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"He met more people in those days, between work and sport, than I did in six months."

Codogno hospital's chief physician Giorgio Scanzi, on Italy's coronavirus "patient zero"

WORLD | A2

"What repulses me the most is how the CCP blindfolded the public by indoctrinating them with lies. They have jailed them behind the high walls."

Zhang Wenbin, a college senior in China, on the Chinese Communist Party shortly before his disappearance

CHINA | A4

"This is a precautionary, temporary measure to increase our visibility and scrutiny over all foreign investment proposals to ensure that they're in the national interest."



Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton at the Department of Justice in Washington on March 5, 2020.

CCP INFLUENCE

Australia Bans Exports of Medical Supplies After Items Sent in Bulk to China

Shipments were arranged by a former Chinese army officer

MIMI NGUYEN LY

he Australian government on March 29 enacted new laws banning price gouging as well as the export of personal protective equipment (PPE) and disinfectant products as supplies in hospitals, aged-care centers, and other centers across the country are in short supply amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton moved to ban the exports of disposable masks, gloves, gowns, and eye visors, as well as disinfectant products like alcohol wipes and hand sanitizer.

Those breaching the law can be punished with up to five years in jail. Australia's Customs can seize the critical items and incorporate them into the national stockpile for use by healthcare workers, provided the items are not defective. The latest measure comes after Chinese-Australian companies reportedly sent back bulk medical supplies to China in recent months as people in Wuhan and across China fought the first known epidemic of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) virus, commonly known as the novel coronavirus.

The Epoch Times refers to the novel coronavirus, which causes the disease COVID-19, as the CCP virus because the Chinese Communist Party's coverup and mismanagement allowed the virus to spread throughout China and create a global pandemic.

In one case, Australian employees of

The latest measure comes after Chinese-Australian companies reportedly sent back bulk medical supplies to China. \$3.00

CCP PROPAGANDA

China Uses Fake Hijacked Twitter Accounts to Spread Virus Propaganda

FRANK FANG

China is using thousands of fake and hijacked Twitter accounts to carry out its disinformation campaign surrounding the CCP virus, according to a recent study.

New York-based nonprofit media ProPublica, in a study released on March 26, tracked more than 10,000 suspected fake and hacked Twitter accounts and found that they were "involved in a coordinated influence campaign with ties" to the Chinese regime since August 2019.

Many of these accounts, which previously targeted political dis-Continued on A5

CHINA UNREST

Riot Breaks Out in China as People Try to Leave Virus-Hit Hubei

EVA FU

A riot erupted on March 27 on a bridge connecting China's Jiangxi Province and the virus epicenter of Hubei, where provincial authorities had lifted lockdown measures days earlier.

Footage of the incident shows residents from Hubei shouting and stomping on police cars, overturning multiple vehicles after Jiangxi police blocked them at the checkpoint on the bridge. *Continued on* **A4**



Treasurer Josh Frydenberg on his increased power to block foreign investment in Australia

AU A8

"This trial will allow the vaccine's effectiveness against COVID-19 symptoms to be properly tested, and may help save the lives of our heroic frontline healthcare workers."

Professor Kathryn North, director of Murdoch Children's Research Institute, on the trial of a tuberculosis vaccine against the Wuhan virus

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Greenland Group, a global property giant backed by the Shanghai government, bought up 3 million masks, *Continued on A8*

Residents from Hubei Province packed a bridge where police from the neighboring Jiangxi Province blocked their entry.

CORONAVIRUS

Beijing Could Be Held Legally Responsible for Mishandling CCP Virus Outbreak, Experts Say

JANITA KAN

Months before the CCP virus developed into a global pandemic, Wuhan doctors tried signaling their concerns about a mysterious pneumonia caused by a SARS-like virus. Instead of allowing the warnings to flow to the public, Chinese authorities censored the information and reprimanded the doctors for "spreading rumors."

As more information about the virus emerged, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) failed to share it with the rest of the world and instead downplayed its severity. It withheld information, censored reports, and made false misrepresentations to the Chinese people and the international community.

When the regime finally placed its first containment measure on Jan. 23 by locking down the virus epicenter Wuhan, it was already too late. The virus had already spread across the country and would eventually spread to 185 nations and territories globally.

One study, currently in preprint from researchers at the University of Southhampton in the UK, found

But it appears in this case, China did not fulfill its duty.

James Kraska, chair and Charles H. Stockton Professor of international maritime law in the Stockton Center for International Law at the U.S. Naval War College

that if Chinese authorities had acted three weeks earlier, the number of cases could have been reduced by 95 percent.

The CCP's suppression of information and mismanagement during the early stages of the deadly outbreak, which has resulted in sweeping human and economic devastation worldwide, is now raising questions about whether the regime can be held legally accountable for the virus's spread around the world. Some legal experts believe so.

James Kraska, chair and Charles H. Stockton Professor of international *Continued on* **A3**

US Charges Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro With Narco-Terrorism, Drug-Trafficking JANITA KAN organization-the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia

(FARC)-to smuggle cocaine into the

United States. The socialist leader

has been charged with participat-

ing in narco-terrorism conspiracy-

which carries a 20-year minimum

sentence, conspiring to import co-

caine into the United States, and re-

lated criminal offenses to support

Attorney General William Barr

announced the charges during a

the drug smuggling effort.

Continued on A6

The United States has indicted Venezuela's socialist dictator Nicolás Maduro and other top regime officials in a narco-terrorism and drug trafficking conspiracy that aimed to "flood the United States with cocaine," the Justice Department announced.

dential palace in Caracas, Venezuela, on Feb. 14, 2020.

The department unsealed a criminal indictment against Maduro, accusing him of facilitating efforts in conjunction with a violent terrorist



TERRORISM

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.



Italy Epidemic Follows China Ties, Although Origin Still Unknown

PETR SVAB

News Analysis

About every two minutes, someone in Italy dies because of the CCP virus, a pandemic of a SARS-like disease that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) allowed to spread around the world by covering up the existence of the initial outbreak in China.

Italy has been the hardest-hit country after China, with more than 80,000 confirmed infections and more than 8,000 dead as of March 26. It's still not exactly clear how the Italian outbreak started. The province at its epicenter, though, has especially intense business ties to China and the country as a whole has been criticized for getting too close to the "Red Dragon."

Seed of the Epidemic

The first two cases of the virus in Italy were a couple from the central Chinese city of Wuhan–the epicenter of the infection. They arrived in Milan on Jan. 24 and for the next week traveled south to Rome, where they developed symptoms. Another case was an Italian man who tested positive after returning from China in late January.

None of these are believed to have caused an outbreak. For nearly two weeks, the number of confirmed cases stayed at three.

Then, on Feb. 18, a 38-year-old man showed up at a hospital in Codogno, a small town about 30 miles southeast of Milan. Two days prior, he was prescribed influenza medicine at the hospital, but his symptoms failed to improve, Italian paper La Repubblica reported. The man didn't disclose any connection to China and no quarantine protocols were engaged.

One day later, he started to have breathing problems, and his wife recalled that he met a friend who returned from China several weeks before. A test was administered and came back positive. The difficult work of reconstructing the man's activities over the prior few weeks began.

"He met more people in those days, between work and sport, than I did in six months," Giorgio Scanzi, the hospital's chief physician, said.

The man's pregnant wife and personal doctor became sick, and some of the hospital staff became ill.

The number of cases in the area started to climb. First by dozens, then by hundreds, then by thousands. As of March 25, nearly half of all the confirmed cases in Italy are concentrated in the Lombardy region around Milan. The province of Lodi, which covers Codogno and the surrounding towns, has more than eight infected per 1,000 residents-about eight times the national average. But something wasn't adding up. The sick man worked as a research and development manager for Unilever, a multinational food and hygiene corporation. The company has an extensive presence in China, in-



Italys Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte (L) shows the way to Chinese leader Xi Jinping during a welcoming ceremony upon Xi's arrival in Rome on March 23, 2019.

It tells us that interdependence [on] China can be a problem not only from an economic or industrial etc. point of view, but also from a national security, national health prophylaxis.

Andrea Delmastro Delle Vedove, member, Brothers of Italy Party's foreign affairs committee



A worker takes in a coffin in the Crematorium Temple of Piacenza saturated with corpses awaiting cremation due to the CCP virus emergency in Northern Italy on March 23, 2020.

cluding a research and development facility in Shanghai, but it isn't clear whether the man could have come in contact with the virus even indirectly through Unilever operations. The company didn't respond to a request by The Epoch Times for comment.

His friend who had returned from China later tested negative. So where did the man contract the virus? There's no clear answer. Italian authorities are now focused on the epidemic itself, rather than chasing the country's "patient zero." The province has more than 6,000 virus cases.

CLAUDIO FURLAN/LAPRESSE VIA AP

Bergamo, the province with most confirmed cases (more than 7,000), has long had a twin relationship with Yanbian Prefecture, a Chinese autonomous region at the North Korean border. The prefecture even opened an office in the Italian province. Bergamo's China trade reached nearly \$1.6 billion in 2018.

Brescia, home of the firearms manufacturer Beretta, is doing more than \$1 billion worth of business with China a year. It now has nearly 6,600 cases of the CCP virus. lated region in the country, has fewer than 1,200 cases. It also does quite a bit of business with China, some \$2 billion a year.

The virus is expected to function better in colder weather. That may be a part of why the southern regions, including Campania, have seen fewer cases.

At the same time, the mere presence of Chinese immigrants doesn't necessarily align with outbreak hot spots.

The central province of Prato has been known for its large Chinese community. Thousands of Chinese textile factories, often staffed by illegal immigrants, have sprouted in the recent decade or two, outcompeting long-established local businesses by importing cheap Chinese fabrics, breaking Italy's tight labor laws, and sometimes dodging taxes.

But the province has had only 178 virus cases.

Belt and Road

The Italian government has in recent years boosted its ties to China, even as the European Union urged Italy in vain last year against joining the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI, or One Belt, One Road). That's Beijing's infrastructure project to connect itself to Europe, South and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Oceania, Latin America, and Africa through a web of ports, roads, and railways.

The project has been criticized for steering developing countries into debt traps and for expanding the CCP's military and political sphere of influence.

Italy saw in China a source of investment for its struggling economy, as well as a market for its products. But those prospects have been slow to materialize. In 2018, less than a quarter of a percent of all foreign direct investment in Italy came from China.

While the CCP has enjoyed the public relations effect of having one of the G-7 countries join the BRI, Italy hasn't realized many benefits. The RWR Belt and Road Monitor, which tracks Chinese investments under the initiative, has spotted just one deal so far: Jetion Solar (China) Co. and Eni SpA are to invest about \$2.2 billion into new solar projects.

Meanwhile, Italy continues to run massive trade deficits with China, including more than \$200 billion in 2018 alone. The virus now adds another perspective to the risk equation of China entanglements, according to Andrea Delmastro Delle Vedove, a member of the foreign affairs committee of Italy's conservative Fratelli d'Italia (Brothers of Italy) party. "Of course, the coronavirus opens a disturbing scenario," he told The Epoch Times in a previous interview. "It tells us that interdependence from China can be a problem not only from an economic or industrial etc. point of view, but also from a national security, national health prophylaxis."

China Ties

One thing is clear: If any place in Italy has close ties to China, it's Lodi. The city with a population of about 230,000 did more than \$2.6 billion worth of business with China in 2018, according to a local Chamber of Commerce. That's more than \$11 million a head—a rate nearly four times that of neighboring Milan.

Other hard-hit areas in Lombardy also have significant ties to China. Of all Italian provinces, Milan does the most business with China in absolute numbers—about \$9.4 billion in 2018. Nationwide, the regions that do the most business with China are also the ones hit the most by the virus: Lombardy, which does more than \$20 billion worth of business with China and has more than 32,000 cases; Emilia Romagna, with more than \$6.2 billion and more than 10,000 cases; Veneto, with more than \$6.4 billion and more than 6,400 cases; and Piemonte, with more than \$4.6 billion and more than 6,000 cases.

But the correlation isn't absolute. Campania, the most densely popu-

First-Ever Gene Editing Inside Body Raises Questions About Future

KEVIN HOGAN

NEW YORK-The genetics revolution has begun as scientists now have the ability to "hack the code of all of life, including our own" by manipulating the DNA that makes up the very foundation of our being, according to genome editing expert Jamie Metzl.

Scientists two weeks ago altered the DNA of a patient inside the body for the first time, which is different from therapies used in the last few years where genes are edited outside the body. The procedure comes after a Chinese scientist, He Jiankui, was imprisoned in December for making gene-edited babies in 2018.

Metzl, who is an adviser to the World Health Organization's committee on human genome editing and the author of the book "Hacking Darwin," says there needs to be a society-wide discussion on the use of gene editing technology.

"We have to be part of that conversation, but to be part of it, everybody has to be educated because what we're talking about is, in many ways, the future of our species," Metzl told NTD, the sister media of The Epoch Times.

Scientists performed the first procedure to edit a patient's genes inside the body, or "in vivo," at the Casey Eye Institute in Portland, Oregon, on March 4. They treated a patient, who has a rare form of inherited blindness, with a gene editing tool known as CRISPR in an attempt to restore the patient's vision.

The tool, CRISPR, is likened to a pair of molecular scissors that are able to cut strands of DNA. The tool was developed by mimicking the natural defense mechanisms of bacteria.

This technology allows for a shift in the way health care is delivered, from a generalized approach to one specific to the individual, according to Metzl.

"Now we're moving to this world of precision medicine and precision healthcare, where decisions will be made not just based on the fact that you're a human, but based on the fact that you are you," said Metzl.

He predicts that billions of people will have their entire genomes sequenced in the future.

"We'll have these massive genetic databases, and what are called phenotypic information in those databases, which is your life and health records," Metzl said. "And we put those together, we're going to use big data analytic tools that will transfer us from this world of precision health care, to predictive health care."

The paradox is that for these predictive methods to be useful, large genetic databases are needed, but it's important for individuals to be able to keep their genetic information private, according to Metzl.

"I think people are nervous and should be nervous, and we need more regulation. But we can't go all the way toward complete privacy," Metzl said.

Privacy isn't the only concern surrounding gene editing technology–accidental changes to the DNA may occur and that can be passed down to future generations.

There are two types of gene editing: somatic and germline. Somatic edits are done on cells that are not part of



Laboratory personnel perform an intra cytoplasmic sperm injection process (ICSI) at the medically assisted procreation (PMA) unit of Tenon Hospital in Paris on Sept. 24, 2019.

Beijing Could Be Held Legally Responsible for Mishandling CCP Virus Outbreak, Experts Say

CONTINUED FROM A1

maritime law in the Stockton Center for International Law at the U.S. Naval War College, said he believes the Chinese regime will have to bear responsibility for violating its duty under international law.

Under the law of state responsibility, he said, if a country has a legal duty to either do something but fails to do so, then it can be held legally responsible.

"The People's Republic of China is a treaty party to the International Health Regulations ... which almost every country in the world is a party to," Kraska told The Epoch Times. "And that treaty requires states to be very forthright or forthcoming, to expeditiously share information on a broad category of diseases, including new influenza-like illnesses, such as the coronavirus."

"This is a legal duty that states freely have entered into, and China like all states that are a party ... have agreed to do that," he added.

"But it appears in this case, China did not fulfill its duty."

The purpose of the International Health Regulations is to "to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade."

The revised 2005 version is an agreement between 196 countries, requiring parties to notify the World Health Organization (WHO) "of all events which may constitute a public health emergency of international concern within its territory."

It also requires parties to continue to inform WHO of "timely, accurate and sufficiently detailed public health information available to it on the notified event," including information such as laboratory results, source and type of the risk, number of cases and deaths, and conditions affecting the spread of the disease and the health measures employed.

Withholding Information



Medical staff transfer patients to Jin Yintan hospital in Wuhan, China, on Jan. 17, 2020. Local authorities have confirmed that a second person in the city has died of a pneumonia-like virus since the outbreak started in December.

So that means it's not just doing acts that are undiplomatic or that are unwelcome. It's actually suspending international law, meaning that the injured state can do things that are normally unlawful, such as violating the sovereignty of the state causing the damage.

James Kraska, chair and Charles H. Stockton Professor of international maritime law in the Stockton Center for International Law at the U.S. Naval War College

for Disease Control and Prevention. The Chinese regime reported the unidentified infectious disease to the WHO on Dec. 31.

There was evidence that showed a Chinese lab had already mapped out most of the virus' genome-a critical step for containing the outbreak and developing a vaccine-on Dec. 27. The findings were subsequently reported to Chinese officials and the state-affiliated Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences. A government-run laboratory also mapped the genome on Jan. 2, but this information was not made public and shared with the world until about a week later.

It also took the CCP about three weeks after informing the WHO about the virus to acknowledge that the virus could be spread from person to person. The Wuhan Municipal Health Commission falsely stated on Dec. 31 that there was no evidence of human-to-human transmission and that the disease was "preventable and controllable." The narrative continued until Jan. 20, when the top Chinese epidemiologist, Zhong Nanshan, acknowledged that over a dozen health workers had contracted the virus at the frontline. A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine in late January found that "there is evidence that human-to-human transmission has occurred among close contacts since the middle of December 2019." WHO repeated the Chinese misrepresentations in its public statements, but added on Jan. 14 the disease could be contagious among family members. Similarly, the Chinese regime also failed to expeditiously inform the WHO that health workers were also contracting the virus, information that would have been crucial to

share in order to understand hospital transmission and risk to healthcare workers. The regime only announced the number of infections among healthcare workers during a Feb. 14 press conference hosted by the State Council Information Office. A senior Chinese health official said 1,716 health workers had contracted the virus and that six of them had died.

There was also evidence that the Chinese regime was preventing labs from sharing information about the virus. Hubei's Provincial Health Commission ordered a lab to stop testing, not publish information related to the virus, and to destroy existing samples on Jan. 1, according to Chinese financial magazine Caixin.

The Chinese regime was also not responsive to international requests to learn about the virus and the outbreak. U.S. Health and Human Sevices Secretary Alex Azar previously said the United States had been trying to send a group of experts to understand the outbreak's transmission and severity since Jan. 6. However, the United States' repeated offers were left unanswered for a month. The Chinese regime eventually agreed to allow the WHO to send a group of international experts to study the virus in late January. This came after the WHO's director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus returned from a visit from China full of praise for its leader Xi Jinping and the regime's response efforts. Meanwhile, the regime silenced individuals from raising the alarm about the burgeoning outbreak. When multiple Wuhan doctors attempted to warn their colleagues and the public about a "pneumonia with

an unknown cause," later known to be the CCP virus, authorities attempted to silence them and reprimanded them for "rumor-mongering." The most notable of them was Dr. Li Wenliang, an ophthalmologist who ultimately succumbed to the disease after contracting it from a patient he was treating.

Kraska noted, however, that the CCP's failure to inform the international community about the virus should be distinguished from the misinformation of the Chinese regime to its citizens, which is a moral failure and cannot be actioned under international law.

"It's part of what autocracies do because they very much fear open society and open information," he said.

David Matas, a Canada-based lawyer who previously served as a member of the Canada delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, expressed a similar view to Kraska, saying that the regime could be in violation of the Biological Weapons Conventions, to which it is a party.

Matas, who was also a member of the Canada delegation to the United Nations Conference on an International Criminal Court, told The Epoch Times that the convention does not only talk about weapons but also biological agents. Countries party to the convention are obligated not to retain biological agents other than for peaceful purposes, he said.

"I would say that this coverup and repression is a form of retention of the virus, which is a biological agent. And so it's a violation of the convention, at least in my view," Matas said, adding that he believes repressing information about the virus is not a "peaceful purpose" under the convention.

In order to enforce the convention, a party state such as the United States could then make a complaint to the U.N. Security Council, Matas said. The security council is then supposed to investigate the claims and produce a report based on the investigation. He added that if the security council finds Beijing responsible, it could trigger remedies.

The United States, for example, could then use the report as a basis to designate China as a "state sponsor of terrorism" under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSCA). This would then allow people in the United States to sue the regime for the harm caused, without facing the hurdle of sovereign immunity, a legal rule that insulates countries from being sued in other countries' courts. Currently, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, and Syria have been designated as state sponsors of terrorism.

Between mid-December and mid-January, the Chinese regime displayed a pattern of behavior of withholding information and making misrepresentations about the severity of the disease. Kraska said the delays to provide information to the World Health Organization (WHO) and false statements could be legally actionable under the law of state responsibility.

Chinese authorities started noticing a cluster of pneumonia cases with an unknown cause on Dec. 21, according to the Chinese Center

Eva Fu contributed to this report.

of Human Species



the reproductive system and are not meant to be passed down. While germline edits to eggs, sperm, and embryos lead to heritable genetic changes.

According to bioethicist Barbara Koenig, if a mistake is made in germline editing, "it will be a mistake for all future generations." There is concern that once the damage is done, it may be irreversible. Koenig also says "that somatic edits could have off target effects on egg or sperm."

If scientists perform a somatic edit in which unintentional changes occur in the sex cells, then it would be passed on, according to Metzl.

Metzl highlights the benefits to this technology, but recognizes the need for caution if it is used.

"We don't understand the vast majority of [our genet-

ics], but we will understand more and more and that will give us greater opportunities to intervene in ways that can protect us. But because of the incredible complexity of biology, we need to be very cautious and careful and conservative when doing so," he said.

Gene editing is not the only way in which human DNA is artificially manipulated. Clinics offer services where multiple eggs are fertilized in a lab and turned into embryos that are then screened for genetic defects. One of the embryos free from genetic diseases is then implanted into the mother to be a future child.

When conception is carried out in a laboratory it is called "in vitro fertilization" or IVF. The procedure for screening the DNA of the embryos for genetic defects is called "pre-implantation

genetic diagnosis" or PGD. Metzl predicts that if stem cells become safe for human use, it will be possible to create 10,000 human embryos and select one of them to implant into the mother. He says we may make a small number of changes to the DNA of the selected embryo to reduce health risks or enhance certain traits.

Within 10 years, this technology may be advanced enough to change a person's eye color by editing the genes of the embryo, according to Metzl.

The Catholic Church disapproves of in vitro fertilization, and any procedure that comes of it such as PGD or editing the genes of embryos.

"The separation of procreation from a sexual act in any way that that's done is disapproved," said Edward Mechmann, who is

an attorney with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese in New York. He said conception should be the result of an act of love between a husband and wife, not a scientific act.

"One of the key things is we very much disapprove of a kind of eugenic mentality where they're using any kind of gene editing to enhance characteristics," Mechmann said.

Metzl described a scenario in which this technology is developed and falls into the wrong hands.

"You could imagine a kind of a North Korea-like regime that says, well, first we're going to sort people, we're going to sequence everybody at birth, and we're going to sort them based on our sense of what's their capacity. So who gets to be in the military and who goes to the Olympic programs and who goes to physics school," Metzl said.

"I think that will certainly be doable."

"You could imagine those kinds of selections being made for docility in some kind of totalitarian state," he added.

A potential problem with this type of artificial gene selection is that if parents choose similar traits for their children "we could inadvertently reduce the genetic diversity of our species," Metzl said. "That genetic diversityit's not a nice to have, it's a need to have. It's the foundation of our survival. It translates into our resilience."

Metzl said that everyone needs to talk to their elected officials and ask them to focus on this important issue. He said one must ask if officials have a plan in place and ask how they will maximize the benefits and minimize the harms of this technology.

Chinese Student Stands Up to Communist Regime, Then Disappears

EVA FU

A college student in China has gone incommunicado after he publicly called for the country's ruling Communist Party to relinquish power.

"Down with the Communist Party," Zhang Wenbin, a college senior and programmer from China's northeastern Shandong Province, said in a March 30 video on Twitter, a platform blocked in China. The student used a VPN, a tool used by Chinese citizens to access overseas websites censored by the regime's internet firewall.

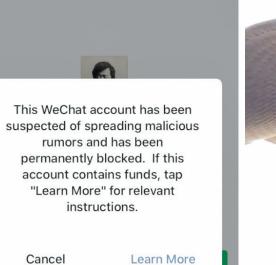
Days earlier, Zhang had also posted the same message in text on WeChat Moments, an Instagram-like Chinese platform.

The student wrote in another tweet on March 30 that the police had summoned him for the Wechat post, and he would soon be detained for five days. He hasn't made any more posts since then. On March 31, he was no longer accessible.

Zhang's disappearance comes as the regime has escalated its clampdown on dissenting voices amid its attempts to stifle domestic criticism of its mishandling of the CCP virus outbreak. Recently, Chinese tycoon Ren Zhiqiang went missing after he criticized the regime's response to the outbreak and called for freedom of speech.

Earlier this month, a Chinese primary school teacher also spent 10 days in detention and lost his teaching license for questioning the death figures officials released.

Chinese censors have permanently blocked Zhang's WeChat account on suspicion of "spreading malicious rumors," according to a screenshot Zhang posted. He said that Weibo and Qzone, two other social networks created by Chinese tech firm Tencent, were also not functioning properly for him.



Learn More

(Left) Zhang Wenbin's blocked WeChat account.

(Right) Zhang called on the ruling Chinese Communist Party to step down in a video posted on social media on March 30, 2020.

I was also once a 'Little Pink' [a term to describe youths indoctrinated by the regime] ... and only after getting through the Great Firewall did I come to recognize the party's sinister face.

Zhang Wenbin

"I was also once a 'Little Pink' [a term to describe youths indoctrinated by the regime] ... and only after getting through the [Great Firewall] did I come to recognize the Party's sinister face," Zhang said in the March 30 video.

He said that "seeing people of Hong Kong and Taiwan courageously resist" the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) over the recent months had inspired him to be more vocal in the hopes of helping the Chinese people see the ruling regime for its "true colors," and "push down the wall lying in front of us."

"Maybe I won't live to see the day the CCP falls, nor do I know if anyone will see this video, but regardless, I have been to this world," he said.

The video has been viewed over 175,200 times and received 2,200 likes so far.

Yang Jianli, founder of the Washington-based advocacy group Citizen Power Initiatives for China, said that Zhang was merely exercising his free-



SCREENSHOTS VIA TWITTER

But this right has remained only "on paper," Yang said.

He called the CCP a "barbarian regime" that sees maintaining its power as top priority.

Awakening, and a Desire to Speak Out

Shortly before his disappearance, Zhang described to The Epoch Times in an interview on March 30 how he came to openly criticize the Chinese regime.

It began about four years ago with Zhang circumventing China's internet firewall to read unfiltered information, and learning about the 1989 student-led pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square. The incident has since become a taboo topic in the country, with words referencing the incident swiftly removed from the internet, while those who speak out are punished.

From there, Zhang began to uncover

AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

the regime's sprawling network of lies piece-by-piece, from the devastation wrought by its stringent one-child policy-a drastic state birth control law that the government said averted 400 million births-to its persecution of faith groups such as Falun Gong, and repression in the regions of Xinjiang and Tibet.

He visited Hong Kong and Tibet to meet the locals, and came back comparing what he saw on the ground with how the government portrayed them.

"I realized that they have been lying throughout," he said. "It's no longer just what I learned from the internet, a lot are facts I saw first hand."

Zhang had largely kept these reflections to himself. But last October, Zhang took action to express support for the pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong.

He shared a Hong Kong protester-initiated campaign on WeChat, calling for people to support the movement by posting selfies with one hand covering their right eye. However, soon after he heard that police summoned his schoolmate for posting pro-Hong Kong remarks on social media. He immediately deleted his account.

"I was rather cowardly at the time," he said.

Still, the censors didn't let him off the hook. Zhang began having issues with Weibo, a Twitter-like platform.

Zhang searched for "sensitive" keywords including "we can't, we don't understand," a hashtag that began trending after the death of whistleblower doctor Li Wenliang. Li was silenced for speaking out about the growing outbreak in Wuhan, and soon died of the virus.

Zhang soon had issues commenting, sharing, or messaging. He deleted the app out of frustration.

Riot Breaks Out in China as People Try to Leave Virus-Hit Hubei

CONTINUED FROM A1

China Ramps Up South China Sea Provocations as US Battles CCP Virus

CHRISS STREET

News Analysis

China has sent its marine militia into the South China Sea to engage in a series of military provocations as the United States battles the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus, commonly known as the novel coronavirus.

The People's Armed Forces Maritime Militia (PAFMM), referred to as "little blue men," began in January to move vessels through the 34-milelong Union Banks, a sunken atoll in the center of the South China Sea's Spratly Islands chain, according to vessel-tracking and satellite imagery reviewed by Radio Free Asia (RFA).

Despite the United Nations recognition of claims by Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Taiwan, China asserts that it holds exclusive rights to more than 80 percent of the South China Sea, encompassing an area 1.4 million square miles in the Pacific Ocean that holds up to 22 billion barrels of oil, and 290 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

China has the world's largest and farthest-ranging fishing operations, outstripping the next 10 biggest nations combined. China deploys 672,000 motorized vessels with 2,500 of those fishing in "far off waters," according to Global Fishing Watch, a nonprofit group that tracks fishing activities. But thousands of full-time PAFMM sailors with military training that never fish are tucked within that fleet.

The PAFMM operates at least 84 purpose-built vessels with mast-mounted water cannons for spraying and reinforced steel hulls for ramming, according to Andrew Erickson, a professor of strategy in the U.S. Naval War College (NWC)'s China Maritime Studies Institute (CMSI).

The PAFMM boats that "fly the flag" are often shadowed by armed People's Liberation Coast Guard and Navy formations. The 2017 U.S. National Security Strategy (NSS) stressed that China is engaged in continuous

But let there be no doubt the ship is ready to respond if needed.

U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. John Aquilino

China's sole operational aircraft carrier, the Liaoning (front), sailing with other ships during a drill at sea in this file photo.

competition with America-neither fully "at peace" nor "at war." The NSS identified each of the three Chinese sea forces as representing significant and growing risks to U.S. interests and values.

The USS Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group, accompanied by the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in support of U.S. allies, conducted a South China Sea "freedom of navigation" operation, including a historic first port call to Danang on March 4 to celebrate 25 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam.

PFAMM vessels were spotted on March 14 at Johnson Reef, in the southwest corner of Union Banks. The timing corresponded with the anniversary of the 1988 Battle of Johnson Reef, in which dozens of Vietnamese troops died and China first seized control of the reef.

China seriously upped its provocations in February with its ground units firing lasers at U.S. surveillance aircraft in the region. The PLA Air Force also began conducting sorties in the East China Sea that included Shaanxi Y-8 planes conducting antisubmarine drills in the contested waters off the coast of Taiwan.

The United States retaliated March 23 with a Navy Lockheed EP-3E reconnaissance aircraft that conducted surveillance sorties between Taiwan and the Philippines.

The next day, the USS Barry, accompanied by the guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh, conducted a live-fire missile launch from the Philippine Sea into the South China Sea. In the most unusual move, the U.S. 7th Fleet posted a video of the activation and launch of a medium-range Standard Missile-2 on its Facebook page.

Such Chinese belligerence would normally result in the USS Theodore Roosevelt Task Force-which had moved west into the Philippine Seato reverse course and re-establish U.S. authority in the South China Sea. But on March 24, the world's most powerful Naval task force has been immobilized by an outbreak of the CCP virus.

U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. John Aquilino told The Associated Press (AP) that the Roosevelt would be moved to Guam, 2,000 miles from the South China Sea. He warned U.S. adversaries, "But let there be no doubt the ship is ready to respond if needed."

But retired Adm. James Stavridis, a former ship commander who became NATO's top commander in Europe, told AP: "The Navy is headed into choppy waters in terms of readiness in the months ahead."

He warned that the ship's tight sleeping quarters might become "birthing compartments" for the virus.

TED ALJIBE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Philippine and U.S. marines take part in the annual Philippines and U.S. joint military exercises at the Philippine navy's training camp on May 9, 2018.

'Go Hubei, go Hubei!" Locals shouted, according to videos posted on social media.

One video filmed from a distance showed that throngs of people had filled almost the entire length of the bridge.

At least five officers from the Jiangxi side were injured, according to a police report leaked on Chinese social media.

The report also mentioned two attacks on Hubei police officers, with a deputy police chief from the local bureau pinned to the ground and another officer seized by the throat. It is unclear if any more Hubei officers were injured.

The confrontation started from around 8:00 a.m. in the morning and continued until late afternoon, local residents said.

"They stop anyone from Hubei, and we couldn't leave even if we tried," Xu, a resident from the nearby Huangmei County in Hubei told the Chinese-language edition of The Epoch Times.

"They came prepared to beat people up," she said about the police from Jiangxi, adding that they "won't listen to reasons."

Hubei, home to around 60 million, removed travel restrictions in regions outside Wuhan City on March 25, allowing residents to leave the province so long as they possess a "green code" to certify that they are in good health.

But elsewhere in the country, hostility and discrimination toward Hubei residents fueled by fears over the virus has been on on the rise. Migrant workers from Hubei have found it difficult to shake off this stigma as they return to work in other regions of China.

"We are quarantined and bullied once we go out," Xu said. A dozen migrant workers that Xu knows had tried unsuccessfully to obtain work. "Once the word Hubei was mentioned, they were immediately turned down."

China Uses Fake and Hijacked Twitter Accounts to Spread Propaganda **About Pandemic: Study**

CONTINUED FROM A1

sidents and Hong Kong protests, have now begun posting "propaganda and disinformation about the coronavirus outbreak," according to ProPublica.

These 10,000 accounts did not act independently. Using computer programs, ProPublica found that the fake accounts were part of an interrelated network of more than 2,000 accounts.

However, ProPublica warned: "The true scale of the influence campaign is likely much bigger; our tracking suggests that the accounts we identified comprise only a portion of the operation."

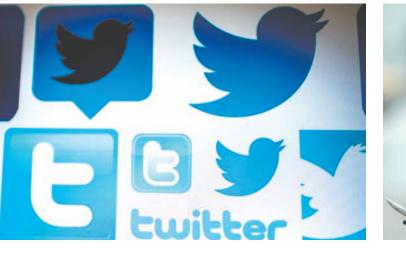
Tactics

The fake accounts sought to build "momentum for particular storylines," ProPublica explained. First, central accounts, those with "more legitimate-looking histories," would make eye-catching posts. Then, other, more obviously fake accounts would interact with the posts, such as reposting or leaving positive comments.

Whether it was about the Hong Kong protests or the current virus outbreak, these posts used hashtags to "gain visibility for an account that had few followers."

Sometimes, "posts would use hashtags unique to the influence network, presumably to try to make them trend on Twitter," ProPublica added.

The study listed several known hacked accounts, such as a professor in North Carolina, a college student at the University of Nebraska Omaha, a web designer in the United Kingdom, and a business analyst NICOLAS ASFOURI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



(Left) Twitter logos on a computer screen in Beijing on March 23, 2018.

(Right) A young woman texts on a mobile phone while wearing a protective mask in Shanghai on April 23, 2003.

Comment texts were often lifted word-

for-word from state editorials, which have long served as political lodestars for government agencies and party officials.

ProPublica, New York-based nonprofit media

in Australia.

"It is unclear whether the current fake account holders hacked the accounts themselves or purchased them from elsewhere," the study stated.

Some of the accounts reviewed by ProPublica have since been suspended by Twitter.

Links to the Chinese Regime

ProPublica showed that Beijing had influence over many of these accounts.

For example, it pointed out that the influence network "suddenly shifted its focus to the coronavirus epidemic" on Jan. 29, six days after authorities imposed a lockdown in Wuhan, the epicenter of the virus outbreak.

That same day, OneSight, a Beijingbased internet marketing company with connections to the Chinese regime, announced the launch of a new app that would track virus-related information, and help "transmit the correct voice of China" to the world.

The company's CEO previously worked at the Beijing city foreign



propaganda department. Its clients include state media outlets and regime-friendly firms like Huawei and Alibaba.

Last year, ProPublica obtained a copy of a contract won by One-Sight to boost the Twitter following of state-owned news agency China News Service. According to the Jamestown Foundation, the agency also "covertly runs overseas media organizations."

This agency is the international media arm of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau, an office in charge of influencing overseas Chinese. This office in turn is run by the United Front Work Department, a Party organ dedicated to spreading Beijing's agenda inside and outside of China.

"Our examination of an interlocking group of accounts within our data linked the effort to OneSight," ProPublica added.

The study noted that the fake accounts' content and behavior were similar to those found by a 2019 report by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. For example, posts were often made during working hours in Beijing.

Many of the posts expressing approval for Beijing were made by fake accounts, using the same text published by Chinese state-run media.

"Comment texts were often lifted word-for-word from state editorials, which have long served as political lodestars for government agencies and party officials," ProPublica said.

The accounts became "cheerleaders for [Chinese] the government, calling on citizens to unite in support of efforts to fight the epidemic and urging them to 'dispel online rumors.'"

Money

ProPublica found that in some instances, suspected Chinese operatives would offer influential Chinese-speaking Twitter users cash in exchange for posting messages favorable to Beijing.

The study highlighted the case of Badiucao, a Chinese political cartoonist living in Australia.

Badiucao said he was approached by an account claiming to be an "international exchange company," which offered the cartoonist 1,700 yuan (about \$240) to tweet out specific content per post.

During feigned negotiations with the company, Badiucao said he received a sample of what he would be asked to tweet out: a 15-second propaganda clip, showing that Beijing "defeated the coronavirus and everything is back on track."

Badiucao added that he was confident the company was working for the Chinese regime, based on their interactions.

The company eventually did not provide Badiucao with a contract, with the explanation that "upon client review, your posting style does not fit this promotional topic."



STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Taiwan Says WHO Not Sharing Coronavirus Information It Provides, **Pressing Complaints**

TAIPEI–The World Health Organization (WHO) has not shared with member states information Taiwan has provided on the coronavirus including details on its cases and prevention methods, Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said on March 30, ratcheting up its complaints. Taiwan's lack of membership of the U.N. body, due to Chinese pressure which claims the island as its own with no right to the trappings of statehood, has infuriated the Taiwanese government during the outbreak of the virus. Taiwan's government has said that keeping it out of the WHO during the outbreak amounts to playing politics with Taiwanese lives, even as the island has won plaudits for keeping its case toll so comparatively low thanks to early detection and control methods. Taiwan last week said the WHO ignored its questions at the start of the coronavirus outbreak, part of what it has long described as a pattern that puts it at risk because of Chinese pressure to exclude it from international bodies. On Sunday, the WHO issued a rare statement about Taiwan, saying it was closely following the development of the coronavirus there, is learning lessons from how they are fighting it, and detailing how the WHO has been working with Taiwanese health experts.

based on political considerations." While Taiwan can report to the

WHO via its International Health Regulations framework and can access information from WHO's internal Event Information Site, the information Taiwan provides is not shared by the WHO, Ou said. Since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, Taiwan has given the WHO all the information about its cases and prevention methods, but this has never been included in the WHO's daily updated situation report, she added. "Therefore, the health bodies of various countries cannot understand the current situation of Taiwan's epidemic situation, preventive policies and border quarantine measures from the information provided by the WHO," Ou said. "This shows that what the WHO said in its statement that it is learning from all regions, including Taiwan, to share 'best practices' with the world, differs from the facts." Taiwan has also been excluded from over 70 percent of WHO technical meetings in the last decade, and for a key February meeting on the virus Taiwan experts were not allowed to attend in person, only online, she said. The WHO includes Taiwan's number of cases under those of China. Taiwan says this confuses other countries into believing its virus situation is the same as China's, when China has no say in the island's health policy or virus-prevention methods.

Thousands of Ash Urns at Wuhan Funeral Home Fuel Further Scepticism of China's Virus Death Toll

CATHY HE

Thousands of ash urns have been delivered to a funeral home in the virus epicenter Wuhan in recent days, as relatives start picking up the remains of loved ones, further calling into question the true scale of the outbreak in China.

Families of those who died of the CCP virus were permitted to collect their relatives' cremated remains from seven governmentrun funeral homes with crematoriums, beginning on March 23. Since then, photos of long lines outside a funeral parlor have circulated on Chinese social mediaand were promptly deleted by the regime's censors.

At one of those facilities, the Hankou Funeral Home, trucks delivered about 2,500 urns on both Wednesday and Thursday, Chinese financial magazine Caixin reported. One picture published by the outlet showed 3,500 urns being stacked by employees inside the facility.

Some families told Caixin they had to wait in line for up to five hours to pick up the ashes.

Hankou Funeral Home said it would endeavor to release 500 ash urns a day, according to Chinese news aggregator Toutiao. The fu-

neral parlor hopes to complete the task by Tomb-sweeping Day on April 4, a traditional Chinese festival when people visit the graves of their ancestors.

When Caixin contacted funeral homes in Wuhan, staff at six of the facilities answered the phone, either saying they did not have information on how many urns were to be collected, or that they were not permitted to disclose the numbers.

Officially, Chinese authorities have reported over 2,000 deaths in Wuhan, where the virus first emerged. However, experts and locals have long been skeptical of China's official figures, in light of Beijing's initial coverup of the outbreak; Wuhan's overstretched health system, which meant that many people had been unable to receive testing and treatment; and several changes to the way infections were officially counted.

Earlier in February, The Epoch Times conducted an undercover investigation, calling funeral homes in Wuhan in order to understand the true death toll of the epidemic.

At the time, the Hankou Funeral Home confirmed that its crema-

ber checks medicine used on a patient with COVID-19 at **Red Cross Hospital** in Wuhan, China, on March 11, 2020.

A medical staff mem-

torium was using 20 furnaces to cremate bodies 24 hours a day, the sudden rise in intake suggesting that more people were dying of the CCP virus than officially reported.

Officials at other funeral homes in the city also described sharp upticks in bodies the facilities received for cremation. An employee at the Caidian Funeral Home located in a Wuhan suburb told The Epoch Times at the time that they needed at least 100 body bags every day.

Mr. Ding, a Wuhan resident who lost his mother to the virus, has yet to collect her remains. He told the Chinese-language edition of The Epoch Times that his local district authorities said they would help families with doing paperwork; getting processing fees and cost of ash urns waived; and receiving discounts for burial plots, provided the tasks are completed before Tomb-sweeping day. After this date, such assistance could not be guaranteed.

He criticized authorities for forcing families to sort out the burials within such a short time frame, especially given that no funeral ceremony or rites are permitted. "How can I accept this?" Ding said.

He said the only consolation for families would be for officials to acknowledge the truth of what happened and accept responsibility.

If authorities could "acknowledge fault and accept responsibility," then this would be "the greatest consolation for families of the deceased, and amount to paying respect to the dead," Ding said.

In response, Taiwan Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Joanne Ou said the WHO needed to "continue to review and improve upon some unreasonable restrictions imposed on Taiwan

By Ben Blanchard From Reuters

ANN WANG/REUTERS



Taiwanese president Tsai Ing-Wen visits a fabric factory making surgical face masks in Taoyuan, Taiwan, on March 30, 2020.

Trump Says He Has Doubts About China's Official Virus Data

MIMI NGUYEN LY

President Donald Trump on Thursday expressed his doubts about the number of COVID-19 cases being reported by the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) in its official data that is quoted around the world.

"You don't know what the numbers are in China," the president said when asked by a reporter whether he was surprised that the United States has surpassed China in the number of cases of the CCP virus.

The Epoch Times refers to the novel coronavirus, which causes the disease COVID-19, as the CCP virus because the Chinese Communist Party's coverup and mismanagement allowed the virus to spread throughout China before it was transmitted worldwide.

A tracking map published by Johns Hopkins University currently shows that the United States has 83,507 confirmed cases, compared to China which has an official confirmed case total of 81,782.

Trump said that he thinks the increase in cases being reported in the United States is "a tribute to the testing–we're testing tremendous numbers of people ... We're doing tremendous testing."

"I'm sure you're not able to tell what China is testing or not testing," Trump told the reporter. "I think U.S. President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence at a briefing on the CCP virus pandemic in the press briefing room of the White House in Washington on March 26, 2020.

You don't know what the numbers are in China.

Donald J. Trump, President of the United States



that's a little hard."

He said that he and Chinese leader Xi Jinping were scheduled to talk by phone on Thursday night.

According to The Epoch Times' investigations, China's actual number of cases and deaths from the CCP virus are likely to be more than 10 times higher than what is being reported.

A series of internal government documents obtained by The Epoch Times show that the situation in the city of Wuhan, the ground zero of China's epidemic, is much worse than what has been officially reported. The documents include statistical data sheets on March 14 about diagnostic test results in Wuhan from the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission. In one example, the real number of new cases of infection in Wuhan is over 20 times more than the official numbers. Authorities in Beijing also announced on March 19 that the number of Chinese cellphone users had dropped by 21 million over the past three months, without explaining the cause of the drop. The Epoch Times noted in a previous report that cellphones are an indispensable part of life in China and that deaths due to the CCP virus may have contributed to some of the closed accounts.

The number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise in the United States as testing and access to it improves, and as testing centers work to clear a backlog of samples.

On Tuesday, White House Coronavirus Task Force Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx said that the United States had now conducted more testing in the prior eight days than South Korea had in eight weeks. At the time, she said the United States was doing about 50,000 to 70,000 tests a day.

At the time, Birx said during a virtual town hall on Fox News that South Korea, which has a population of 51.4 million, tested about 290,000 people. The United States, she said, which has about 372 million residents, has done over 300,000 tests.

The American Enterprise Institute started a tracker of America's testing capacity, which is projecting that the United States will conduct 100,000 or more COVID-19 tests per day by March 27.

The Coronavirus Task Force is urging all Americans to adhere to the "15 Days to Slow the Spread" campaign to urgently reduce the spread of the virus. Trump said on Tuesday that his administration will assess recommendations surrounding business activity after the 15 days of recommended social distancing measures.



A contract crew for Verizon works on 5G network updates for a cell

US Charges Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro With Narco-Terrorism, Drug-Trafficking

CONTINUED FROM A1

press conference on Thursday, adding that the conspiracy involved many current and former top Venezuelan regime officials who allegedly profited from the corruption. The DOJ also indicted more than a dozen of these high ranking officials for their involvement in the conspiracy including the head of Venezuela's National Constituent Assembly, intelligence officials, and military members. Moreover, two FARC leaders have also been charged. "The Venezuelan regime, once led by Nicolás Maduro Moros, remains plagued by criminality and corruption," Barr said. "For more than 20 years, Maduro and a number of high-ranking colleagues allegedly conspired with the FARC, causing tons of cocaine to enter and devastate American communities." "Today's announcement is focused on rooting out the extensive corruption within the Venezuelan government-a system constructed and controlled to enrich those at the highest levels of the government. The United States will not allow these corrupt Venezuelan officials to use the U.S. banking system to move their illicit proceeds from South America nor further their criminal schemes," he added.

the United States with cocaine and "inflict the drug's harmful and addictive effects on users in the United States," the court filings alleged.

The indictment said that Maduro, who was a leader of the cartel,

tower in Orem, Utah, on Dec. 10, 2019.

White House Outlines 5G Security Strategy, Warns of 'High-Risk' Vendors

PETR SVAB

The United States needs to lead the development of 5G wireless network standards, assess any vulnerabilities to hacking, and address national security dangers posed by "high-risk" 5G vendors, according to a document titled "National Strategy to Secure 5G."

The strategy, recently released by the Trump administration, makes no mention of who "high-risk" 5G vendors might be, but the field of candidates is so narrow as to make clear the target is Huawei.

Washington has stressed that the Chinese company–found– ed in 1987 by a former People's Liberation Army engineer–is an extension of the Chinese regime and that it assists Chinese in– telligence. Huawei denies that assertion.

The strategy refers to President Donald Trump's May 2019 executive order, which "establishes the authorities to prohibit certain transactions that involve information and communications technology or services designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied by persons owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a foreign adversary that pose an undue or unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States."

To outmaneuver the Chinese regime in the 5G market, the

United States will focus on leading the development of robust standards for 5G that would be quickly developed under "open and transparent processes."

Regarding the hacking risks, the administration "will work with the private sector to identify, develop, and apply core security principles-best practices in cyber security, supply chain risk management, and public safety-to United States 5G infrastructure," the strategy document says.

Washington has stressed that the Chinese company Huawei—founded in 1987 by a former People's Liberation Army engineer—is an extension of the Chinese regime and that it assists Chinese intelligence.

In addition, the United States will work to promote "vendor diversity," the document says, including by the use of "incentives" and "accountability mechanisms."

The diversity likely applies to the promotion of Huawei competitors. The two likely candidates would be Ericsson and Nokia, both advanced players in the 5G field and both floated before as companies that could be propped up to undercut Huawei.

It may be unrealistic for those companies to outcompete Huawei on their own. The Chinese giant has received some \$75 billion in state subsidies from the regime in Beijing, according to The Wall Street Journal.

The United States has gone to some lengths to exclude Huawei and other key Chinese players from its telecom infrastructure. On March 12, Trump signed the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act, which provides \$1 billion to replace any equipment made by Huawei or ZTE, another Chinese company, used by rural telecom carriers in the United States.

Other countries, however, aren't so eager. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Huawei will supply up to 35 percent of the country's 5G communications infrastructure. Excluding Huawei would have delayed the 5G rollout and cost consumers more, Britain has argued.

5G technology enables cell phone networks to reach data transmission bandwidth comparable to Wi-Fi networks. However, it has a more limited reach, so it requires a denser web of cell towers. Aside from faster mobile internet, it's expected to allow billions of other devices to be connected to the internet. The DOJ highlighted that although Maduro is currently in Venezuela, the socialist leader may travel outside of the country and that it was offering a \$15 million reward for information that would lead to his capture and conviction.

"We do expect eventually to gain custody of these defendants and we're going to explore all options for getting custody," Barr said during the press conference.

Responding in a Twitter post, Maduro condemned the charges, accusing the United States and Columbia of conspiring to "fill Venezuela with violence."

The indictment accuses Maduro and his co-defendants of acting as leaders and managers of a drug trafficking organization called the "Cartel of the Suns," since 1999. The cartel sought to not only allow its members to profit but also "flood" negotiated multi-ton shipments of cocaine produced by FARC, directed that the cartel provide military-grade weapons to the FARC, and coordinated foreign affairs with Honduras and other countries to "facilitate large-scale drug trafficking." He was also accused of soliciting assistance from FARC leadership in training an unsanctioned militia group that is functioning, in essence, as an armed forces unit of the cartel.

Barr said the United States estimates that about 250 metric tons of cocaine were dispatched out of Venezuela using air and maritime routes. The attorney general said that amount of cocaine equates to 30 million lethal doses.

It comes months after President Donald Trump placed pressure on Maduro to leave office after Venezuela's duly elected National Assembly declared Maduro's presidency illegitimate. The United States refuses to recognize him as the Venezuelan leader because of a fraudulent election, instead officially recognizing his opponent, Juan Guaidó, as the interim president.

The standoff between the two has become a global referendum on socialism, with more than 100 freeworld nations including the United States, the UK, and Australia siding with Guaidó. Despite this Maduro has refused to give up control, causing Venezuela to spiral into political chaos exacerbated by its ruined economy.

The United States has long accused Maduro and his socialist regime of human rights abuses, corruption, and for being responsible for the country's collapsed economy.

"Maduro is an illegitimate ruler, a tyrant who brutalizes his people," Trump said during his State of the Union speech in February. "But Maduro's grip on tyranny will be smashed and broken."

Mask Sterilizing Technology Approved for Use by FDA

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

ZACHARY STIEBER

A mask sterilizing system developed by an Ohio-based company has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration amid fears of shortages of N95 respirators, masks used by healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients.

The mask sterilizing system was developed by Battelle. After 2 1/2 hours of exposure to concentrated, vapor phase hydrogen peroxide, the used masks are decontaminated, the company said in a statement. Each system can decontaminate up to 80,000 masks when running at full capacity.

Battelle's system was approved for use at its West Jefferson facility under an emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The company was told it can sterilize 10,000 N95 or N95-equivalent masks in each chamber load, or over 40,000 a day.

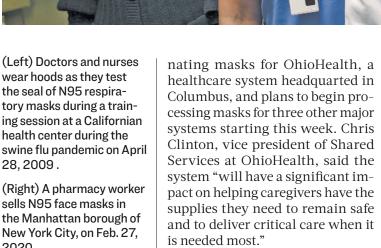
"I want to thank the FDA team for their professionalism and help in authorizing the use of our technology at this critical moment for our nation," Lou Von Thaer, president and CEO of Battelle, said in a statement. "Everybody who has worked on this project shares the same goal of protecting first responders and healthcare workers who are at the front lines of the pandemic."

Known and potential benefits of the denomination system outweigh the known and potential risks, Denise Hinton, the FDA's chief scientist, wrote in a letter to Jeff Rose, a Battelle vice president.

The respirators can be decontaminated a maximum of 20 times each under the authorization, which was granted because of "insufficient supplies" and a lack of an alternative decontamination method, Hinton wrote.

Healthcare systems and workers were warned of possible shortages of respirators by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which laid out strategies of what to do if a shortage happened.

Battelle is currently decontami-



Healthcare systems will collect worn respirator masks daily and send them to Battelle. Each piece of equipment will be labeled with a barcoded serial number to make sure each system receives its own masks back and with the number of times it's been decontaminated to make sure that number doesn't exceed the authorized limit.

A fact sheet was created to inform healthcare personnel when they were given a decontaminated respirator.

"Successful testing on decontaminated N95 respirators demonstrated

acceptable performance through 20 decontamination cycles for sporicidal activity, viricidal activity, filtration efficiency, breathability, form fit testing, and strap integrity testing, per authorized respirator," they were told.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine praised President Donald Trump and FDA Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn in a statement released by Battelle on Sunday but in a separate statement released by his office criticized the FDA for limiting the use of the new technology to Ohio.

The authorization "prevents Battelle from sending its groundbreaking technology to other states such as Washington and New York, as well as Washington D.C. and the Virginia/Maryland areas," DeWine's office said. The governor referred to the limitations as "nothing short of reckless.

"I am not only disappointed by this development, but I'm also stunned that the FDA would decline to do all it can to protect this country's frontline workers in this serious time of need," he added, also noting that the FDA approval didn't appear to be for Battelle's full capacity.

ESERIE STREET

Two members of Congress also called on the FDA to let Battelle decontaminate masks at full capacity. "The number of cases will continue to grow in the coming weeks, and we need to do everything we can to ensure there is enough equipment to fight this battle, including allowing Battelle to sterilize N95 masks at full capacity," Reps. Steve Stivers (R-Ohio) and Troy Balderson (R-Ohio) said in a statement.

Hinton said that the company needed to provide the FDA information in advance of establishing satellite facilities and that the system can only be operated by the company.

The FDA didn't respond to a request for further information, including questions about whether the agency would eventually let Battelle operate the new system at full capacity.

CARLO ALLEGRI/REUTERS



EMEL AKAN

WASHINGTON-White House trade adviser Peter Navarro slammed Big Pharma's attempts to send a letter to President Donald Trump opposing a potential "Buy American" executive order.

Trump's proposed executive order-which aims to reduce dependence on China–will encourage companies to relocate the production of essential medicines, medical equipment, and supplies to the United States.

In response to the push by the lobby groups against the executive order, Navarro told The Epoch Times in an email, "America is more than up to that task, and Big Pharma and its well-heeled Swamp Creatures need to stop being such a divisive element in American politics."

The Association for Accessible Medicines, a trade group for major pharmaceutical manufacturers such as 3M, drafted a letter dated March 24 to Trump, opposing the plans of reshoring medical supply chains. The draft letter, which was leaked by Spectator USA Magazine, stated that such measures "could undermine the complex arrangements between firms that allow for efficient delivery of medicines to patients."

The letter, signed by 40 organizations, including PhRMA, a Big Pharma lobbying organization, warned that the proposed plan could harm efforts to supply necessary equipment and medicines to fight the growing pandemic.

"None of the Buy American provisions in the proposed Executive Order would apply during the current COVID-19 crisis," Navarro responded.

"That's a Big Pharma red herring

Peter Navarro, director of the White House National Trade Council, at the CPAC convention in National Harbor, Md., on March 1, 2019.

(Left) Doctors and nurses

wear hoods as they test

the seal of N95 respira-

tory masks during a train-

health center during the

sells N95 face masks in

New York City, on Feb. 27,

Everybody who has

shares the same

goal of protecting

first responders and

healthcare workers

who are at the front

lines of the pandemic.

Lou Von Thaer, president and

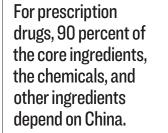
CEO of Ohio-based company

worked on this project

28,2009.

2020.

Battelle





designed to preserve its offshore oligopoly at the expense of American citizens."

Navarro has been working for weeks on the executive order, which may be released within days. The hope is that increasing government demand for U.S.-made products will help create a market for manufacturers to invest and to produce in the United States.

"If this crisis teaches us anything at all, it is that we cannot rely on Big Pharma, which is renown already for its price gouging, to provide America with the medicines and medical supplies we urgently need from its offshored production during the China virus crisis," Navarro said.

He noted that other countries where the supply chains and plants are located are already imposing export restrictions for critically needed items. So it's becoming harder for big pharmaceuticals to bring products to the United States.

"Ten of the top 20 countries exporting medicines to the U.S., including four of the top five, have

already imposed some form of restrictions," he said.

The executive order would ensure that government agencies, including the departments of Veterans Affairs, Health and Human Services, and Defense, buy American products.

'National Security Threat'

The CCP virus, commonly referred to as the novel coronavirus, has disrupted the U.S. pharmaceutical industry's global supply chain that is largely dependent on China, calling attention to a dangerous level of dependence by the United States on this global competitor.

China is the dominant supplier of thousands of medicines found in U.S. homes and hospitals, from antibiotics to chemotherapies, from HIV/AIDS drugs to antidepressants and painkillers.

That's made the United States vulnerable to supply chain disruptions arising from the pandemic, which has alarmed Congress and the White House.

The increasing dominance of

Beijing in the manufacturing of medicine poses a "national security threat" to the United States, Rep. John Garamendi (D-Calif.) told The Epoch Times.

"We are totally dependent on China-certainly the American military is, the American public equally so," he said.

The Chinese regime is the major producer of generic drugs (copies of prescription drugs that are allowed for sale after patent protections on the original drugs expire), which account for nearly 90 percent of pharmaceuticals.

China is also the dominant supplier of personal protective equipment, such as masks, respirators, surgical gowns, and gloves, which are currently in high demand.

The Chinese state-run media Global Times published an article on March 11 stating that Beijing "could ban the export of face masks and other medical gear to America which are in acute shortage," over recent actions by the United States to restrict market access to Chinese telecommunications company Huawei.

The United States is "dramatically dependent" on China for medical supplies, according to Rosemary Gibson, a senior adviser at the Hastings Center, a bioethics research institute, and the co-author of "China Rx: Exposing the Risks of America's Dependence on China for Medicine."

"Our dependence is a risk to our national security," she told The Epoch Times.

"For prescription drugs, 90 percent of the core ingredients, the chemicals, and other ingredients depend on China," she said.

Bowen Xiao contributed to this report.

Australia Bans Exports of Medical Supplies After Items Sent in Bulk to China

CONTINUED FROM A1

half a million pairs of gloves, 700,000 hazmat suits, and bulk quantities of hand sanitizer, thermometers, and other medical items, The Sydney Morning Herald reported.

The Herald also reported that another property group Risland Australia, a subsidiary of one of China's largest property developers, had shipped 80 tons of medical supplies to China in late February. The supplies included 100,000 protective coveralls and 900,000 pairs of medical gloves.

Late Tuesday, the Herald revealed that a former Chinese military officer, Kuang Yuanping, now based in Sydney, was found to have coordinated with CCP agencies to export tonnes of Australian medical supplies to Wuhan in February. This marked "the first time an explicit link can be made to Chinese influence activities in Australia," investigative reporter Nick McKenzie noted.

Kuang, a former People's Liberation Army officer who runs CCPbacked organizations in Sydney and Melbourne, reportedly helped coordinate two airlifts of medical supplies from Australia to Wuhan. Kuang is now planning to send medical equipment to Australia. Those familiar with his plans told the Herald that he wants to help Australia in its fight with the CCP virus and help the CCP meet its soft power and political influence goals through charitable activity.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Wednesday reported, citing an anonymous law enforcement official, that the Australian Border Force (ABF) in recent weeks has seized several deliveries of PPE that have been found to be counterfeit or faulty. The Epoch Times has not been able to independently verify the reports.

Price Gouging Ban

Health Minister Greg Hunt has used emergency powers to stop the same critical medical supplies and disinfectant products from being sold at unreasonably high prices.

From Monday, those who are found guilty of selling the items at a markup of 120 percent or more face a fine of \$63,000 or five years in jail if they do not surrender the items to law enforcement. If the items are surrendered, they would be directed to the national stockpile. "There is growing public concern that protective gear and disinfectants are not reaching those with the greatest need, as a small number of individuals continue to purchase these goods in large quantities from retailers with the intention of re-selling them at extortionate prices or sending them offshore," according to an explanatory statement on the country's updated biosecurity measures.



A generic image of P2 masks in Melbourne on Jan. 31, 2020.

The latest measure comes after Chinese-Australian companies reportedly sent back bulk medical supplies to China in recent months. A member of staff stands by unloaded cardboard boxes from an Air China airbus carrying 500.000 protective masks as part of controversial aid measures from China at the Athens international airport on March 21, 2020,

health professionals and law enforcement, whose services are vital to preventing or controlling the spread of COVID-19 and who frequently deal with individuals who carry a high risk of transmitting the virus," it adds.

The Australian federal government in mid-March tried to source locallymade masks and gowns as global supply chains were becoming depleted. The country's Department of Industry, Science, Energy, and Resources issued a Request for Information to better understand Australia's manuturer at the time, Med-Con, which is located near the city of Shepparton in Victoria.

Across the country, companies are modifying their production lines in efforts to keep up medical supplies. Motorsports company Erebus Motorsport has begun producing full masks and protective Perspex boxes in Melbourne for medical staff on the front-line.

Adelaide's food packaging manufacturer Detmold Group recently began mass-producing masks. Under



Treasurer Josh Frydenberg speaks during a press conference at Parliament House in Canberra on Jan. 6, 2020.

Australia Tightens Rules for Foreign Investors as Pandemic Drags Down Economy

The Morrison government has granted the treasurer powers to block all foreign bids for Australian companies under tighter investment rules sparked by the Chinese Communist Party virus pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg will be able to block any overseas takeovers after the threshold to intervene was temporarily slashed from A\$1.2 billion to zero.

It comes amid concerns cashed-up foreign predators could target Australian businesses following major losses on the share market and a weaker Australian dollar.

Frydenberg denied the move was aimed at Chinese state-owned enterprises, saying that U.S. investment in Australia far outstripping that of communist China.

"We want to stop any predatory behaviour that is not in the national interest," he told 3AW radio on Monday.

Chinese firms invested A\$13 billion in Australia last year, while U.S. companies made investments worth A\$58 billion.

But Liberal backbenchers and independents have raised concerns that Australian companies could be exposed after company values slumped in stock exchange carnage.

"This practice prevents these goods from reaching individuals who need them the most. Included are essential service providers such as front-line facturing capability and capacity for PPE.

Department minister Karen Andrews said at the time, "We are casting the net as widely as we can, asking manufacturers if they have the ability to diversify the work they do."

"As those opportunities continue to present, we will work with manufacturers to support their transition. Australian manufacturers have already been reaching out with offers to help. I'm confident our Aussie ingenuity will guide us through this difficult time."

The Australian Army was deployed in mid-March to manufacture masks in the country's only mask manufacan agreement with the government, the company will hire up to 160 extra staff to produce 145 million masks, 100 million of which are destined for the national stockpile. The remainder will be kept for use in South Australia.

Information on the COVID-19 pandemic for Australians is available at health.gov.au.

The Coronavirus Health Information Line for Australians is 1800 020 080. Call Triple Zero (000) if you have serious symptoms such as difficulty breathing. To opt-in for daily government updates on Whatsapp, register at oz.gov.au/whatsapp Chinese companies bought Australian medical supplies in recent weeks with the CCP virus sparking a surge in demand.

The Epoch Times refers to the novel coronavirus, which causes the disease COVID-19, as the CCP virus because the Chinese Communist Party's coverup and mismanagement allowed the virus to spread throughout China and create a global pandemic.

Frydenberg said national security, competition issues, tax concerns and the investors' character would shape any decision to block foreign investment.

"This is a precautionary, temporary measure to increase our visibility and scrutiny over all foreign investment proposals to ensure that they're in the national interest," he told ABC radio.

He said foreign investment had served Australia well, with one-in-10 local businesses benefiting.

"We want that foreign investment to continue in Australia, not just during the coronavirus crisis, but also in the days and months and the years after," the treasurer said.

Under the old rules, companies from countries with free trade agreements could make scrutiny-free bids for Australian assets with a value of less than A\$1.2 billion.

Now all overseas offers will have to get the green light from the federal treasurer regardless of the sector or nation involved.

The measure will remain in place for the duration of the crisis.

Shadow treasurer Jim Chalmers said Labor would support the move in principle.

"This sounds like a sensible step in uncertain times," he told AAP.

By Matt Coughlan From AAP

Tuberculosis Vaccine Being Tested Against COVID-19

March 30, Bloomberg reported.

TOM OZIMEK

A vaccine against tuberculosis– an infectious disease that typically attacks the lungs–is being given to health care workers in Australia as a trial to see if it will protect them against the CCP virus.

The Epoch Times refers to the virus commonly known as novel coronavirus, or SARS-CoV-2, as the CCP virus due to the Chinese Communist Party's initial mishandling and coverup of the COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan, contributing to its global spread.

Some 4,000 health care workers in Melbourne have volunteered for the trial, which involves the tuberculosis vaccine, known as the bacillus Calmette-Guerin, or BCG shot, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) said in a statement.

The trial is to start Monday,

Infectious disease researchers from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) in Melbourne will lead the trial. It is to last six months and will involve some of the volunteers, randomly selected, receiving the BCG shot and a seasonal flu shot, while others will receive just the

flu vaccine. "Australian medical researchers have a reputation for conducting rigorous, innovative trials," said MCRI Director Professor Kathryn North, according to RACGP.

"This trial will allow the vaccine's effectiveness against CO-VID-19 symptoms to be properly tested, and may help save the lives of our heroic frontline healthcare workers," North said.

The tuberculosis vaccine has been used for around a century and has shown encouraging results in bolstering the body's immune system more generally to resist infection.

"It can boost the immune system so that it defends better against a whole range of different infections, a whole range of different viruses and bacteria in a lot more generalized way," said Nigel Curtis, head of MCRI's Infectious Diseases Research Group, according to Bloomberg.

Studies published in recent decades by Danish researchers Peter Aaby and Christine Stabell Benn found the BCG vaccine prevented around 30 percent of infections with any known pathogen, including viruses, in the first year after it was administered, Science Mag reported.

A 2014 review ordered by the World Health Organization found the BCG vaccine lowered mortality in children, but expressed "very low" confidence in the results. A 2016 study provided more encouraging results but called for randomized trials.

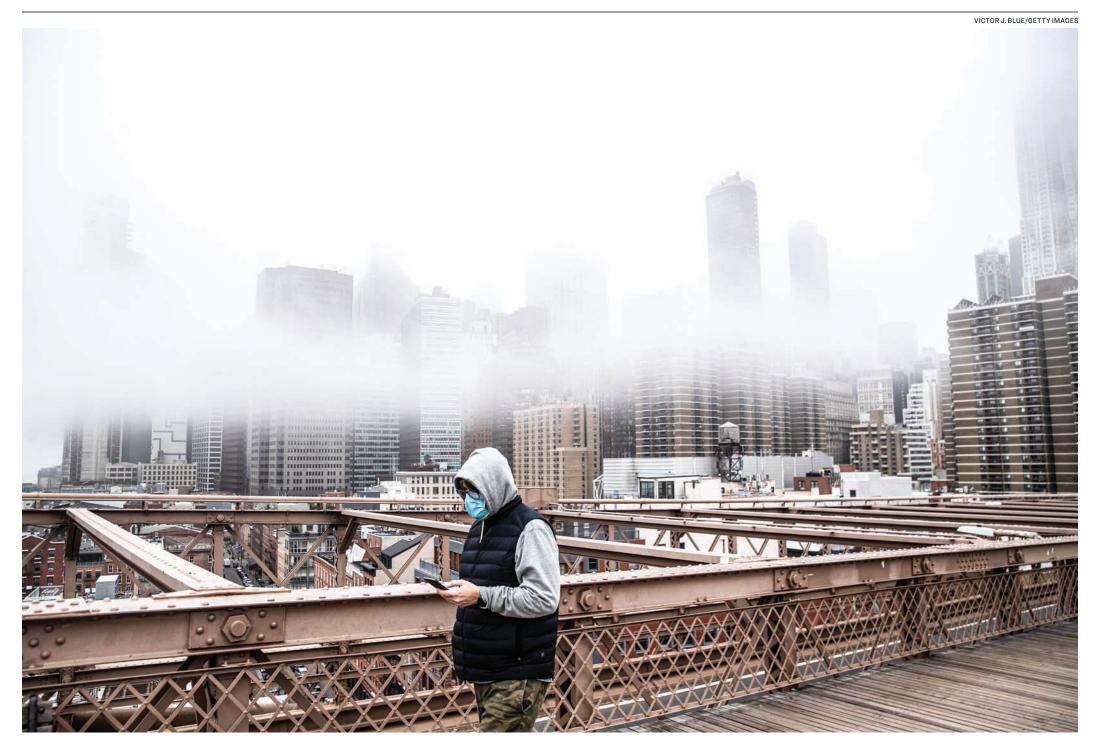
Curtis said the trials in Melbourne would build on the previous body of scientific work around the BCG shot.

"We hope to see a reduction in the prevalence and severity of COVID-19 symptoms in healthcare workers receiving the BCG vaccination," Curtis said, according to RACGP.

The Melbourne trial follows reports of a similar initiative in the Netherlands. According to Science Mag, around 1,000 health care workers in eight Dutch hospitals last week were to kick off the first of the BCG trials. Some of the volunteers would receive the BCG shot, others would get a placebo.

Curtis told Bloomberg there are discussions about expanding the BCG trial to other Australian cities, as well as Boston.

OPINION



A man walks the Brooklyn Bridge in the midst of the CCP virus outbreak in New York City on March 20, 2020.

C.S. Lewis's Warning for Times Like These

GARY L. GREGG



C.S. Lewis (1898–1963) is best

reaucrats aligned with scientists and the academy to trample the traditional comAPU GOMES/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



known as the greatest Christian apologist of the 20th century and as the beloved children's author who gave us "The Chronicles of Narnia." His "Mere Christianity" is still a major seller

every year, and the Narnia books continue to inspire young readers and moviegoers as well.

What many don't realize about Lewis is that he had profound political thoughts and wrote articulately about politics, government, and human liberty.

One reason most of his fans don't realize his politics is because he didn't want it to be a distraction from his more important work of apologetics. For instance, he once refused a high honor from the government of Winston Churchill because he didn't want people to dismiss his work as being driven by political concerns.

Still, once you look for Lewis's politics, you will see his concerns embedded throughout his work—from his poetry to his novels to his scholarship to his apologetics. Of foremost concern in his political thought was the prevention of political tyranny and encouraging rebellion against it when it does exist.

At the end of this pandemic, what will be the newly accepted size and scope of government and scientific power?

Readers can see that theme throughout his work. In "The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe," for instance, one encounters the dictatorial White Witch tyrannizing over a populace just trying to be left alone to live their lives.

Later in the "Chronicles," the reader encounters a fratricidal king, a demagogic false prophet wielding power, and the dictator of a slave-based foreign land planning an invasion of Narnia and its neighbors.

In his last space novel, "That Hideous Strength," the reader sees political bu-

munities and values of rural England. They do it, of course, under the guise of serving a higher scientific and humanitarian cause and by branding themselves the National Institute for Coordinated Experiments (or "NICE").

Lewis also wrote overtly political essays, one of which speaks directly to the current crisis brought about by the novel coronavirus. In his essay "Is Progress Possible?", which is available today in the collection "God in the Dock," Lewis lays out a formula whereby public servants and scientists can end up wielding tyrannical power following a crisis.

It all begins with a problem, real or perceived, and a promise of being able to fix it. "We have on the one hand a desperate need," he wrote. "We have, on the other hand, the conception of something that might meet it." Writing in 1958, he called that something an "omnicompetent global technocracy." Whatever we call it today, it would be a coalition of science and public power—technocrats, bureaucrats, and political leaders.

"Are not these the ideal opportunity for enslavement?" he asks. "This is how it has entered before; a desperate need (real or apparent) in the one party; a power (real or apparent) to relieve it, in the other."

It could be a hungry individual selling him or herself into slavery in order to eat, or a society under siege entrusting power to the warlord who promises salvation from the barbarians. "Give them what they ask, give ourselves to them bound and blindfolded, if only they will!" Lewis warns us, "Perhaps the terrible

bargain will be made again."

Today, the United States and the world seems to be in a time of tremendous need—a pandemic is sweeping across the globe—and political power is aligned with science to combat it. Increasingly aggressive actions are being taken, and those measures are leading to an economic crisis as the economy quickly grinds to a halt with businesses shuttered and social isolation imposed.

Governments are now organizing to replace some of the lost natural economic



The 110 Freeeway is seen in downtown Los Angeles on March 15, 2020.

This is how it has entered before; a desperate need (real or apparent) in the one party; a power (real or apparent) to relieve it, in the other.

C.S. Lewis

enterprise of free individuals with new government programs, stimulus packages, and ever higher deficit spending. At the end of this pandemic, what will be the newly accepted size and scope of government and scientific power?

This essay is not in any way meant to lower our vigilance against the scourge of COVID-19. Our need is real, not imagined, and it is incumbent on us all to do our part to blunt this virus before our hospitals are overwhelmed and our older loved ones are put in mortal danger.

It is, on the other hand, meant to encourage us to use C.S. Lewis to help us evaluate our needs, determine who best can provide for them, and consider at what cost they may be ameliorated. As government authority is exercised to degrees we have never seen in peacetime, we must all remain vigilant so that when this crisis is over, the state is rolled back and freedom and free enterprise are restored.

I said Lewis's essay from which this is drawn was titled "Is Progress Possible?" I didn't mention that its subtitle was "Willing Slaves of the Welfare State."

When this crisis ends—and it will end—let us not be the new willing slaves, but rather heed Lewis's warning and remain free and independent citizens of a limited republic.

Gary L. Gregg is director of the McConnell Center and host of the great books podcast Vital Remnants.

A10 | OPINION





(Above) A shopkeeper prepares to open her store in Rome on March 11, 2020. (Left) A member of the public is swabbed at a drive-through CCP virus testing site in Wolverhampton, England, on March 12, 2020.

War and Plague: Who Should Be Treated?

PAUL ADAMS



Governments everywhere are moving to a level of control over industry and civilian life normally seen only in wartime. Iran and Israel agree on

little else, but both see them-

selves as engaged in an all-out war against the virus.

The analogy to war is a common way to convey a sense of urgency, whether it be a war on waste or plastic straws, or poverty. In this case, however, there's a wartime level of threat to life, a comparable interference in everyday lives, an expansion of state control over the economy, and, as British historian Robert Tombs puts it, "the need to create feelings of solidarity: the willingness to be public spirited and to bridle our natural egotism."

Here I want to consider how the analogy to war, a "total war" that mobilizes the whole society, is being used or misused in conditions where health care systems are overwhelmed and forced to deny treatment to some who might benefit from it.

As in battle, not all the wounded

try on something like a wartime footing. "In an unprecedented peacetime call to arms," the Telegraph reports, Johnson "is asking manufacturers ... to transform their current production lines to help produce ventilators as part of a 'national effort' to tackle the virus."

In the United States, Trump invoked the Defense Production Act of 1950, first used during the Korean War, so he would be able to mobilize the private sector to manufacture goods needed in the fight against the pandemic.

The Dark Side of War Talk

For Irish writer John Waters, war talk is dangerous. From early on, as the disease engulfed northern Italy and swamped health care resources, physicians and policymakers spoke of the need to make hard choices in treating the sick, of "triaging in favor of younger, more 'productive' virus victims."

It is the language of prudent policy analysis, of making inescapable choices, and the common good. But it sounds reasonable, Waters argues, only because it reflects and reinforces a wider throwaway culture criticized by John Paul II and subsequent popes, a culture of death in which the weak and vulnerable are increasingly excluded from the human community.

John Paul II argued 25 years ago that we are facing "a war of the powerful against the weak: a life which would require greater acceptance, love and care is considered useless." The culture, in short, is desensitizing us "by 'training' us to see illness as a kind of luxury, treatment as a concession, and the old as a separate category of the human. Because the old are increasingly hidden away from everyday society in purpose-built nursing homes, when we happen upon the old we are already beginning to look away from their frailty, and therefore their, and our own, humanity," writes Waters. The language of combat triage to exclude from care and treatment whole categories of people misunderstands and misapplies the process. Military triage prioritizes for treatment those most likely to be capable of returning to the battlefield. It's a dynamic

process in which a soldier's priority can change rapidly according to his health status.

Military triage follows well-established protocols. It doesn't prioritize sick soldiers on the basis of age. But age-based triage is what appears to be happening in Italy–as Waters demonstrates from many Italian sources. An Israeli doctor practicing in Parma, Italy, confirms Waters's account. He reports from the front lines that the age for exclusion from critical care with ventilators is as low as 60.

Rationing Is Inevitable in Health Care

But are there not rational and just grounds for prioritizing measures like vaccination and testing of health care workers, who put themselves at higher risk and without whose work hospitals would collapse into centers of spreading infection?

Or for giving lower priority in the use of scarce equipment to those who are very frail and in rapidly declining health? Are these not indeed the kind of prudential choices that a plague, like a war, forces on our attention, however firm our commitment to doing no harm and to healing the sick?

Capacity for providing critical care beds with ventilators varies widely from country to country. No health care system can avoid the risk of being overwhelmed and unable to provide all the care they would if resources were unlimited. As in battle, not all the wounded can be saved, and choices have to be made. The current situation is not so different from combat triage as Waters suggests. The important objection to Italy's response is not that physicians had to choose whom to provide with the best available care. That is true in all health care systems. We have deluded ourselves into thinking that health care is an unquestioned right in the sense of an open-ended claim on the state. Resources are limited, so the question remains, what better way might exist for allocating them? By treating age as the determining criterion, the Italian system laid itself open to the kind of criticism it has received. It excludes the most vulnerable, a

whole category of the population, from the protection of the community.

The UK's National Health Service (NHS) has long experience of providing a universal health care system within a constraining budget. It has always had to ration health care, albeit through long waits rather than copays, deductibles, and caps. It regards rationing-denying a potentially beneficial treatment to a patient on the grounds of scarcity-as inescapable. But the UK, like Italy, has a universal health care system. The two countries provide an instructive contrast.

Resources are limited, so the question remains, what better way might exist for allocating them?

Faced with even fewer critical care beds, relative to population, the NHS has developed official guidance for physicians on how to decide whether patients suffering from the COVID-19 disease should be admitted to critical care or not. It has done so without mentioning age. The new NHS guidance is a dynamic triage system that relies on a Clinical Frailty Scale (CFS) and "algorithm" or decision tree for choosing a treatment plan. It takes into account patient wishes, underlying pathologies, comorbidities, and severity of acute illness. All without mentioning age. The UK's triage approach isn't immune from the cultural context that Waters describes, and doesn't resolve other issues concerning the NHS and end-of-life care. But it is a more considered approach within a system that faces, just a week or two away, the kind of overwhelming strain on its resources that Italy has suffered.

can be saved, and choices have to be made.

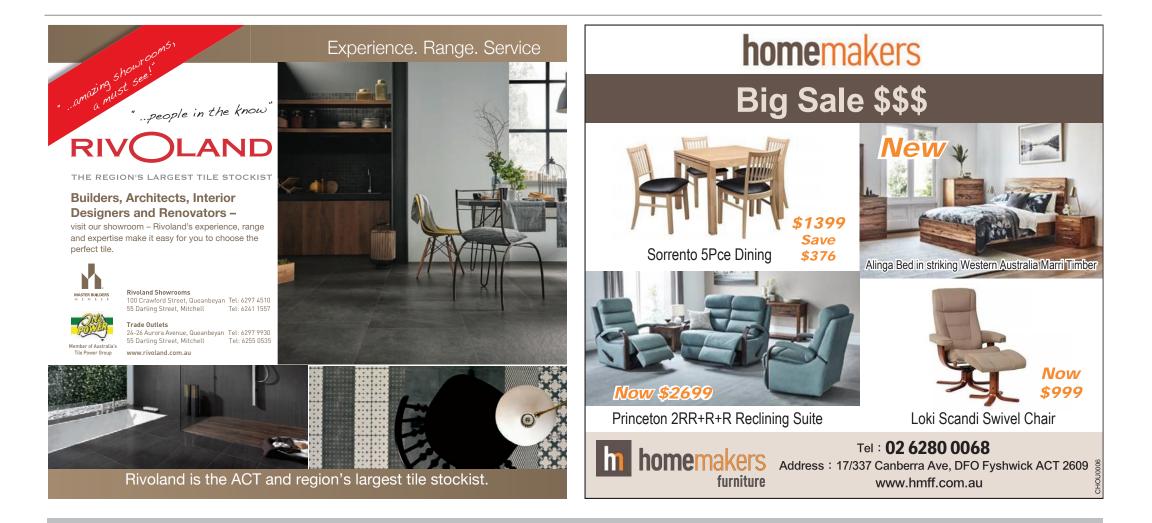
On a Wartime Footing

Comparisons to World War II and the "spirit of the Blitz" are common in Britain. It was a time when, in the national memory, Londoners withstood daily bombing with courage, determination, solidarity, and patriotism, and came to each other's aid.

Government control extended beyond providing health care for those serving in the greatly expanded armed services. It was also a matter of how the state needed to organize industry to meet critical health care needs, to apportion and ration health care resources, not least but not only for those wounded in combat.

Both Prime Minister Boris Johnson and President Donald Trump are putting indus-

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



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How the Specter of Communism Is Ruling Our World

Using the Law for Evil

The Epoch Times here serializes "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 Ten (Cont.)

2. Law as an Instrument of Tyranny Under Communist Regimes

b. Ever-Changing Standards of Right and Wrong (cont.)

According to Karl Marx, the law is a product of class contradiction and a tool that embodies the will of the ruling class. The laws of a communist party come not from God, nor from a genuine love of the people, nor for the sake of maintaining a fair and just society. The interests of the ruling group, the communist party, are all that matter. As the goals and interests of the party change, its laws change as well.

Naturally, once the CCP seized power, it adopted class struggle as the guideline and proceeded to rob the entire citizenry. It promulgated laws against the crime of "counterrevolutionary activity," which applied to everyone who opposed the Party's policies of theft. The CCP punished counter-revolutionaries with prison or execution.

After completing the process of mass robbery to implement its public ownership, the CCP needed a way to keep what it had stolen. It shifted its priorities to making economic construction the focus and implemented laws that protected private property.

In essence, this meant little more than protecting the Party's vested interests, as property belonging to ordinary Chinese is not, in practice, afforded the same protections. The endless compulsory demolitions of people's homes to make way for land development illustrates the regime's continued application of violence to infringe on the right to private property.

In early 1999, the Communist Party announced the need to "rule the country according to law." [10] A few months later, it began the nationwide persecution of Falun Gong practitioners, who follow the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. The Party established the Gestapo-like 610 Office to carry out the anti-Falun Gong campaign. To fulfill its mission, the 610 Office has the authority to bypass all laws and judicial procedures. It manipulates the public security and judicial bureaucracy to suppress Falun Gong. The Party must continuously conjure new enemies so as to intimidate the people, cover up its monstrous crimes, and achieve the goal of brutal repression for its own sake. The modes and targets of persecution are everchanging and include the campaigns against landlords and capitalists, the 1989 massacre of students in Tiananmen Square, and the suppression of Falun Gong practitioners and human rights lawyers. Accordingly, the law must change as well. In over 60 years of rule, the Party has promulgated four constitutions, the last of which has undergone four revisions since its introduction in 1982. Gaining experience from multiple political campaigns, the CCP has used the law to adjust and disguise its motives and actions. Sometimes it does not even bother to apply this camouflage.

Under this kind of system, anyone who dares to challenge the "will of the ruling class"–that is, anyone who opposes the interests of the communist party–can be subject to legal persecution as a class enemy, whether they are unemployed workers, demobilized soldiers, farmers whose land was expropriated, human rights lawyers, or simply those struggling to make ends meet.

To lawyers practicing in communist countries, the laws on the books always make way for practical concerns. If a lawyer tries to cite the law and argue in favor of justice, the judge and prosecution will shut him down by talking about the supposed spirit of the law. They even blatantly say that the court is run by the communist party and must follow its orders. Whatever the thoughts of these individual court workers, what they say indeed reflects the spirit of law that exists under communist regimes.

In the Chinese court system, during hearings involving Falun Gong practitioners persecuted in China, the judges may make statements like the following:

"Why are you bringing up the law? I care only about politics."

"The Party doesn't allow for defense." "The leaders' words are the law. The Communist Party leads the court, so we need to follow the Party line."

"No legal procedure is necessary for Falun Gong issues."

"Don't talk to me about conscience."

The United States has long been the

The United States has long been the mainstay of rule of law. But today, as communism extends its reach to every corner of the world, Western law cannot escape its infiltration and subversion. This section examines the multifaceted erosion of U.S. legal institutions.

a. Subverting the Moral Foundations of the Law

Law based on religion and faith is sacred. But as communist parties and their various followers around the world promoted atheism and the theory of evolution, the connection between law and God has been severed. Law has been largely reduced to an instrument of revenge, arbitration, bargaining, and allocation of benefits. With its divine nature under siege, the spirit of the law began to shift from its role of maintaining fairness and justice to being the expression of popular notions and desires. This opened the door for the communist specter, working through its mortal agents, to pass laws of its choosing in order to undermine society and come closer to its destructive aims

In the United States, the communist influence in social justice and modern liberalism have appropriated the concepts of freedom, progress, and tolerance to alter the moral state of society and with it the moral foundations of the law. Using these causes to reject and destroy the law's moral and religious underpinnings affects what kind of laws can be passed and how they will be interpreted by the judges.

Marriage, for example, is considered by traditional faiths to be a holy institution comprising the union of man and wife. Same-sex marriage by definition violates these teachings,

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c. The Chinese Communist Party: Official Neglect of the Law

The CCP fills its constitution with verbose language in an effort to show that it is committed to rule of law and civilized international norms. In practice, however, the constitution is never strictly followed, and rights such as the freedoms of speech, belief, and association are not actually protected.

According to Marxist theory, law reflects the will of the ruling class and is an instrument in its governance. For a communist party, then, passing and amending laws to suppress its enemies follows as a matter of course. mainstay of rule of law. But today, as communism extends its reach to every corner of the world, Western law cannot escape its infiltration and subversion.

English philosopher Francis Bacon once wrote: "One foul sentence doth more hurt than many foul examples. For these do but corrupt the stream, the other corrupteth the fountain."

The laws of the Communist Party, ever-malleable and only selectively practiced, hold no sanctity from which to derive legitimate authority. Over the past century, the "spirit of law" that governs the Party's legal system has brought about countless injustices and overseen the deaths of 100 million innocent people–a debt of blood that no representative of the communist cause can ever atone for.

"A murderer must pay with his life, just as a debtor with money," as the common proverb goes. Were the Communist Party to truly enforce the law, it would become liable for its bloody history.

3. How Communism Warps Law in the West

In communist countries, the devil manipulates the law as an instrument for maintaining its rule, reinforcing its ideology, and suppressing the people. In free countries, its aim is to subvert traditional faith and the law's moral foundations, to distort the standards of good and evil and to seize the powers of legislation and enforcement, thus putting demonic norms into practice.

Law is closely related to politics, religion, education, and other fields.

and its introduction to society necessitates a shift in the legal definition and interpretation of the laws governing marriage. On the other hand, if the people abide by divine commandment and uphold the standards set by their faith, the moral state of society will not change, and secular law will remain stable, as it is based on the principles ordained by gods. If gods held a certain kind of behavior to be immoral 2,000 years ago, it should be immoral today as well.

Liberalism, however, rejects traditional belief and moral judgment. It regards morality as a secular agreement that changes according to the development of society. Marriage, therefore, is regarded as a simple contract between two people who are willing to state their commitment to each other. Recognition of same-sex marriage is based on the ostensible premise of freedom and progress, but this premise is malleable and will inevitably result in the corruption of the law.

Liberalism and progressivism have brought about the separation of traditional morality from justice. This was reflected in an abortion case that reached the Supreme Court in 1992. Three justices stated: "Some of us as individuals find abortion offensive to our most basic principles of morality, but that cannot control our decision. Our obligation is to define the liberty of all, not to mandate our own moral code."

Put another way, what the justices meant is that the law prioritizes freedom over morality, and the values of liberty and morality are separate. But liberty, as established by the American Founding Fathers, is a "self-evident" principle, that is, it is bestowed by God-or, as the Declaration of Independence puts it, the Creator. Rejecting the universal standards set by the Creator in order to increase the range of so-called freedoms is a method the devil uses to distort the law and lead humanity to its fall.

See next edition for the next installment.

A12 | OPINION

Taiwan Is the Geopolitical Winner in the Coronavirus Crisis

CHRISS STREET



By demonstrating the advantages of being a stable, well-governed and democratic nation, Taiwan has

emerged as a geopolitical winner during the coronavirus crisis.

Geopolitical Futures in a new report titled, "A Good Year for Taiwan," outlines how the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP's) efforts to "win Taiwan without going to war is failing." Compared to the CCP's authoritarian governance model of managing a crisis, Taiwan demonstrated that transparency, free flow of information, and voluntary participation in a civil society are more advantageous.

Twelve months ago, mainland China expected President Tsai Ingwen's pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) to be trounced by Kaohsiung Mayor Han Kuo-yu and his pro-Beijing Kuomintang (KMT) party in Taiwan's January elections.

Under the motto of "Taiwan safe, people rich," the KMT held a 20-point lead in the polls last summer with promises to deepen the cross-strait "1992 Consensus" by sacrificing sovereignty in favor of economic rewards from greater mainland engagement.

But a series of high-profile scandals that exposed the deep CCP ties with Taiwanese businesses and media outlets, coupled with last year's Hong Kong protests and brutal CCP crackdowns, caused a reversal of KMT support. President Tsai won a re-election landslide with 57.1 percent of the vote and her DPP party retained its national legislature majority in Jan. 11 elections.

In the final days before the election, mainland China was covertly dealing with exponential growth of a new and highly infectious coronavirus. But rather than share detailed information with its own citizens and the global community, China first called it a "pneumonia of unclear cause," even though researchers had mapped the new coronavirus genome by Jan. 2. In the most egregious action, the CCP and Wuhan Health Commission insisted that there were no new cases from Jan. 11-17.

Foreign Policy magazine blamed China for the coronavirus, which was "caused in part by incompetent, malicious, and corrupt politicians." The Dispatch reporter Danielle Pletka argued that Chinese leader Xi Jinping's "prime concern was not lives at risk, or containment of the virus, but rather the nation's and his reputation, place in the global supply chain and his grip on power."

Taiwan, located just 81 miles away from mainland China and receiving 2.7 million mainland visitors a year, would seem most vulnerable to a devastating outbreak of what has come to be called "CCP virus." But Taiwan has only recorded 252 coronavirus infections and just two deaths as of March 26, since the pandemic first began four months ago in central China.

Rather than following the CCP's playbook of spreading disinformation to hide the origin and scale of the infection that allowed it to morph into a global pandemic, the Taiwan government contained the outbreak by acting swiftly and decisively. As soon as China announced it was dealing with a mysterious surge of pneumonia cases, Taipei started screening inbound passengers from Wuhan, then banned arrivals within a month.

The government banned exports of critical medical supplies, rationed face masks to avoid hoarding, and mobilized the manufacturing sector to produce 10 million face masks



Taipei metro staff in the MRT station monitor the temperatures of passengers with a thermal scanner in Taipei, Taiwan, on March 16, 2020.

Rather than following the CCP's playbook of spreading disinformation to hide the origin and scale of the infection that allowed it to morph into a global pandemic, the Taiwan government contained the outbreak by acting swiftly and decisively. a day. The democratically-elected government then initiated civic education to encourage adoption of public health best practices and increase personal hygiene.

Mandatory quarantines were quickly instituted for arrivals from coronavirus hot-spots and digital surveillance was activated to track suspected patients, rather than disrupting daily life and sowing panic, closing schools, and shuttering businesses. As a result, Taiwan kept a clear picture of the outbreak, maintained adequate resources to manage it, and generated widespread public support for its actions, according to Geopolitical Futures.

With popular support for

President Tsai and her ruling DPP party's management of the CCP virus crisis surging, the KMT was forced to question its pro-Beijing slant. On March 7, the KMT elected the relatively youthful 48-year-old legislator Johnny Chiang who has indicated he is prepared to scrap the so-called "1992 Consensus" with the mainland.

Chriss Street is an expert in macroeconomics, technology, and national security. He has served as CEO of several companies and is an active writer with more than 1,500 publications. He also regularly provides strategy lectures to graduate students at top Southern California universities.

SAMIRA BOUAOU/THE EPOCH TIMES

and some of the finest minds in the



Suggestions for This Difficult Time

DENNIS PRAGER



Since we are all stuck at home for weeks, here are some suggestions to help you and help America. Watch less news. Interview and opinion shows

on TV and talk radio shows that add to one's understanding of the situation can be valuable. But watching depressing, panic-inducing news about COVID-19 24/7 will only make you jittery, anxious, and depressed. It's good for the news networks' ratings, but it's bad for your mental health.

Instead, you can read, talk to friends, watch movies, learn a language, listen to music, start a journal, walk outside, garden or engage in hobbies. Do that project you've never had time to get to. In short, don't preoccupy yourself with the virus. My wife and I watched a James Bond movie a few nights ago, and I loved the total escape it provided. And I'm getting more work done on the third volume of my Torah commentary ("The Rational Bible") than I could have under normal circumstances.

Make sure to stay in touch via phone or video with anyone you know to be alone. For such people, social isolation is close to being in solitary confinement. After two weeks of you and them remaining asymptomatic, I would also suggest visiting such people or having them visit you. Being alone for weeks is likely to be much more hazardous to a person's health than the relatively small possibility of contracting, let alone dying from, the new coronavirus. Decide to be happy. As Lincoln said, "We are as happy as we decide to be." You owe it to those living under house arrest with you—in fact, you are morally obligated—to be as easy to live with as possible during this miserable time. Calibrating your mood now, when it's tough, will set a great example for your family that could pay big dividends in the future. I could imagine your kids saying decades hence, "Remember how our parent(s) stayed upbeat during the coronavirus scare?" What a wonderful legacy that would be.

If you have kids at home—from as early as fifth grade through graduate school—watch PragerU videos with them. They are all just five minutes long, highly educational, and very entertaining. Professors from major universities of the Western world, four Pulitzer Prize winners, three former prime ministers,

A man views cherry blossom trees on an empty sidewalk near the U.S. Capitol on March 16, 2020. world offer these courses. There are 400 such videos. They will engender spirited discussion and take your mind off the virus and quarantine. They are all free, so I have no hesitation recommending something I am affiliated with.

Order as many meals as possible from local restaurants. Most Americans will get their food from supermarkets. If you can afford it—and I suspect most readers of this column can—try to get most of your meals from a local restaurant through takeout orders. We need to do everything possible to keep local restaurants in business.

Order online items. During this quarantine, Americans are purchasing more and more items through the internet. Try to order from vendors other than Amazon as much as possible. The purpose is not to hurt Amazon; Amazon is a remarkable company. The purpose is to keep as many internet vendors in business as possible. It takes only an additional minute or two to order from another site.

Don't look to food for too much comfort. As it is, most people will be moving around far less than normally. When that is added to a lot of junk food, the results will not be pretty. It's been reported that sales of cookies and chips have gone up significantly in the last few weeks. The last thing you want to do now is to weaken your immune system. Eat as healthy as you can. Getting some exercise is also important. Going for a walk every day is a good place to start.

King Solomon, the story goes, asked his wise men (in the ancient world, they emphasized wisdom; people today emphasize knowledge) to make him a magic ring. This ring would lift his spirits if he got depressed and bring him back down to earth if he got euphoric. The wise men returned with a ring in which the Hebrew words "gam zu ya'avor" were inscribed: "This, too, shall pass." Keep in mind that this awful period will pass. The human psyche is programmed to think that whatever is happening now happy or sad—will go on indefinitely. Nothing does.

Dennis Prager is a nationally syndicated radio talk-show host and columnist.

DEATH AND DYING

We Need to Talk About Death

Honoring end-of-life wishes is only possible if people talk about what they want.



COOKING AT HOME

This Recipe is Better Than Takeout

A quick and easy recipe you can make at home that promises to be just as good as the local Chinese restaurant

See B8

APRIL 2 - 8, 2020 **B1**

LIFE

THE EPOCH TIMES



TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE

Finding Balance With the Five Flue Fluers'

CONAN MILNER

hink of a wellbalanced meal and you'll probably imagine things like vegetables, protein, and sensible portions. But there is another vital

variable: taste. We naturally want food that tastes good, but learning to choose the right flavor, or combination of flavors, can also improve our health.

In all ancient systems of medicine, flavor plays a pivotal role. The flavor of a food or herb doesn't exist merely for our pleasure (or disgust): It can also foretell what the food will do inside the body. nature of a lemon. Your liver and gallbladder react with a similar spasm when hit with a sour note. This stimulates bile, which, in turn, helps your body work better at breaking down fats. Greasy, oily, or deep-fried foods notoriously make for a sluggish liver. A squirt of something sour lends this overburdened organ a helpful jolt.

Think of the pucker-inducing

According to traditional Chinese medicine, there are five basic flavors, and each one has an affinity for a particular organ. Sweet goes to the digestive organs (spleen, stomach, and pancreas); salty to the water-bearing organs (kidney and bladder); sour to the detoxifying organs (liver and gallbladder); bitter to the circulatory organ (heart); and pungent (or spicy) to the lungs and large intestine—the assimilation and elimination organs for air and food.

These flavor-organ pairings are based on our body's physiological reactions to taste and the ways our organs operate. This insight is used as a tool to meet the ultimate goal of Chinese medicine: bringing the body into balance. Along with things like meditation, exercise, and acupuncture, food is one of the most accessible ways to find and keep this balance.

The earliest known mention of the five flavors is found in the oldest available text of Chinese medicine, "The Yellow Emperor's Inner Classic." It states that mindful use of the five flavors can ensure a long, healthy life.

The schizandra berry, also known as wu wei zi (fiveflavor seed) in Chinese. However, too much of one taste or not enough of another can result in disease.

For the ancient Chinese, eating the right proportion of flavors is so closely linked to health that they categorized all food according to flavor profile. Some foods, like bananas, are one-note: sweet. But many foods feature two or more flavors—ginseng, for example, is both sweet and bitter. A plum is sweet and sour. One unusual specimen said to contain every flavor is the schizandra berry, known as wu wei zi (five-flavor berry) in Chinese. Today, schizandra is a popular adaptogen because of its ability to stimulate all of the internal organs.

Continued on **B3**

To Die Well, We Must Talk About Death Before the End of Life

Honoring end-of-life wishes is only possible if people have conversations about what we want

TAMARA SUSSMAN

I would like to tell you an all-toofamiliar story. It begins with a long-term care home resident, Laura, who has multiple chronic conditions and gets an infection that doesn't get any better.

Her health has been declining for months, but no one has talked to her about her preferences for end-of-life care. In the absence of that knowledge, she is sent to the hospital where she undergoes stressful tests.

The story ends with Laura dying in the hospital, alone and frightened. Her family is traumatized, and so are the staff who have cared for her over the past year.

It's a simple fact that 100 percent of us will die. Conversations about our future health care and what's important to us—called advance care planning—have shown distinct benefits.

In fact, research shows that as many as one-third of seriously ill, hospitalized older people are receiving invasive treatments they don't want at end-of-life because no one has talked to them about their wishes for future care. This is true even in long-term homes, where the average lifespan is less than two years.

Pamphlets Help Stimulate Conversation

How do we change those statistics and give our older people the care they want—and deserve? My team's research has focused on answering that question over the past six years.

We recently developed a series of pamphlets and distributed them in long-term care homes to try to get the conversation started.

The pamphlets were diseasespecific (for example, focusing on dementia), and included information about life-limiting illnesses, what to expect, and tips for talking about wishes for the future.

In our study, 84 percent of residents and families who received a pamphlet felt encouraged to think about their future care and 70 percent felt clearer about what to talk about.

Planning Death Is a Great Relief

Moving from thinking to a discussion, however, was a different matter. Family members worried that bringing up the subject would destroy hope. Residents thought they should protect their families from thinking about their death.

And many long-term care home staff indicated that they did not feel trained to participate in these conversations—in fact, only 21 percent handed out the pamphlets, preferring instead for families or residents to take them from a display board.

Encouragingly, the 56 percent of residents and families who did have conversations after receiving a pamphlet expressed great relief. A typical response from families was: "It makes it easier for me right now because now I don't have to guess."

Most of those surveyed said they would prefer to die a natural death at home without being a burden on their families.

Death Is Taboo, Globally

The problem goes beyond longterm care homes. A striking 93 percent of Canadian participants in a recent poll think it's important to communicate their wishes for future care should they become seriously ill, but only 36 percent have actually done so.

That may seem shocking. But according to the World Health Organization, Canada is actually ahead of most European countries.

A survey conducted for the California Health Care Foundation found that nearly 8 in 10 Californians would want to speak with their doctor about end-of-life care if they were seriously ill, but fewer than 1 in 10 report having had a conversation, including just 13 percent of those age 65 or older. on their families. However, due to a lack of end-of-life planning, that is not what happens.

American doctors say they know these conversations are important but half of them don't know what to say, and less than a third say they have had training on talking with patients and their families about end-of-life care, according to research conducted for the John A. Hartford Foundation.

Clearly, talking about death and the end of life is still taboo around the world.

Informational resources such as our pamphlets can be a great first step in helping all parties gain clarity on what to be thinking and talking about. But because residents and families tend to protect one another, staff need to take more active roles in supporting such conversations.

Care Home Staff Need Training

That means we need to clarify roles and provide the necessary training to support long-term care home staff, especially those who develop strong relationships with residents.

North America has an aging population, and thanks to technological advances, more of us are living longer with frailty and chronic conditions. We need to find ways to communicate what's important to us so that we receive the care that's right for us.

I would like to be able to tell you a different story. It begins with a care home resident, Sam, who gets an infection and is not getting better, even with antibiotics.

Sam has been living with multiple chronic conditions for some time and his family knew frequent infections could be a sign that the end of life was near. The family also knew that he wanted to die in the long-term care home and not in a hospital—because they had talked about this when he was healthier and could communicate his desires.

TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE Slow Down for Success

LYNN JAFFEE

don't like to wait. Put me in a line that's more than three people long, and I am the person tapping my toe and muttering about poor service. I rarely order stuff online because I want it now. And don't even think about putting me on hold. So it's very interesting that I am attracted to and practice Chinese medicine—a system of healing that is essentially ... slow.

If you are looking for a quick fix, Chinese medicine is not for you. It is usually not a one-shot deal. People who come for one session thinking that everything will be good-to-go afterward are often disappointed. It demands patience, and it is not a silver bullet. That said, the benefits of the slow nature of this medicine are many.



Chinese medicine's herbal remedies can help cure disease, but slowly.

Time to Fully Heal. Your body is programmed to heal—and that takes time. Chinese medicine involves true healing, not just masking symptoms with a prescription drug. That means your practitioner must understand not only what's going on, but why it is happening. Once the true source of your symptoms are uncovered and treated, real healing can happen.

Knowing Your Body. The nature of Chinese medicine insists that you slow down and get in touch with your body. Diagnosis and treatment can only move forward with your input as a patient. For example, you know that your headaches are migraines. But to be effective, your practitioner will need to know more: Is it one-sided? How often does it occur? Does the painful area like pressure or not? Is it related to changes in the weather? What else is going on with your health? Seemingly unrelated details are frequently big clues, and practitioners can only be effective if they know those details. And for that to happen, you need to pay attention to your body. This is a good thing, as it leads to insights about your health that you might not have considered otherwise.

Most of those surveyed said they would prefer to die a natural death at home without being a burden Sam dies, but with dignity and in peace and, most importantly, in keeping with his own wishes.

Tamara Sussman is an associate professor at the school of social work at McGill University in Canada. This article is republished from The Conversation.



Gentle. Chinese medicine is not only slow, but it is also gentle. Western medicine offers drugs and surgery. Chinese medicine offers herbs and a half hour or so of relaxation on a massage table during an acupuncture session.

Natural. Speaking of Chinese herbs, it's true that the effects are subtle at first and they take longer than a prescription drug to work. In fact, many prescription meds are derived from the same herbs Chinese medicine practitioners use.

However, the difference between the two is that when an actual herb is used, the whole herb is included for the benefit of the synergistic effect of all of the plant's compounds. When a drug is made from an herb, only the active ingredients are extracted and made into a very potent medication—one that may work quickly, but comes with tons of side effects because of its potency.

Active Participation. Finally, the nature of Chinese medicine usually means that patients must participate in their own treatment, as lifestyle is often a player in their conditions. If your diet is making you sick, you have a responsibility to change it as part of the treatment process.

If your 80-hour workweek is leaving you exhausted and irritable, acupuncture can only do so much. So if change is part of your treatment plan, you can plan on it taking some time. The upside is that the improvements you feel are very real, not the effect of a medication that has temporarily alleviated your symptoms but left the cause in place.

Lynn Jaffee is a licensed acupuncturist and the author of "Simple Steps:

The Chinese Way to Better Health." This article was originally published on AcupunctureTwin-Cities.com

Β3

TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE

Finding Balance With the **Five Flovers**'

Continued from **B1**

Flavors in Balance

Sweet is considered the most important flavor, but this doesn't mean Chinese medicine condones a steady diet of doughnuts. Nearly everything that we think of as food—vegetables, grains, and meat—is classified primarily as sweet. Take the time to chew your food thoroughly, and the inherent sweetness will shine through.

To our ancestors, a sweet taste identified safe, easy-to-digest, nourishing foods. And since this flavor is so important to the digestive organs, sweetness predominates our menu.

We naturally crave the comfort of sweetness, but it's easy to get too much of a good thing. The sweet flavor runs the gamut from bland to sickeningly saccharine. While the subdued sweetness of rice or broccoli supports our digestive organs, the intense sweetness of soda and fruit juice can injure them.

According to the "Inner Classic," eating too many sweet foods results in "diseases of the flesh," such as obesity and diabetes.

The other flavors play smaller roles in our diet, yet our bodies need all of them to function properly. However, there is no one-size-fits-all prescription when it comes to taste. While we all have the same basic flavor needs, individual imbalances vary. For example, those with a yang energy deficiency may need more spice in their diet to boost immunity and combat cold or dampness in the body.

When the grounding, nurturing, sweet flavor builds up in the body, pungent herbs such as cayenne pepper, ginger, and mustard can help move things along. That's why stopped-up conditions, like sinus congestion, constipation, or blood clots, can benefit from a pungent punch.

Contemplating the five flavors isn't like calorie counting or any other food metric obsession. There is no math involved. Rather, it's about simple observation: tuning into how you feel, and considering what flavor combinations will put you back on track. There is wisdom in your cravings.

Salt, for example, helps regulate mineral and fluid balance, which also happens to be a major function of the kidneys. That's why Chinese herbal formulas designed to treat kidney problems are often taken with a little salt. The belief is that the salty flavor works as a vehicle to drive the formula to the desired organ. Salt also helps dissolve hardness. That's why salty seaweed has long been a treatment for goiters. Again, just like with sweet, too much salt also harms the body. The quantity of any flavor is always an important consideration, and so is the person tasting it. According to Paul Pitchford, author of "Healing With Whole Foods: Asian Traditions and Modern Nutrition," salt

must be restricted by those with edema, lethargy, and other "damp" conditions.

Time of year also plays a role in determining what combination of flavors will best suit your body. Each taste is matched with a complementary season. Sour is spring, bitter is summer, sweet is midsummer (harvest time), pungent is fall, and salty is winter. If you're inclined to eat with the seasons, you'll find that many foods naturally feature the taste of the moment.

The concept of food as medicine is just beginning to take hold in the modern world, but it has always been a fundamental part of traditional cultures.

With the heat of summer, the sour greens of spring give way to more bitter vegetables. Eating bitter foods helps us stay cool inside and out. In Chinese medicine, bitters are recommended for people who suffer from heat-related symptoms: ulcers, mouth sores, anxiety, and insomnia. Extremely bitter herbs-like wormwood and gentianare used to treat extremely hot conditions. But less severe symptoms can be treated by eating mildly bitter foods like rapini, dandelion greens, bitter melon, and radicchio.

Food as Medicine

The concept of food as medicine is just beginning to take hold in the modern world, but it has always been a fundamental part of traditional cultures. In ancient Chinese medicine, diet is essential to healing.

"It's a pillar of Chinese medicine. It's the key," said Cindy Mai, owner of a Chinese herbal company called Root & Spring based in Los Angeles. "You don't wait until you're sick to do something to take care of your body. You nourish it and you treat it right, and it will stay healthy for you."



Cindy Mai in the kitchen.

rich, therapeutic broth. The mixes are blended with broth and vegetables to promote detoxification, immunity, and other modern health goals, but they're also meant to taste good. They go back to a time when food and medicine were one.

"If you look at the textbooks of Chinese medicine, these are classic, healing soups that, when cooked and brewed, all their essence comes together," Mai said.

And it's not limited to exotic Chinese herbs-widely available Western ingredients like garlic or cilantro have plenty of benefits, she adds.

"When dishes have a strong scent, like those made with fennel, garlic, or cilantro, that tells me they're going to enliven the spleen and stimulate the appetite. They also refresh the mind," said Mai.

There's a whole world of flavors out there, but many of us keep to a narrow window of familiar tastes. Compared to other cultures, many Westerners tend toward a palate that is predominantly sweet and salty. Sour, and particularly bitter, are often missing from the American diet.

If people can learn to include more of these forgotten flavors into their diet, they may see some of their health problems improve, says Mai.

"I'm often asked how to promote bowel movements, proper digestion, and detoxification. It's because their diets aren't balanced. They're getting too much of one or two flavors. Sour foods and bitter foods naturally have these effects on the body," she said.



SERVES 4

1.1 kilo chicken, whole or parts

5 dried shiitake mushrooms, rinsed

- 1 carrot, sliced
- 4 slices ginger

8 cups water

- 15 grams astragalus (4-5 slices) 20 grams codonopsis (4–5 pieces)
- 20 grams wild yam (4-5 slices)
- 20 grams goji berries (about a

handful)

- 23 grams red dates (3-4)
- 15 grams dried longan (about 4)
- Salt, to taste Cooked noodles, optional, to taste

DIRECTIONS

Lightly rinse the Chinese herbs under cool, running water.

Combine all the ingredients in a pot. Cover.

Bring soup to a boil. Lower heat and simmer for 11/2 hours on stovetop, or 3 or more hours in a slowcooker. The longer the soup cooks, the more pronounced the herb flavors will be.

Remove chicken from the soup. Reserve for another recipe, or shred the meat and add back to the soup. Add salt to taste. For a heartier meal, add cooked noodles.

Serve soup on its own or as part of a multicourse meal.

Recipe courtesy of Root & Spring

Mai wants to lead people back to this ancient wisdom with comfort food designed to prevent disease. Her vehicle is soup.

"Just like how Americans view chicken noodle soup, the Chinese view herbal soup as healing to the mind, body, and soul," she said.

Mai sells what could be called ancient soup mixes-various combinations of Chinese herbs that are used to make a

THE FIVE FLAVORS

FLAVOR	ORGAN	SEASON
Sour	Liver, Gallbladder	Spring
Bitter	Heart, Small Intestine	Summer
Sweet	Spleen, Stomach, Pancreas	Late Summer
Pungent	Lung, Large Intestine	Fall
Salty	Kidneys, Bladder	Winter

TOM WANG/SHUTTERSTOCK

According to Chinese medicine, the flavor of a food or herb doesn't exist merely for our pleasure (or disgust): It can also foretell what the food will do inside the body.

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POETRY

HOLY WORDS:

Poetry, Vocation, AND Sacred

JEFF MINICK

n the last millennium, and even earlier, poets of the West have devoted reams of verse to an exploration and celebration of their Christian faith. Dante, Milton, Spenser, Blake, the Americans Anne Bradstreet and Emily Dickinson, John Newton, Christina Rossetti, Francis Thompson, G.K. Chesterton, and T.S. Eliot: These and many other poets wrote verses centered on religion and worship.

And then there are the poets whose paper and pen walked hand in hand with their religious vocations.



A line engraving of Hildegard von Bingen by W. Marshall. Iconographic Collections, Wellcome Collection.

The Nun and the Monk

Famous visionary and Benedictine nun St. Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179) wrote verse as well as prose. Here is her tribute to God, "The Love of All":

Love overflows into all Glorious from the ocean's depths beyond the farthest star, Bounteous in loving all creation; For to the King most high Love has given her kiss of peace. lics, he was arrested, imprisoned in the Tower of London, and after three years of torture and degradation was executed.

Many of Southwell's poems, most of which he composed during his six years as an underground priest, are too lengthy to include here, but here is a compressed version from the Poetry Foundation of "The Burning Babe," a poem much admired by Ben Jonson:

As I in hoary winter's night stood shivering in the snow,

Surpris'd I was with sudden heat which made my heart to glow;

And lifting up a fearful eye to view what fire was near,

A pretty Babe all burning bright did in the air appear;

Who, scorched with excessive heat, such floods of tears did shed

As though his floods should quench his flames which with his tears were fed. "Alas!" quoth he, "but newly born, in

fiery heats I fry, Yet none approach to warm their hearts or feel my fire but I!

My faultless breast the furnace is, the fuel wounding thorns,

Love is the fire, and sighs the smoke, the ashes shame and scorns;

The fuel Justice layeth on, and Mercy blows the coals,

The metal in this furnace wrought are men's defiled souls,

For which, as now on fire I am to work them to their good,

So will I melt into a bath to wash them in my blood."

With this he vanish'd out of sight and swiftly shrunk away,

And straight I called unto mind that it was Christmas day.



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Phone: 0412079004 Address: 3/34 Isa St, Fyshwick ACT Email: info@puresealed.com f Pure Sealed @puresealed Like Hildegard, mendicant monk St. Francis of Assisi (1181–1226) tied the wonders of nature to the Almighty. In his beautiful piece "The Canticle of the Sun," Francis praises "my Lord" for gifts like "Brother Wind," "Sister Moon," and "Brother Fire." Francis also wrote "Prayer for Peace," a poem recited and sung even today.

Many readers will be familiar with these words; for those who have no acquaintance, let me do the introductions:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy.

Divine Master,

Grant that I may seek not so much to be consoled as to console; To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning that we are par-

doned, And it is in dying that we are born to

Eternal Life. Amen.

Metaphysical Poets

In "Flowers of Heaven: One Thousand Years of Christian Verse," Joseph Pearce writes of Robert Southwell (1561–1595) that "in his short and dramatic life he wrote some of the finest religious poetry in the English language."

Caught up in religious struggles of his day—England was becoming Anglican, and the court and Parliament suppressed Catholicism—Southwell left his native land for France and Italy, and became a Jesuit priest. Returning to England to serve his fellow CathoJohn Donne (1573–1631), George Herbert (1593–1633), and Richard Crashaw (1613–1649) were all three men of the cloth whose metaphysical poetry has won praise down through the centuries. Donne died as dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London; Herbert was an Anglican priest in a small parish. Richard Crashaw, an Anglican clergyman, converted to Catholicism, fled England, and spent the rest of his brief life in Europe.

Dappled Things

One other poet needs inclusion in this all-too-brief and most incomplete of lists. Like the poets of the English Reformation, Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844–1889) suffered for his religious views, having not only converted to Catholicism but becoming a priest as well, a move that left him estranged from many friends and family members. And like Hildegard and Francis, Hopkins celebrated the sacred by what he discovered in nature in verses like "God's Grandeur," "A Kingfisher Catches Fire," and especially, in "Pied Beauty":

Glory be to God for dappled things— For skies of couple-color as a brinded cow; For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim; Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plow; And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;

Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)

With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;

He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change;

Praise him.

By now, some readers may be wondering, "Yes, yes, Jeff Minick. We take your point. Some writers who pursued reli-

Β5

PUBLIC DOMAIN



Sir Roger Scruton, writer and philosopher at Princeton University in New Jersey on April 3, 2017.

gious vocations produced some worthy poetry."

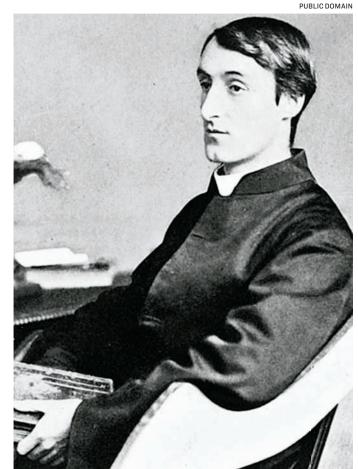
To See Beyond What We See

But my conclusion will reach beyond that observation.

A friend of mine believes that modern artists have lost touch with the sacred purpose of art. She and I have batted this idea around several times, and though I am heavily read in modern writers, I am more and more inclined to agree with her.

In his address "Beauty and the Restoration of the Sacred." delivered at a Catholic Art Guild Conference in 2017 in Chicago, philosopher Roger Scruton spoke of the idea of beauty and the sacred in all the arts. Long a critic of modernity, particularly of our architecture, near the end of his talk Scruton remarked: "This is one of the problems we're living through. People don't seem to accept that there is any other way of understanding things than the scientific way, and this leads to scientism, which is a kind of systematic misunderstanding of the human world." He then advocates teaching the idea of the sacred and the beautiful to our children.

The poets mentioned above, those who embraced a religious vocation as well as those who followed other paths, acknowledged in their verse that something—a power, a force, a deity, if you will—lies beyond what we can feel, hear, touch, and see. Even Hopkins, who lived

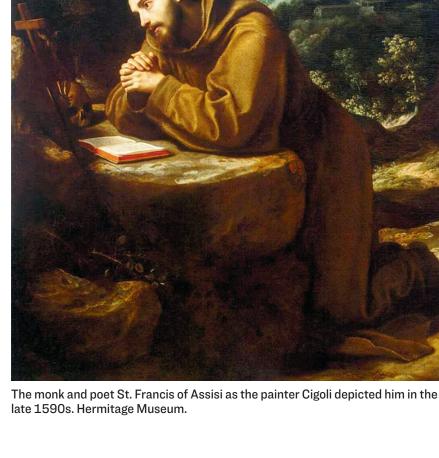


Gerard Manley Hopkins, in a photo taken before 1889, was an English poet, Roman Catholic convert, and Jesuit priest.

in the Industrial Age when theories like communism and evolution were undermining this sacramental view of life, possessed the eyes to look beyond physical reality and point his readers to a higher realm.

In discussing Giovanni Bellini's painting of a Madonna and child during the address mentioned above, Scruton states that "the real artist wants us to look beyond what we see." Have we, and our artists, lost that ability to look beyond what we can see, to perceive, as did our ancestors, the great mystery behind our physical world? If so, does that loss of vision diminish us as human beings? Without the transcendental, without the sacred, without beauty, are we not in danger of becoming the creatures described by T.S. Eliot in "Choruses From the Rock:"

And the wind shall say: "Here were decent Godless people: Their only monument the asphalt road And a thousand lost golf balls?"



Unless otherwise noted, all poems are from Joseph Pearce's book "Flowers of Heaven: One Thousand Years of Christian Verse."

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C., Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va.

See JeffMinick.com to follow his blog.

66

People don't seem to accept that there is any other way of understanding things than the scientific way.

Roger Scruton, philosopher



NO COMMUNISM, NO SOCIALISM JUST PURE TRADITIONAL JOURNALISM

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

CROSSWORD CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON EPOCH TIMES STAFF

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Across 1. Misses 5. Prelude to a duel 9. Party host, e.g. 16. Type size 18. Hummus holder 19. Anagram for gardenia 20. GPS technology 23. Antigone's cruel uncle 24. "Threads" 25. What is more 26. Outline 28. Alpine transport 30. Razor-billed bird 32. Arm of Israel 33. Idiom for contradictory messages

43. Press 44. Big do 45. Novelty street performers of the 19th century 50. Cuddle 52. Tempter 53. Overhangs 55. "Incredible" TV hero 56. Like a banjo 59. "Can't Help Lovin' ____ Man" 60. Bucolic poems 62. Burrow 63. Fancy tie 66. Balls 68. "Back " (1981 Sally

42." the fields we go"

70. Indiana Jones' peers 75. School of thought 76. Deli sandwich 78. Grooved on 79. Wheeling's river 80. Picture of pollen, maybe? 86. Rumpus 87. Debtor's note 88. Put away 89. Of a rope 91. Hebrew month 94. Secured 96. Balkan capital 97. Where answers to problems lie 104. Cochlea site

Field comedy)

105. Peddle 106. Christmas times 107. Adjust again to a situation 108. Shade makers 109. Jump Down 1. Roadside sign 2. "Lord," in Turkish 3. Throwing a deadbolt 4. Cubic meter 5. Washer cycle 6. "A Place in the Sun" band 7. Downed 8. "Giant" animals 9. Western blue flag, e.g. 10. Shrew 11. By means of 12. Amount eaten 13. Shadow 14. They're inflatable 15. Clinton's attorney

general 17. Fragrant resin 19. Movie format 21. Student aid 22. Glow 26. Japanese wrestling 27. Powerful person 28. Not our 29. European capital 30. Actress Olivia d', of 'The Wonder Years' 31. Coffee dispensers 34. Bolted 35. Trident missile payload 36. Limerick language 37. In conflict with, with "of" 38. Fairy tale character 39. Blows one's own horn? 41. Opened wide

46. Holiday quaff

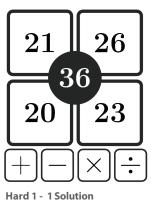
49. "Come on, before it gets cold!" 51. Prefix with "therapy" 54. Storage cylinder 56. Garden pest 57. Nike logo 58. "Remember the !" 59. A dwarf 61. Blondie's hubby 64. Bombay wrap 65. Relative of a gator 66. Noggin 67. Aquatic plant 69. "Am-scray!" 71. "The ____ of Night" 72. Like Play-doh 73. All alternative 74. Sometime today, say 77. Down Under bird 81. Oblique 82. CPU architecture acronym 83.6x9-inch book size 84. Decibel-intensity measure 85. Substantial 90. A feline sound 91. Arabian bigwig 92. Crescent 93. It parallels the radius 94. Apartment 95. Tire filler 96. Lays down the lawn 98. "A Kiss Before Dying" author Levin 99. Vim 100. Wonderland drink 101. "And all the sea were ..." 102. Rustic locale 103. Paranormal ability

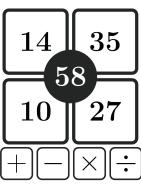
47. "Naked Maja" painter

48. Life partner?

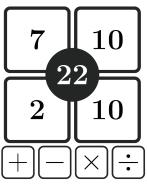
4NUMBERS CONSTRUCTED BY C. CHANG

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

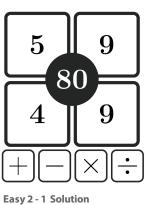








Easy 1 - 1 Solution



WORDSEARCH CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON EPOCH TIMES STAFF

40. A bunch of

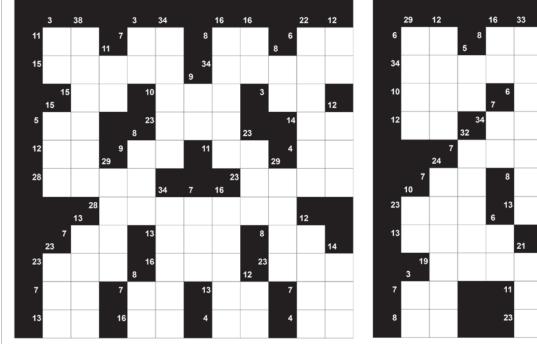
Help with Today's Crossword Puzzle?

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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: Easy



Large: Hard

(Abbr.)



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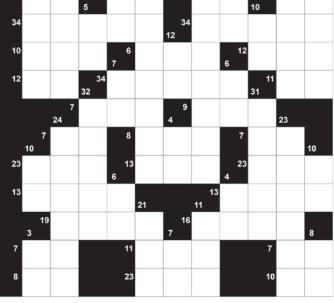
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ELEMI	SHAPABLE	AFOUL
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SOLUTIONS

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SUPERSUDOKU	Fill fror
CONSTRUCTED BY KANNAN SANKARAN	squ

I in the boxes using numbers from 0 to 9 and letters from A to F so that each column, each row, and each 4x4

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

Hard

BY KAN	INAN SA	NKARA	N	:	squai	recor	ntain	allte	n nun	nbers	and	six le	tters	only	once
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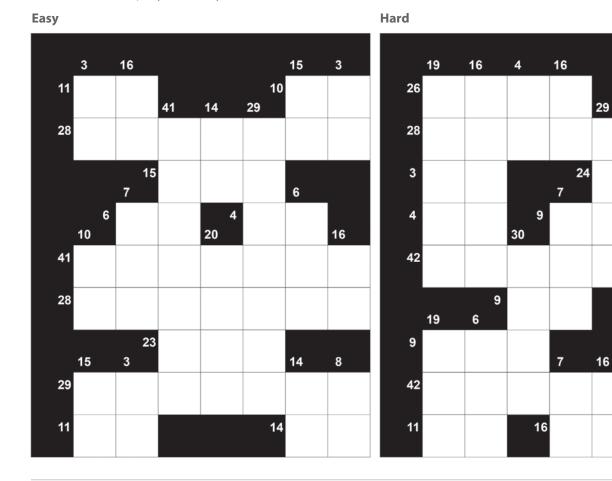
16

19

19

KAKURO

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





FREE ON THE IPHONE™

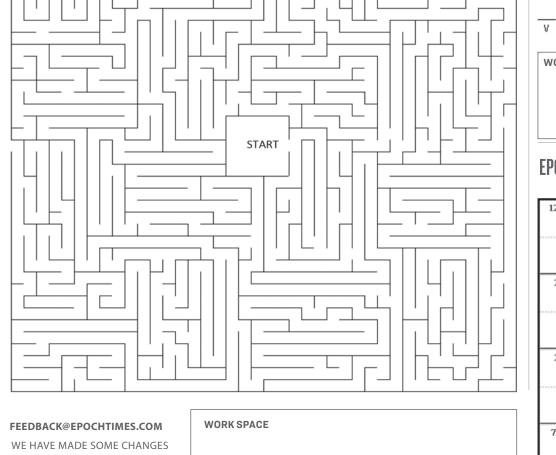
Guess the hidden saying, phrase or word(s) suggested by the picture!

S Alan Morgan

FATHER Presented By



EPOCH ESCAPE MAZE CRYPTIC QUOTE Quote by: Marcus Aurelius В С D Е F G н | I J К L M N Ο р А Q R S U ۷ W У Ζ Т \times R Е Е N S X JP R DRZJ V U W Ζ S L QSSM





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KEN 賢 KEN

Each row and each column must contain the umbers1through6withoutrepeating.2.The umbers within the heavily outlined boxes, alled cages, must combine using the given peration (in any order) to produce the target umbers in the top-left corners. 3. Freebies: ll in single-box cages with the number in the op-left corner.

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1–		60×		6	10×
	3	5—		5+	
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TO OUR PUZZLE PAGE IN RESPONSE TO PUZZLER'S FEEDBACK. LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

SOLUTIONS

SUPERSUDOKU	SUDOKU: EASY	KENKEN	EAS	KAK	JRO					HAR	DKA	KURC)					
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Contact the Puzzle Master @: Feedback@EpochTimes.com



Make a big batch of soup to get through the coming winter.

A Colorful Way to Celebrate Soup Season

Vivid Thai flavors meet sweet and earthy winter vegetables in this bright, warming, coconut curry-inspired soup

CAROLINE CHAMBERS

t's early April, a universally gloomy and glum time of year no matter what part of the world you might be reading this from.

Living in Monterey County, California, I can brag to my east coast family and friends about my superior weather just about any time of the year, but this time of year is an absolute exception. Admittedly, last Saturday it was 24 degrees and sunny and my husband George and I took our son to the pool all day ... but it's freezing and drizzly as

adoration.

"Soup season" encapsulates the cold, dark-at-5 p.m., severely depressing time of year, when a piping hot bowl of soup is the only salve for a case of the winter blues. Pack your soup with vegetables, like I do in this recipe for a Thai-inspired coconut curry and winter veggies number, and you'll also be slurping up so many vitamins and nutrients essential for fighting the icky winter viruses floating around right about now.

Plus, not only is soup the ultimate one-pot wonder, but it's also an easy way to meal prep. It's just as easy to make six servings of soup as it is to make two, so might as well make a bigger batch and freeze half, as I always do, or just eat it all week long!

Traditional Thai ingredients make up the foundational flavors of this soup, combining beautifully

earthy root vegetables. Creamy coconut milk is pureed with the veggies and broth to help it become extra smooth and velvety; fish sauce adds that special funk that is beloved in a good curry; and just a couple tablespoons of store-bought curry paste bring in heat and so much dynamic flavor. Finally, lime juice brightens everything up with its irresistible tang.

Some of these ingredients might be unfamiliar, but they can all be found at most standard grocery stores. Yes, your grocery store sells fish sauce and curry paste! (And once you have them in your pantry, you can easily make my coconut curry steak bowls from a previous column, and so many other fabulous recipes.)

Different types of curry paste have different heat levels, with red typically being the spiciest, then yellow, then green the mildest. I use red curry paste here, but if your store doesn't carry it, feel free to use whatever kind you can find; just taste as you go, adding more or less to suit your preferred spice level.

Many soups start with a mirepoix, a combination of chopped carrots, celery, and onion, as their base. To keep things simple, I usually pare it down to just a small chopped onion, but if you're at the store and you see pre-chopped mirepoix in the refrigerator aisle, you can use 1 1/2 cups of that instead of the onion to save yourself the chopping.

Use whatever root vegetables you want or already have. I love making this soup with a sweet winter squash like butternut, acorn, or kabocha. I also love the earthiness that comes into the mix when I throw in half kilo of parsnips with half kilo of carrots or sweet potatoes. You truly can't go wrong.

I've provided both stovetop and Instant Pot directions, but if you own the latter, this is a great time to use it! If I'm really strapped for time, I skip the sautéing step and simply throw all of the ingredients in the pot to pressure cook. The flavors don't develop quite as much, but it is still absolutely delicious.

Divide and Conquer

Some nights in the kitchen are made for romance, and others are made for efficiency. Soup night is all about efficiency, so that you can cuddle up under a blanket on the couch and enjoy it as soon as possible.

If we're having soup as our main course, I like to serve it with fresh bread from one of my favorite local bakeries. I'll have George slice and toast the bread while I dish up the soup.

The best part of making this soup for dinner? There are four more servings for later. Happy soup season!

I write this!

And when it's freezing and drizzly, that means only one thing in my kitchen: it's soup season.

Until very recently, I thought that I had coined this term. It turns out that food bloggers across the interwebs have also adopted it, even causing the hashtag "#soupszn" to trend on Instagram. I'm clearly not alone in my soup

Breaking It Down

Traditional Thai ingredients make up the foundational flavors of this soup, combining beautifully with sweet, with sweet, earthy root vegetables. for later. Happy soup season!

Caroline Chambers is a recipe developer, food writer, and author of "Just Married: A Cookbook for Newlyweds." She currently lives in Carmel, Calif., with her husband, George, and son, Mattis.

This article has been altered for Epoch Times Australia.

CHINESE HOME COOKING

Hot and Sour Soup, Better Than Takeout

CICI LI & CRYSTAL SHI

Skip the takeout—hot and sour soup, that beloved Chinese restaurant staple, is quick and easy to make at home.

This recipe gives you a rich, silky broth, packed with flavor and lots of goodies: tender strips of pork and shiitake; crunchy wood ear mushrooms and bamboo shoots; slippery slivers of tofu; delicate ribbons of egg. The soup is thickened just enough none of the dreaded gloppiness that too often plagues restaurant renditions.

White pepper lends the soup its trademark "hot," a mellow, belly-warming kind of heat, while dark Chinkiang vinegar gives it the "sour," a bright and bracing punch. White pepper is a must in any Chinese kitchen; black pepper, on the other hand, is rarely used. Chinkiang vinegar, fermented from black glutinous rice, is another common ingredient. These key seasonings are added at the end of the cooking process, since if they're added too early, they'll lose their precious aromas.

Warming and full of lively flavors, hot and sour soup is perfect for chasing away the winter chill or fighting off a cold. And according to traditional Chinese medicine, it'll give you a beauty boost, too: wood ear mushrooms are considered to be a "beauty food," as they promote blood circulation and nourish the skin.

For this recipe, you'll need to plan ahead

a couple of hours to rehydrate the dried mushrooms. After that, though, the soup takes just 15 minutes to come together—even faster, and much tastier, than takeout.

Recipe by CiCi Li. CiCi Li is the producer and presenter of "CiCi's Food Paradise" on NTD. Join her in discovering the world of Asian home cooking at CiCiLi.tv









Add the pork...



... then the rest of the add-ins, and the first sauce.

COCONUT CURRY WINTER VEGETABLE SOUP

MAKES 6 SERVINGS

1 tablespoon coconut or olive oil

1 small yellow onion, diced

4 garlic cloves, roughly chopped

2 heaping tablespoons red curry paste

1.1 kilos root vegetables, roughly chopped (butternut, acorn, or kabocha squash; carrots; parsnips; sweet potatoes; etc.)

1.1 litre chicken or vegetable stock

1 tablespoon soy sauce

1 tablespoon sriracha or 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes

1 tablespoon fish sauce

1 teaspoon ground cumin

1 (400grams) can coconut milk

Juice of 1 lime

Optional: cilantro, for garnish

TO COOK ON THE STOVETOP

Warm oil in a large heavy-bottomed pot over medium heat. Add onion and cook until softened, 2–3 minutes. Add garlic and curry paste and continue cooking for 30 more seconds.

Add vegetables, stock, soy sauce, sriracha or red pepper flakes, fish sauce, and cumin, stirring to scrape up any bits that are stuck to the bottom of the pot. Raise heat to high to bring mixture to a boil, then reduce to low and cover. Cook for 20 minutes or until all vegetables are tender enough to blend. Proceed to blending step.

TO COOK IN AN INSTANT POT

Turn pot on Sauté mode and warm oil. Add onion and cook until softened, 2-3 minutes. Add garlic and curry paste and continue cooking for 30 more seconds. Turn Sauté mode off.

Add vegetables, stock, soy sauce, sriracha or red pepper flakes, fish sauce, and cumin, stirring to scrape up any bits that are stuck to the bottom of the pot. Close lid and turn steam valve to Sealing. Pressure cook on high for 10 minutes. Quick release the pressure by turning the steam valve to Venting. Remove lid. Proceed to blending step.

TO BLEND

Blend with an immersion blender, or allow the soup to cool for several minutes and transfer to a blender. Blend in coconut milk and lime juice. Taste. Veggies have varying levels of sweetness/earthiness, so you need to taste the soup and see if it needs more salt (add more soy sauce or fish sauce!), acid (lime juice!), or heat (add more red pepper flakes or even some sriracha).

Garnish with cilantro and enjoy!

COOKING NOTES

Can't find red curry paste? Use whatever curry paste you can find (yellow is very common) but only add 1 tablespoon to start, then add more after you blend it and taste it. The spice level can vary widely so you don't want to add too much!

FLASH IN THE PAN

Cook Like a Farmer

Simple, hearty, and adaptable, carrot pasta epitomizes what a farm cook might prepare in winter

ARI LEVAUX

Many of my favorite recipes come from the kitchens of farmer friends.

There is a pleasing elegance to farm cookery. It's a cuisine forged by the circumstances of a landbased lifestyle, yet makes total sense in the home kitchens of anyone who wants to serve healthy, plant-based food, and lots of it. Farm cuisine is simple to prepare, able to tame the kind of hunger that follows a day of hard work, and heavy on seasonal veggies.

In the winter there is more time, but fewer fresh ingredients to work with, and a farm cook knows how to convert the contents of a root cellar, pantry, and freezer into a parade of interesting, nonrepetitive dishes. They can take a little longer to prepare, but nobody minds having the warm stove on. The result may not reflect the cornucopia of summertime but hits the spot just the same.

Farm cuisine is simple to prepare, able to tame the kind of hunger that follows a day of hard work, and heavy on seasonal veggies.

Farm cooks pass around recipes like heirloom seeds. Each new kitchen is a pristine habitat in which one recipe can evolve into another. Among farmers, the DNA of a recipe can be conveyed in broad strokes. But as in a game of telephone, missing information can be replaced by an active imagination. Which is what accounts for the differences between Josh's and Luci's carrot pasta recipes.

Carrot pasta epitomizes what a farm cook might prepare in winter, but carrots are always in season, which makes this a go-to dish any time of year. Rich, sweet, and full of fat and carbs, carrot pasta is what a human being wants to eat.

Josh first showed me the recipe, which he learned from Luci in a short phone conversation, and immediately went his merry way with. Luci had learned it from her sister's second ex-husband, Ernesto, who learned it from his mom in Milan.

Knowing Josh and Luci as well as I do, it's fun to see how their differing personalities and circumstances shape different versions of the same recipe. Josh has no prep cook, but a full cleanup crew.

These circumstances allow him to tornado through the kitchen, which dovetails well with the fact that he's in more of a hurry. Less detail-oriented, his improv game is as fluid as that of a jazz soloist. Luci is more of a craftsman in the kitchen, and a stickler to what does and does not fly. If she needs a chopper she'll rope anyone within shouting range—which is quite a large area. By that time Josh, all by his lonesome with a podcast, will have already grated a load of carrots in a Cuisinart.



This recipe includes both Josh and Luci's renditions of carrot pasta. They are two sides of a similar coin, two data points on a graph of carrot pasta. Your job is to triangulate these two recipes to fit your lifestyle.

SERVES 4

1.3 kilos peeled carrots, grated or sliced into thin coins, depending on your details

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided (Josh uses more than a cup but skips the cream later on, probably because he doesn't have a cow)

170 grams grated Parmesan, Romano, or a blend of both

2 tablespoons butter (a rare point of agreement)

- 1-2 cloves garlic, pressed, minced, or crushed
- 1 hot pepper, sliced in half, which Luci adds "at some point"

Optional: chopped anchovies, to taste

450 grams pasta ("Big noodles like rigatoni work better at mixing with the sauce than skinny noodles that stick together, like angel hair," says Josh)

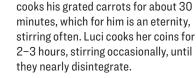
1 cup heavy cream (if you have a cow-or know where to get some cream)

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Garnish suggestion: parsley

Cook the carrots in a skillet on low heat with the 1/2 cup olive oil. Josh



The carrots will release water as they cook down, and may spend some time submerged until the water cooks off. Winter carrots may not be too juicy, and you may even have to add a little water to keep the carrots cooking long enough to properly break down.

About 90 minutes in, when the carrot slices taste faintly like artichoke hearts, add 3/4 of the cheese, the butter, half of the garlic, and the hot pepper and anchovies if using, and let it slowly caramelize with the lid on, stirring every 20 minutes or so. If it starts to solidify, add another cup of water and cover until the cheese dissolves.

Meanwhile, bring a pot of salted water to a boil and cook the noodles. Drain and, while still piping hot, toss with 2 tablespoons olive oil and the other half of the garlic. Set aside.

When the carrots and cheese have melted together, add the cream, if using, and salt and black pepper to the sauce. Mix, but don't homogenize. Luci's husband called me to make sure I understood this: "When the carrot coins have almost turned into a paste, at the very end, you add the cream. It's like when you add milk to hot cereal but don't totally mix it. The oil is floating on the cream, and the cream isn't integrated." His voice trailed off.

Toss the noodles in the sauce. Sprinkle the remaining cheese on top, garnish with something green, and serve.



ARILEVAUX



If you like a really thick soup, only add 3 cups of the broth to start. Blend, check the thickness, then add more broth if needed.

Ari LeVaux writes about food in Missoula, Mont.

Luci's carrot pasta.

HOT AND SOUR SOUP (SUAN LA TANG)

PREP & COOKING TIME

Prep Time: 2 hours hands-off, plus 15 minutes hands-on Cook Time: 15 minutes

SERVES 6

- FOR THE MUSHROOMS
- 6 dried shiitake mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon dried wood ear mushrooms
- Water, for soaking
- FOR THE PORK (SEE NOTE)
- 85grams pork loin, cut into thin strips
- **Pinch of salt**
- Pinch of white pepper
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon water
- FOR THE SOUP

- 1 tablespoon soy sauce Pinch of salt
- Pinch of sugar 31/2 tablespoons Chinkiang

vinegar

- 1 teaspoon white pepper
- 1 tablespoon dark soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- 6 cups chicken stock 1/4 carrot, julienned
- 1/3 cup canned bamboo shoots
- 3 thin slices ginger, julienned
- (about 1/2 teaspoon) 1/3 block soft tofu, julienned
- **3** tablespoons cornstarch
- **3** tablespoons water
- 2 eggs, beaten 3 scallions, finely chopped, for garnish

TO REHYDRATE THE MUSHROOMS

In separate bowls, rehydrate the dried shiitake mushrooms in 1/2 cup water for 2 hours or up to overnight, and the dried wood ear mushrooms in water for 1 hour or up to 2 hours. (The wood ear will develop harmful bacteria if soaked for longer than 2 hours.)

Drain, reserving the soaking water from the shiitake mushrooms for later use. Rinse the shiitake and wood ear mushrooms well and slice thinly.

TO PREPARE THE PORK

In a medium bowl, add the salt, white pepper, soy sauce, cornstarch, and water and mix well. Transfer in the pork and mix well to combine. Let marinate for 10 minutes.

TO MAKE THE SOUP

In a small bowl, make the first sauce:

mix together the soy sauce, salt, and sugar.

In another small bowl, make the second sauce: mix together the Chinkiang vinegar, white pepper, dark soy sauce, and sesame oil.

In a large pot over high heat, add the chicken stock and reserved mushroom soaking water and bring to a boil. Add the first sauce and mix well.

Add the pork, working quickly to break up the pieces with your chopsticks. Cook over high heat for about 5 minutes. Skim off any foam from the surface of the soup.

Then add the shiitake mushrooms, wood ear mushrooms, carrot, bamboo shoots, and ginger. Cook over high heat for about 3 minutes, until softened. Add the tofu and stir carefully. Cook over high heat for another 2 minutes.

Make a cornstarch slurry by combining the cornstarch and water in a small bowl and mixing well. Pour half of the slurry into the soup, and quickly stir. Add a little more and stir again. Continue adding little by little, until the soup reaches your desired consistency.

Pour in the second sauce. (We add this sauce last for two reasons: first, we don't want the vinegar to evaporate throughout the cooking process, and second, we don't want the color of the white cornstarch to cover up the color of the dark soy sauce. Think of it like painting: if you want the color to be more vibrant, you want the darker color to be on top of the lighter color, not the other way around.) Bring to a boil.

Slowly pour in the beaten eggs in a circular motion, stirring gently with chopsticks. Lastly, garnish with the chopped scallions and serve.

NOTE Feel free to substitute the pork with chicken or seafood, or omit it entirely.

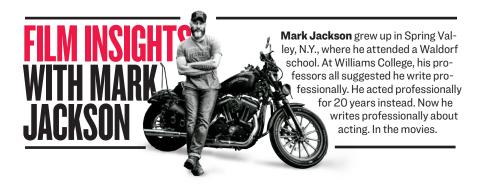


Add the cornstarch slurry to thicken.



Pour in the second sauce.

Finally, swirl in the egg.



POPCORN AND INSPIRATION: FILMS THAT UPLIFT THE SOUL

Chariots of Fire' In Celebration of the True Spirit of the Olympics

MARK JACKSON

never saw 1981's "Chariots of Fire." I knew it became an instant classic and won many Oscars, and I endured the theme song on the radio (in ancient times when popular movie scores were actually played on the radio, ad nauseam).

So, playing catch-up, I rented it to see what all the fuss was about. It's stood the test of time (which isn't difficult when the setting is post-World War I). Historical period pieces obviously can't age, but the storytelling techniques of directors can. That said, overall, "Chariots of Fire" moves at a more leisurely pace than our current attention span is used to, but it packs a punch in terms of reminding us about what's important in life.

2 Runners

Ambitious British law student Harold Abrahams (Ben Cross), of Lithuanian-Jewish heritage, is a mega-talented sprinter. He attends Cambridge and, as a freshman, immediately challenges the 700-year-old-and-still-standing school record of racing around the perimeter of the institution's hallowed main courtyard.

He destroys the record and is immediately taken note of by the bigoted, elite faculty, who refer to him as "the Semite."

For Abrahams, running is "a weapon." When asked what that means by his coy, hard-to-get actress girlfriend Sybil (Alice Krige) (who, in time, turns out to be a true soul mate), Abrahams replies that it's a weapon against being Jewish.

He relates to her that while he is often invited to the trough, he's not allowed to drink. He's well-respected by classmates, though, especially by fellow track teammates.

The other sprinter in this movie about sprinting is China-born Scotsman Eric Liddell (Ian Charleson), the son of Christian missionaries.

He's also blessed with blistering speed. He intends to return to missionary life eventually, but unlike his sister and her protestations about his running, Liddell sees his talent as God-given and therefore his duty to use it to glorify the Lord by attempting to medal in the 1924 Olympics. Liddell is the only man to have beaten Harold Abrahams, thus far, in a footrace.

Theirs is a stark contrast of motives. Abrahams hires a professional coach, Sam Mussabini (Ian Holm), to take chance out of the winning equation, much to the disgust of two of Cambridge's dons (Sir John Gielgud, Lindsay Anderson) who feel he's thereby stooping to "plebeian" status.

They would prefer he take a less serious (and therefore more aristocratic) amateur approach. Which Abrahams finds ridiculous, knowing they're as keen as he is to have the school win. We've got two worldclass rivals competing for diametrically opposed reasons. Abrahams's motivation is generated primarily by fear of losing. And affirmation of self. It will most likely never be the case, due to his inner conflict, that he'll be able to savor victory.

On the other hand, the warm, extremely likable Liddell, who, ironically, is more of a "mensch" than Abrahams, runs out of a desire to glorify God by putting the physical gifts bestowed upon him to good use. He's got inner peace, but his conflicts are external-the Olympic committee schedules his race on a Sunday, and he flat-out refuses to run on the Sabbath.

And so, we've got two world-class rivals competing for diametrically opposed reasons.

Other Themes

Rounding out the story are secondary narratives of Liddell's conflict with his sister, Abrahams's wooing of his future wife, as well as brief training montages (Abrahams's, that is, since he's the one going above and beyond training-wise).

And then there are the behind-thescenes attempts by Olympic officials as well as British politicians and royalty to sweet-talk or otherwise manipulate with intent to dissuade Liddell into running his race when they want him to, and not when God wants him to. One of these is the Prince of Wales (David Yelland) functioning in dual capacity as the head of the British Olympic committee.

(Left) Ben Cross (L) and Nigel Havers in "Chariots of Fire."

(Right) Alice Krige and Ben Cross in "Chariots of Fire."



FINE ARTS

Michelangelo's 'Dream of Human Life'



"Il Sogno (The Dream, usually called "The Dream of Human Life")," circa 1533, by Michelangelo Buonarroti. Drawing, black chalk, sheet: 155/16 inches by 1015/16 inches.

ERIC BESS

Around 1533, the Italian Renaissance artist Michelangelo produced a series of drawings that he gave to his close friends. At the time, drawings were typically produced as sketches for larger works. These drawings, however, were produced as finished products to be given as gifts.

In her article "Michelangelo's Dream," Maria Ruvoldt suggests that this is one of the first times in history that a drawing was completed for its own sake. Drawings that served as sketches for larger works were usually completed at the behest of patrons, like the Medici family or the pope, who were interested in specific representations of humanist or religious subject matter.

Ruvoldt suggests, however, that the "ostensible privacy and intimacy of this new form allowed for a unique degree of freedom of invention and interpretation," and this allowed Michelangelo to produce an image "to be meditated upon, a work whose pleasure derives from its endless unfolding of meaning, affording the viewer delight in returning to it again and again."

In other words, Michelangelo had the freedom to produce drawings from his imagination, and "The Dream of Human Life" is a result of this freedom. But what does the unfolding meaning of "The Dream of Human Life" tell us today?

Michelangelo produced an interesting and creative scene. A male, nude figure sits on a box that contains masks of different facial expressions. He leans on a sphere, turns his head away from his body, and looks up toward a winged spirit who, midflight, blows a trumpet toward the figure's head.

Around this central scene is a halo of figures interacting with each other, yet drawn softly so as not to interfere with the focal point of the central pair of figures. Some of these side figures are embracing and kissing, whereas others are fighting and





(Left) (L-R) lan Charleson, Ben Cross, and Brad Davis in "Chariots of Fire."

(Right) Sir John Gielgud (L) and Lindsay Anderson as Cambridge University dons in "Chariots of Fire."

Ian Charleson (C) in "Chariots of Fire."



Apparently, many truths were stretched and enhanced to rev up the drama. The above-mentioned political hand-wringing, wheedling, and cajoling in fact were much more low-key. But then-that's Hollywood. And there's nothing wrong, in storytelling, to heighten the reality in order to stress a point.

'Chariots of Fire'

Director

his leave, the don shrugs his shoulders at his colleague and says, "A different god. A different mountaintop." In his case, it stemmed from bigotry and the looking down the nose at a "lesser" religion. But some societies are very much in agreement that there are different gods, different mountaintops, and different paradises. Thirdly, "Chariots of Fire" flies in the face of modern Olympic competition and doping, lying, cheating, and cheating by lying about doping. Lance Armstrong, anyone? The endless need for drug testing; the scandals that have become ho-hum, because ours is a modern society that supports winning at all costs.

Olympics: He was an athletics journalist for 40 years, and a sports commentator for BBC radio (which included reporting on the 1936 Berlin Olympics). Later he became president of the Jewish Athletic Association, as well as chairman of the Amateur Athletic Association. It's therefore refreshing and uplifting to bear witness to the attitude of Liddell's integrity. Of having the moral courage to stay true to his faith and convictions above all else, regardless of the outcome. Don't see much of that these days. So quaint, so old-fashioned. And yet moving when you see it. Granted, Abrahams's conviction in the face of pressure by the university to change his ways is also admirable. And yet, Liddell, after a lifetime of service, was mourned by all of Scotland at his death.

3 Things Stood Out

I realized the now long-famous music by Vangelis Papathanassiou was the template for the theme music of 1986's "Top Gun." Not a particularly profound insight.

Next, was the comment by the university don played by Shakespearean theater royalty John Gielgud. When Abrahams is done vociferously stating his case about winning at all costs and takes Hugh Hudson

Starring

Ben Cross, Ian Charleson, Ian Holm, Sir John Gielgud, Nigel Havers, Nicholas Farrell, Alice Krige

Running Time

2 hours, 5 minutes Rated

PG

Release Date April 9, 1982 (USA)

\star \star \star \star \star

Abrahams's attitude was a harbinger of things to come. His later life was highly influential in regard to sports and the

fleeing. Floating heads abound, and a pair of hands appear to hold a money pouch.

The Courtauld Institute of Art website suggests that this drawing "shows a youth being roused by a winged spirit from the vices that surround him."

The philosopher and theologian Thomas Aquinas helped influence the Italian Renaissance understanding of cardinal vices. The seven vices or sins are pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, anger, and sloth. The depicted figures surrounding the central figures do display some elements of these sins.

But how is Michelangelo responding to these sins? Does he present a simple renunciation of vice, or is something else steeped in his intention?

The winged spirit appears to come straight down from the sky with its trumpet aimed right at the area of the forehead above the brow. Why does the winged spirit aim its trumpet

here of all places? Is it aiming at the mind, soul, or body? What is important about this specific place?

The winged spirit appears to come straight down from the sky with its trumpet aimed right at the area of the forehead above the brow.

Let us consider Marsilio Ficino. Marsilio Ficino was a neoplatonic philosopher who was head of the Platonic Academy at the Medici villa during the Italian Renaissance. Michelangelo attended this academy as a young teenager and was influenced by Ficino's neoplatonism.

Ficino suggested that the soul served as an intermediary between heaven and earth, possessing aspects of both the heavens above and the earth below. For example, the soul moved in time and space but reflected on eternal and incorporeal ideas and ideals.

It was possible, however, for the soul to be overwhelmed by the body through which it communicated. Being overwhelmed, the soul would forget its divine connection to heaven.

Let's return to the drawing at hand. Is the winged figure aiming its trumpet at the intermediary between heaven and earth-the soul?

What about the box with the masks underneath it? These masks have different expressions on them and are ready to be, but are not being used. Must we put away the masks we wear in day-to-day life in order to get closer to the truths of our own souls? Or, if we are to hear the

sounds of heaven, must we remain unbothered by the sentiments and opinions that would contort our faces?

What about the blank globe on which the figure leans? Does it represent the earth on which we live? Is it a blank earth waiting for us to imbue it with the heavenly images and sounds produced by the soul? Or does it represent empty temptations and earthly pleasures that we must turn away from in order to remember the divine part of ourselves?

The halo of figures engaging in vices doesn't seem to actually be present. The figures seem to exist ephemerally, as if at any moment they will disappear into the mistiness of the background. Yet they are there and are presented like nagging thoughts that refuse to disintegrate.

Are these earthly vices what the soul must leave behind if it wishes to regain its role as

intermediary between heaven and earth, or is the dissipation of these vices dependent on heavenly intervention? In other words, does heaven's trumpet scare the vices away, or must the soul choose to divorce itself from vice in order to hear the trumpet?

These are big questions packed into this small drawing. Most of them do not have an absolute answer, irrespective of whether they are asked in relation to the drawing or not.

I think this is what Ruvoldt means when she says that "The Dream of Human Life" is a work "to be meditated upon, a work whose pleasure derives from its endless unfolding of meaning, affording the viewer delight in returning to it again and again."

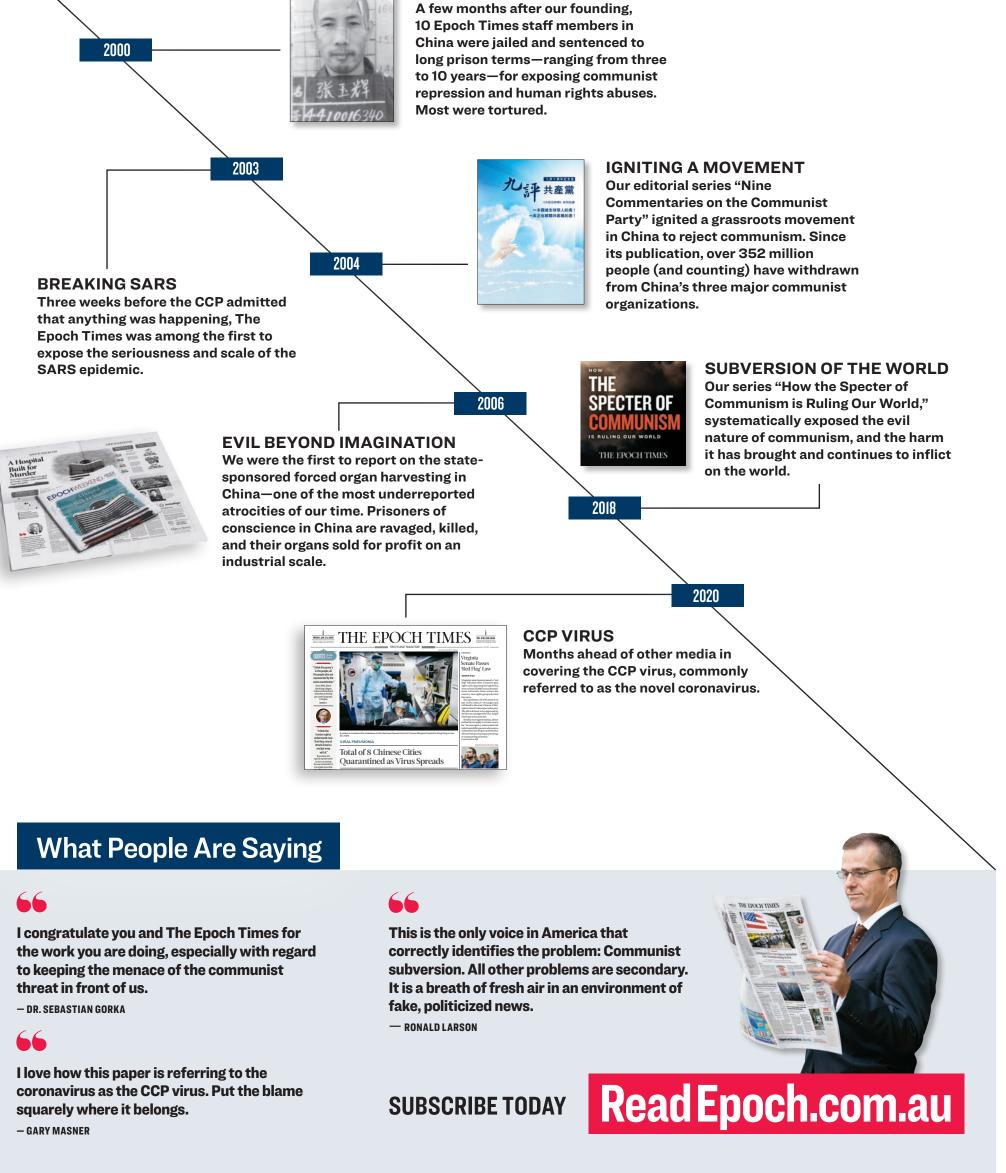
Eric Bess is a practicing representational artist. He is currently a doctoral student at the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts (IDSVA).

THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH and **TRADITION**

EXPOSING THE DEADLY COMMUNIST THREAT FOR 20 YEARS

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