shen Yun Performing Arts, and believes its mission to revive the 5,000-year civilization of China is history in the making, and in line with our mission of covering and preserving traditional arts and culture.



Shen Yun reminds us that we are, of course, beings of flesh, but also, spiritual beings, therefore composed of a body and a soul ... And it reminds us that we must not let go of this spirituality that we have within us and which makes us men, in our own right, with this body and soul. It transcends us!

BERNARD LAUZIER, at Palais des Congrès de Tours, France, on Feb. 18, 2020



Well, the whole thing is artistic, from the color, from the dancing, the music. I mean everything about it. I think it's just so well done. It's blowing my mind, honestly. I'm really enjoying it. It's just so fluid. It has a peace to it. It's not loud, stomping, it's not R-rated or anything. It's just beautiful. It is godly, I think.

JEFF WALLING, artist, The Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg, Fla., on Feb. 20, 2020



Every year there's more and more energy, which is nice. The audience is engaged—just hear everyone around us! They actually get engaged. It's like you're a part of it. We feel like we're back 5,000 years ago.

GARRY LOWENTHAL, venture capitalist, at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in St. Paul, Minn. on Feb. 20, 2020



I think it's a great thing, what [Shen Yun is] doing, because it's really—if there are no people trying to revive the history, the history will be forgotten. And it's very important ... that everybody see it, that everybody hear it. It's sad that if this particular style and cultures disappear. So keeping it alive is very very important for all the new generation that have never seen such a thing. I believe it's an important part.

SARWAT KALUBY, dance studio owner, championships organizer, and former ballet dancer, at the Thrasher-Horne Center in Jacksonville, Fla., on Feb. 22, 2020



[Shen Yun] is astonishing. It's better than I could have imagined and I imagined quite a bit actually. So it's beautiful, it's touching, and I feel like I'm being rude because I can't clap half of the time. I'm on the verge of tears, or I'm laughing, or just so touched, just really extraordinary. ... You know, I actually came here with a bit of a heavy heart. And as I was watching, and as I was listening, I could feel my heart healing. It was very powerful. It's really amazing.

MICHELLE VIRGINIA BURGER, business owner, Tucson Music Hall in Arizona on Feb. 22, 2020

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How Many Emotions Can Music Make You Feel?

Researchers have mapped 13 key emotions triggered when we listen to music

YASMIN ANWAR

The “Star-Spangled Banner” stirs pride. Ed Sheeran’s “The Shape of You” sparks joy. And “ooh là là!” best sums up the seductive power of George Michael’s “Careless Whispers.”

University of California–Berkeley researchers have surveyed more than 2,500 people in the United States and China about their emotional responses to these and thousands of other songs from genres including rock, folk, jazz, classical, marching band, experimental, and heavy metal.

The upshot? The subjective experience of music across cultures can be mapped within at least 13 overarching feelings: amusement, joy, eroticism, beauty, relaxation, sadness, dreaminess, triumph, anxiety, scariness, annoyance, defiance, and feeling pumped up.

“Imagine organizing a massively eclectic music library by emotion and capturing the combination of feelings associated with each track. That’s essentially what our study has done,” said study lead author Alan Cowen, a University of California–Berkeley doctoral student in neuroscience.

The findings were published recently in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

“We have rigorously documented the largest array of emotions that are universally felt through the language of music,” said study senior author Dacher Keltner, a University of California–Berkeley professor of psychology and Greater Good Science Center founding director.

Cowen and fellow researchers have translated the data into an interactive audio map where visitors can move their cursors to listen to any of thousands of music snippets to find out, among other things, if their emotional reactions match how people from different cultures respond to the music.

Potential applications for these research findings range from informing psychological

and psychiatric therapies designed to evoke certain feelings to helping music streaming services like Spotify adjust their algorithms to satisfy their customers’ audio cravings or set the mood.

While both U.S. and Chinese study participants identified similar emotions—such as feeling fear when hearing the “Jaws” movie score—they differed on whether those emotions made them feel good or bad.

“People from different cultures can agree that a song is angry, but can differ on whether that feeling is positive or negative,” said Cowen, noting that positive and negative values, known in psychology parlance as “valence,” are more culture-specific.

Across cultures, study participants mostly agreed on general emotional characterizations of musical sounds, such as anger, joy, and annoyance. But their opinions varied on the level of “arousal,” which refers in the study to the degree of calmness or stimulation evoked by a piece of music.

How They Conducted the Study

For the study, more than 2,500 people in the United States and China were recruited online. First, these volunteers scanned thousands of videos on YouTube for music evoking a variety of emotions. From those, the researchers built a collection of audio clips to use in their experiments.

Next, nearly 2,000 study participants in the United States and China each rated some 40 music samples based on 28 different categories of emotion, as well as on a scale of positivity and negativity, and for levels of arousal.

Using statistical analyses, the researchers arrived at 13 overall categories of experience that were preserved across cultures and found to correspond to specific feelings, such as “depressing” or “dreamy.”

To ensure the accuracy of these findings in a second experiment, nearly 1,000 people from the United States and China rated more than 300 additional Western and tra-

ditional Chinese music samples that were specifically intended to evoke variations in valence and arousal. Their responses validated the 13 categories.

Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons” made people feel energized. The Clash’s “Rock the Casbah” pumped them up. Al Green’s “Let’s Stay Together” evoked sensuality, and Israel (Iz) Kamakawiwo’ole’s “Somewhere over the Rainbow” elicited joy.

Meanwhile, heavy metal was widely viewed as defiant and, just as its composer intended, the shower scene score from the movie “Psycho” triggered fear.

Researchers acknowledge that some of these associations may be based on the context in which the study participants had previously heard a certain piece of music, such as in a movie or YouTube video. But this is less likely the case with traditional

Chinese music, with which the findings were validated.

Cowen and Keltner previously conducted a study in which they identified 27 different human emotions, in response to visually evocative YouTube video clips. For Cowen, who comes from a family of musicians, studying the emotional effects of music seemed like the next logical step.

“Music is a universal language, but we don’t always pay enough attention to what it’s saying and how it’s being understood,” Cowen said. “We wanted to take an important first step toward solving the mystery of how music can evoke so many nuanced emotions.”

Yasmin Anwar is a media relations representative at the University of California–Berkeley. This article was originally published on Greater Good online magazine.



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