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QUOTES *In the News*

“We are looking at massive amounts of negative growth ... contractions happening across every major business performance indicator.”

Shehzad Qazi, managing director of analytics firm China Beige Book, on China's crippled export market

CHINA | A4

“Czech companies who have economic interests in China will have to pay for the visit to Taiwan by Chairman Kubera.”

Quote from a letter found in deceased Czech politician Jaroslav Kubera's suitcase, from the country's Chinese Embassy

WORLD | A6



“You start playing those games, and that's tough. We have the dollar to protect.”

U.S. President Donald Trump on the option of cancelling U.S. debt to China

WORLD | A7

“The entire operation of the Chinese Communist Party and what they're running in China is being funded by Wall Street.”

Former White House chief strategist Stephen Bannon

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LISA MAREE WILLIAMS/GETTY IMAGES

Sophie Osborne sits with daughter Clara, 2, at her home in Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, on April 29, 2020. Sophie is an intensive care nurse. Her husband Todd, a producer and project manager in the fields of marketing and advertising, has been isolating with the children for just over 4 weeks while Sophie works at a Sydney hospital.

ECONOMY

Reopening Australian Workplaces is Top Priority Says Treasurer

Lockdown costing economy \$4 billion a week

SOPHIA JIANG

Millions of Australians who have been working from home or were stood down temporarily may return to their workplaces soon as the federal government prioritises reviving the economy.

The federal government is expected to announce a time frame for easing lockdown restrictions as early as May 8, as a result of a sustained flattening of the COVID-19 curve. However proper measures need to be in place to ensure workplaces are safe.

Speaking at the National Press Club in Canberra on May 5, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg signaled that restrictions would soon be relaxed as he outlined a path to recovery and post-pandemic reform.

Cafes and restaurants will be among the first businesses to re-

open.

“Opening our cafes and restaurants will mean that farmers will have a home for their produce,” he said.

“We need to find a home for that produce and getting those cafes and restaurants and other activities open as quickly as possible will be a way of getting more people back to work and reducing that unemployment,” he said.

Frydenberg also identified child-care, education, and logistics as industries crucial to economic recovery as “they are not only significant contributors to employment and output in their own right but are also important enablers for the broader economy.”

The treasurer emphasised the

History shows the longer people are unemployed, the harder it is to get a job.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg



Treasurer Josh Frydenberg is seen during a press conference at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, on March 20, 2020.

MARK SCHIEFELBEIN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Matt Pottinger, Special Assistant to U.S. President Donald Trump and National Security Council (NSC) Senior Director for East Asia (R), in Beijing on May 14, 2017.

US-CHINA

Speaking in Mandarin, Senior Trump Advisor Calls for Greater Freedom in China

EVA FU

A senior White House adviser decried the “shocking lack of diversity in voices” under the Chinese communist regime, in the first known speech given by a U.S. official in Mandarin Chinese.

Matthew Pottinger, the White House's deputy national security adviser on Asia, highlighted the

regime's suppression of those who sought to speak the truth amid the CCP virus outbreak, including doctors and citizen journalists, and heralded them as “civic-minded citizens” who committed “big acts of bravery.”

“The cliché that Chinese people can't be trusted with democracy was ... the most unpatriotic idea of

FINTECH

Chinese Afterpay Investor is 'Glorified Surveillance Arm' of Communist Regime: US Senator

DANIEL Y. TENG

Chinese technology giant Tencent has bought a 5 percent stake in Melbourne-based Afterpay as it contends in U.S. markets with a push to ban Beijing-backed software from being used by U.S. officials.

The announcement came on May 1 with Tencent Holdings paying around \$300 million for its stake in Afterpay.

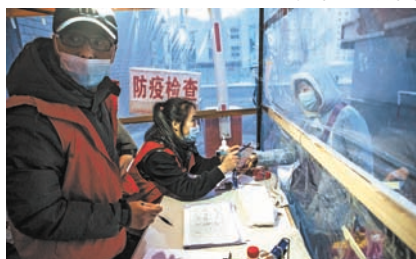
In a statement, Afterpay co-founders Anthony Eisen and Nick Molnar said they were privileged to have Tencent become a substantial shareholder in the business and were hoping to learn from one of the “world's most successful digital platform businesses.”

Tencent's Stake in Afterpay

Afterpay is a digital payment ser-

Continued on A3

AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A staff member (C) checking the body temperature of a woman in the city of Suifenhe, Heilongjiang province, on April 22, 2020.

CORONAVIRUS

Northern Chinese City Shuts Eateries Amid Second Wave of Virus Outbreak

ALEXANDER ZHANG

As the second wave of the CCP virus outbreak hits northeast China, Harbin, a city of 10 million people, has been forced to shut down eateries that serve communal dishes.

Continued on A4

CHINA

Chinese Surveillance Company Hikvision Hides Human Rights Abuses

EMEL AKAN

WASHINGTON—The world's largest camera manufacturer, Hikvision, which has come under increased scrutiny for its role in China's human rights violations, is systematically hiding evidence about its operations, a new report reveals.

Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology, the company behind China's mass surveillance system, continues to work on large-scale projects at its research and development (R&D) center in China's western Xinjiang region, according to IPVM, a surveillance research firm.

“Hikvision has systematically deleted evidence showing their R&D base and activities in Xinjiang, hiding them, amidst U.S. human rights abuse sanctions and increased scrutiny,” an IPVM report stated.

Hikvision was placed on a trade blacklist by the U.S. government in 2019 for its involvement in rights violations in China, including mass detention and surveillance. The company has come under severe criticism

Continued on A5

Accuracy
& Integrity

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

Blocked Chinese Mining Firm Manoeuvres for Second Chance at Australian Rare Earth

DANIEL TENG

Following a failed bid to buy a stake in a Perth-based lithium miner on April 24, Chinese miner Yibin has restructured the agreement to avoid scrutiny from the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB).

A fortnight ago, Yibin Tianyi Lithium Industry withdrew a bid to buy an 11.77 percent stake in AVZ Minerals after it received advice from FIRB the bid would be blocked.

Yibin was told the bid was “contrary to the national interest” and contrary to the growth of “Australia’s critical minerals sector.”

The initial withdrawal from Yibin drew criticism from foreign investment lawyers at King & Wood Mallesons for sowing uncertainty in the rare earth industry, claiming the sector was already struggling to find investors amid the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus pandemic (commonly known as novel coronavirus).

In the official announcement, AVZ Minerals and Yibin said they would investigate alternative methods of working together.

On May 4, AVZ Minerals revealed a revamped agreement where Yibin would buy 9 percent of the company and would have no seat on the board. This arrangement falls outside the gambit of the FIRB and would not be subject to approval.

The FIRB is only notified when a foreign entity acquires at least 10 percent of a mining company. The transaction is due for completion on June 30.

Managing Director of AVZ Minerals, Nigel Ferguson said Yibin was “committed” to becoming an investor in AVZ.

“Its intention of becoming one



Guests look at a Tesla Model 3 in Shanghai on Jan. 7, 2019.

of the largest hydroxide suppliers in China is complementary to our vision of bringing our world-class Manono Project into production,” said Ferguson.

Lithium-hydroxide is a component used in electric vehicle batteries.

The saga with Yibin follows a decision on April 20 where another Chinese firm was blocked from taking a stake in a rare earths miner. Treasurer Josh Frydenberg blocked Baogang Group Investment (a subsidiary of a major Chinese state-owned mining group) from investing in Northern Minerals, which

Yibin was told the bid was “contrary to the national interest” and contrary to the growth of “Australia’s critical minerals sector.”

operates a large dysprosium project in Western Australia.

Australia has been working actively with the United States to develop supplies of rare earth minerals independent of Chinese ownership.

It comes as the communist regime dominates the sector, accounting for 70 percent of the global production of precious metals. Rare earth are 17 elements critical to the manufacture of high-tech products including smartphones, lithium batteries, and magnets.

Yibin is backed by China’s largest lithium-ion battery manufacturer

Contemporary Amperex Technology (CATL), which produces batteries for electric vehicles and energy storage. CATL signed an agreement with Tesla Motors in February to begin supplying batteries.

AVZ is working with Yibin in the hopes of developing a key lithium producing mine located in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Manono Project.

China is currently a major player in the region with significant interests in another rare earth mineral, cobalt. Cobalt is also an essential ingredient for lithium batteries.

Reopening Australian Workplaces is Top Priority Says Treasurer

CONTINUED FROM A1

government’s commitment to leading the nation out of the economic downturn, revealing that lockdown is costing the economy \$4 billion a week from “a combination of reduced workforce participation, productivity, and consumption.”

“We must get people back into jobs and back into work,” he said. “History shows the longer people are unemployed, the harder it is to get a job.”

More than 1 million Australians have already made a claim with the government’s JobSeeker program, and another 5 million are estimated to be on JobKeeper.

The time frame of lifting national baseline restrictions will be discussed at the next National Cabinet meeting on May 8.

The treasurer urged more Australians to download the “COVIDSafe” app as it is one of the key data metrics in deciding how soon the restrictions will be relaxed, and thus businesses will get back to normal.

As of May 5, nearly 5 million Australians have downloaded “COVIDSafe,” a tool in the government’s strategy to contain the spread of the CCP virus.

“It is about having confidence that as we are able to get more economic activities to take place, we can effectively manage any health risks that arise,” he said.

“It is also why every Australian that wants to get back to work and every business owner that wants to open their doors again should download the COVIDSafe app,” said Frydenberg.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison reiterated the government’s goal to get people back to work as early as possible, highlighting the need for workplaces to become “COVID safe.”

“We now need to get 1 million Australians back to work,” he told reporters on May 5. “To get Australians back to work, what is es-



sential is they could go back into a COVID-19 safe workplace.”

Safe Workplaces

The federal government has been working across a range of sectors to prepare plans for a safe return to work.

On April 24, Morrison released the national workplace principles developed jointly by the COVID-19 Commission, Attorney-General Christian Porter, and union representatives.

Morrison said the ten principles are designed to prepare workplaces to resume normal operations.

“This is all about getting Australians back to work and ensuring that when they go back to work, that they and their families can feel safe in going back to work, and to ensure that there are important principles in place,” he said at the press conference.

Head of the COVID-19 commission Nev Power also spoke at the National Press Club and laid out key issues for ensuring businesses are safe to reopen.

They included reconfiguring and restructuring worksites for safety purposes; implementing procedures to respond in case of an incident in the workplace; ways of communication at the workplace; and how to trace cases of COVID-19.

Entertainment photographer Don Arnold self isolates at his inner city apartment in Sydney, Australia, on April 29, 2020. Like many in the events and arts industries, Don has lost most of his work due to COVID-19 and has been isolating at his apartment over the past 4 weeks.

It is also why every Australian that wants to get back to work and every business owner that wants to open their doors again should download the COVIDSafe app.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg

Australia Designs and Builds Military Aircraft for First Time in 50 Years

JESSIE ZHANG

Boeing has unveiled the first military aircraft to be designed and built in Australia in more than 50 years—a historic milestone for Australia and the company.

The Australian government invested up to \$40 million into the Loyal Wingman, an unmanned aircraft, in its commitment to growing and developing its local defence capacity.

It is Boeing’s largest investment in an unmanned aircraft program outside of the United States. The Loyal Wingman uses artificial intelligence to extend the capabilities of manned and unmanned platforms.

The partnership between the Royal Australian Air Force and Boeing Australia is responsible for developing and testing this aircraft.

Introduced in February 2019, the Loyal Wingman is about the length of a telegraph pole at 11.7 meters long. It will have a range of more than 3,700 kilometres and “project power forward while keeping manned capabilities out of harm’s way.”

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said that the program will boost Australia in three areas—Australia’s defence industry, global export potential, and job creation.

“The Loyal Wingman program has helped support around 100 high tech jobs in Australia. Such projects

The Loyal Wingman program has helped support around 100 high tech jobs in Australia.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison

will be critical to bolster growth and support jobs as the economy recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic,” Morrison said on May 5.

Minister for Defence Industry Melissa Price said that this is a significant milestone for our country, especially for local industries. Writing on Twitter on May 4, she said, “It’s the first time [Australia’s] industry are locally designing, developing and manufacturing an aircraft of this type.”

Earlier in February, the Boeing Australia team of local businesses—BAE Systems Australia, RUAG Australia, Ferra Engineering, and AME Systems—finished building the main body of the aircraft, including hardware kits, precision machine components, and wiring to support the aircraft.

The team presented the Loyal Wingman prototype on May 5 and have scheduled to start ground trials later this year.



The Loyal Wingman, the first Australian-made military aircraft in 50 years.

Chinese Afterpay Investor is 'Glorified Surveillance Arm' of Communist Regime: US Senator

CONTINUED FROM A1

vice that has gained popularity with millennials and Generation Z consumers.

It allows customers to buy something now and pay it off later in fortnightly installments. Afterpay does not conduct a credit check on customers, making it less stringent than credit cards.

According to an October 2019 press release, Afterpay conducts “millions” of purchases each month working with over 30,000 businesses locally. It is also expanding into the United Kingdom and United States.

Tencent’s Chief Strategy Officer James Mitchell said that outside of China, the company was keen to invest in pioneering financial technology companies and Afterpay aligned “well with consumer trends developing globally.”

Analysts believe Tencent’s stake could aid its bid to compete outside of China with companies such as Visa and Mastercard. For Afterpay, it may be a potential springboard for expansion into Asia.

Last year, Tencent bought a 10 percent stake in the online forum Reddit for US\$232.5 million. Commenting on the move, James Gorrie, author of “The China Crisis,” said Tencent was establishing another channel for the Chinese communist regime to spread its influence.

“But just as compelling about Reddit’s new owners is Tencent’s—and the CCP’s—access to the personal information of millions of Americans and other Westerners,” he said.

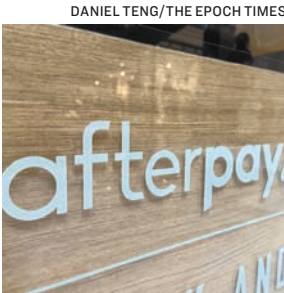
Tencent is an active investor globally with over 456 companies in its portfolio.

US Bill Against Chinese Espionage

In the United States, republican senators Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) announced on April 30 they would be introducing

Companies like Tencent and Huawei are espionage operations for the Chinese Communist Party, masquerading as telecom companies for the 21st century.

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas)



An Afterpay sign at a retail outlet at a Westfields shopping center in Sydney, Australia, on May 5, 2020.



A man walks past an advertisement for the WeChat social media platform owned by China’s Tencent company at Hong Kong International Airport on Aug. 21, 2017.

a bill aimed at banning federal employees from using tech platforms that are subject to influence by the Chinese Communist Party.

It would require an annual list of technology companies to be compiled and submitted to Congress. The companies would be those believed to be “subject to influence or control” by the Chinese regime.

The Countering Chinese Attempts at Snooping Act of 2020 would ban officials from conducting business “over any social media, computer or smartphone application, or telecommunications technology, produced, operated, or hosted.”

The bill identified five Chinese tech companies including Tencent, Huawei, ZTE, Alibaba, and Baidu.

The bill recognises that these companies will assist the CCP if called upon and engage in espionage to gain “insight into the profiles, activity, or location of foreign users” via their products.

In 2017, the Chinese regime introduced the national intelligence law that mandated that private companies in China must “support, assist and cooperate with the state intelligence work.” The implied power allows authorities to access data from China-based companies.

Senator Cruz said, “Companies

like Tencent and Huawei are espionage operations for the Chinese Communist Party, masquerading as telecom companies for the 21st century.”

Senator Hawley called Tencent “a glorified surveillance arm of the Chinese Communist Party.”

When questioned about security concerns, Afterpay told The Epoch Times via email that Tencent was a “significant fintech investor globally” and there was “nothing different here from a normal investment standpoint.”

“There is no board representation. It’s purely a financial investment,” a company spokesperson said.

“Afterpay will approach any opportunities as they arise in the right governance format of any publicly listed company.”

What is Tencent Holdings?

Tencent is a Shenzhen-based conglomerate with a broad range of interests including in video gaming, entertainment, start-up investments, and supporting China’s push to develop its military industrial capabilities, according to the U.S. State Department. It is best known for its communication platforms WeChat and QQ.

WeChat is a messaging app which

currently has 1.1 billion monthly users worldwide, it is one of the largest messaging apps in the world after Facebook and WhatsApp.

Its largest following is in China, where competitors Facebook, YouTube, Google, and WhatsApp are banned.

WeChat has come under scrutiny for its censorship of content from overseas news outlets such as Radio Free Asia, and The Epoch Times.

Concerns have also been raised over the lack of encryption of messages, and surveillance carried out on the platform.

In February 2018, a reporter for the Financial Times based in Beijing recounted an incident when she went to do her visa application. She wrote on Twitter that a Chinese police officer asked her about her online activity:

“At my annual China visa renewal: Police officer: I saw you posted on social media about organising an event for journalists on the 8th

Me: I don’t think I did...

Me: *thinks, does he realise he saw that by surveilling my private messages and not on my public feed*.”

Currently, in Australia, the defence force does not allow personnel to download WeChat on their mobile phones.

Trans-Tasman Travel Discussed at National Cabinet, Says New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern

CADEN PEARSON

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern joined Australia’s national cabinet meeting on May 5 to discuss New Zealand’s experience with the CCP virus pandemic and a potential “travel bubble” between the two countries.

The travel bubble would allow unrestricted travel between Australia and New Zealand once it was safe.

Ardern told reporters in Wellington that Australians and New Zealanders travel “across the ditch” (the Tasman Sea) more than they travel anywhere else. New Zealand is Australia’s second-largest tourism market after China.

Ardern said Australia and New Zealand have the same goals regarding the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus, commonly known as novel coronavirus.

“Neither of us want cases of COVID coming between our countries,” she said. “So I think regardless of our future path, we’ll be looking for ways to do it safely. That will be top of mind.”

Ardern noted that more than 18,500 Australian companies trade with New Zealand as part of the reasons to reopen travel.

She said the trans-Tasman travel zone was on the table but could not comment further as the national cabinet meeting was still underway at the time, and a statement would be released at its conclusion.



Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern speaks during the All of Government COVID-19 update and media conference at Parliament in Wellington, New Zealand, on May 6, 2020.

Ardern noted that the discussions were only possible because of the “world-leading results from both sides of the Tasman [Sea] to get the virus under control.”

“And I do think that we should both be proud of the efforts that have been made and the ANZAC bond between us,” she said.

Ardern told reporters that the last New Zealand prime minister to join Australia’s national cabinet—established in times of crisis—was Peter Fraser who attended various war cabinet meetings during World War II.

I do think that we should both be proud of the efforts that have been made and the ANZAC bond between us.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

Australian Dog Named Bear Finds 100 Koalas Stranded by Bushfires

CONTINUED FROM A1

er Romane Cristescu told AAP.

While the world focus turns to the COVID-19 pandemic, for koalas it’s not over. Badly burnt land hasn’t recovered and vegetation has not grown back.

“Some places have burnt so much for such a wide area, some species may take decades to recover,” Cristescu said.

A recent koala population report by the International Fund for Animal Welfare found that 6,382 koalas are estimated to have died from the bushfires in New South Wales alone.

Australia is no stranger to bushfires, but last summer the country faced some of the most widespread and sustained bushfires in the modern record, driven by record warm temperatures above Antarctica in the spring of 2019, which resulted in a temperature imbalance in the Indian Ocean that extended into early 2020.

These regional climatic factors saw reduced rainfall and low humidity that fueled the out-of-control fires, which began earlier than normal in September 2019 and ravaged thousands of hectares of land until February.

The bushfires shocked Team Bear, who has been training Bear and

He found koalas despite all those harrowing conditions. That brought us hope.

International Fund for Wildlife campaigner Josey Sharrad

four of his mates since 2015. Members of the team described working with Bear as “healing.”

International Fund for Wildlife campaigner Josey Sharrad said Bear brought the team optimism during the devastation.

“He found koalas despite all those harrowing conditions. That brought us hope,” Sharrad said.

AAP IMAGE/SUPPLIED BY INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE



Bear the koala detection dog stops by for a quick visit to Two Thumbs Wildlife Trust in the Snowy Mountains of NSW, Australia.

‘No Sign of Recovery’ for Chinese Economy as Virus Cripples Export Orders

EVA FU

Before the virus hit, the woodworking machines at a Chinese furniture factory never stopped humming, even through the night, as orders from Europe and Japan flew in. Now, workers get two days off each week and count themselves lucky if they have two hours of work on the other days.

“This has never happened before,” Chen, who oversees the factory in Shenzhen, said in an interview.

Chinese factories are ramping up production as the country struggles to get back on its feet from the pandemic-induced recession. Around 80 percent of the small and medium-sized businesses, and nearly all large firms have returned to work, according to China’s commerce authorities.

But analyses of recent data from the country—the world’s largest export economy—suggests a quick rebound is nowhere in sight.

Export orders, including to China’s top export markets of the United States and Europe, have dwindled as the virus shatters the world economy and workforces continue to shrink, and companies are uncertain about the outlook ahead.

China’s Purchasing Managers’ Index, an indicator of manufacturing industry confidence, slipped to 50.8 from 52 in April, barely topping the 50-point mark that divides expansion and contraction.

According to a China Beige Book (CBB) survey of 547 companies released late April, 81 percent of executives expressed concern about the virus possibly making a comeback in the fall.

Local Woes for Small Business

The private sector, which contributes to 60 percent of China’s gross domestic product, is feeling the pain of the virus crisis. More than two-fifths of the mostly private-owned companies participating in the CBB survey reported operating under half capacity, with merely 4 percent reaching full capacity.

One of every four companies have reported output declines.

Unlike state firms, private and small enterprises have no access to “free credit” during difficult times, making them especially important indicators for gauging the state of the country’s economic recovery, said Shehzad Qazi, the data analytics firm’s managing director.

“There’s no sign of recovery over there at the moment,” he told The Epoch Times.

Manufacturers and service firms continued to see declining sales in April, and three-fifths of the firms attributed their loss of revenue to the lingering virus impact, according to the survey. Around 69 percent



An employee at a textile factory in Handan, Hebei Province, China, on April 29, 2020.



A Chinese juice vendor wears a protective mask as she waits for customers in Beijing, on May 2, 2020.

If we don’t walk past this hurdle, the risks it brings will definitely create a butterfly effect.

Tang Renjian, governor of north-central province of Gansu

of the companies interviewed considered the past month “as good as it gets,” with business conditions either staying the same or becoming worse, it stated.

Bao, who runs a popular sausage shop with his wife in Mudanjiang, a city in northeastern China, has furloughed all employees to cut costs.

The shop had been making only one-tenth of its pre-outbreak revenues since reopening about five weeks earlier—not even enough to cover rent and utility costs. Meanwhile, nearly half of the restaurants in the area have gone out of business.

“Even 100 yuan is still better than nothing,” he said, adding that they are just “hanging in there.”

Tang Renjian, governor of the north-central province of Gansu, made a plea to help small businesses through the “harsh winter” in an April 27 press conference. While not many companies in his province have closed since January, he cautioned that the effects of the outbreak are just now beginning to show.

Some are “hanging by a thread,” he said.

“If we don’t walk past this hurdle,

the risks it brings will definitely create a butterfly effect,” he said, naming social unrest and political crises as “very likely” consequences.

In Harbin, the northern Chinese city that has become the focal point of fears of a second wave of outbreaks, produce and food stands have popped up as people struggle to make ends meet.

A shoe factory in China’s southern province of Guangdong has stopped its three production lines and furloughed all except the CEO and a few managers, according to a worker. He recently learned that he “needs not come back this year.”

A cab driver from Hunan, the province immediately south of Wuhan’s Hubei Province, said his business has plummeted by 30 to 40 percent in the wake of the virus. “No one can stay intact or keep out of it,” he said.

Qazi said: “This is not just a Chinese problem, this is really a global problem. ... Unless we see Europe get back to business, and unless we see the United States really get back to business, China is not going to see that recovery, regardless of what the official narrative might be.”



A staff member keeping watch at a checkpoint in the city of Suifenhe, in China’s northeastern Heilongjiang province, on April 21, 2020.

Northern Chinese City Shuts Eateries Amid Second Wave of Virus Outbreak

CONTINUED FROM A1

Barbecue eateries, as well as those selling hot pot and stews, must suspend dine-in meals until further notice and in accordance with changes in the epidemic situation, said an emergency notice issued on May 1 by the city’s epidemic prevention office.

Harbin is the provincial capital of Heilongjiang, China’s northernmost province bordering Russia, which has become a hotspot for CCP virus infections in the past month.

The Second Wave

In March, Harbin city authorities lifted lockdown measures and allowed social gatherings. At the time, Harbin, as was the case with the majority of Chinese cities, declared itself to be free of any new virus cases.

But in early April, the Heilongjiang authorities reported another wave of infections in several cities, with Harbin hit the hardest.

The authorities have imposed strict lockdown measures, banning entry to residential zones by non-locals and vehicles registered elsewhere.

Residents told The Epoch Times that the city had forced many into quarantine at home, without permission to go outside.

The Chinese regime blames many of the infections on citizens returning from Russia, and has deployed additional police, border guards, and the People’s Armed Police paramilitary forces to the Russian border.

This comes as the Russian government has begun expatriating Chinese living in Russia and the Chinese regime refuses to allow them to return.

Coverup

Leaked documents from Harbin show the number of virus patients there may be 200 times the official data.

Local officials have massively underreported cases of the CCP virus during the second wave of its local outbreak, according to internal government documents obtained by The Epoch Times.

The Epoch Times also obtained an internal “warning notice” issued by the Heilongjiang government on April 13, in which it admitted that the outbreak in Harbin was “an aggregated, explosive situation.”

Meanwhile, one major hospital in Harbin had stopped accepting new patients because of overcapacity and infections among medical staff, The Epoch Times reported on April 22. Some workers were being observed for symptoms at quarantine centers.

Nicole Hao and Reuters contributed to this report.

Taiwan Tells WHO That China Has No Right to Represent It

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Only Taiwan’s democratically elected government can represent its people on the world stage, not China, its foreign ministry said on May 5, calling on the World Health Organization (WHO) to “cast off” China’s control during the CCP virus pandemic.

Taiwan’s exclusion from WHO, because of objections by the regime in Beijing that considers the island to be one of its provinces, has infuriated Taipei, which says this has created a dangerous gap in the global fight against the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus, also known as the novel coronavirus.

While Taiwan has been lobbying to attend, as an observer, this month’s meeting of the WHO’s decision-making body, the World Health Assembly (WHA), government and diplomatic sources say China will block the move.

The WHO has recognized the People’s Republic of China as the “one legitimate representative of China,” in keeping with U.N. poli-



Taiwan’s Minister of Health and Welfare Chen Shih-chung in Taipei, Taiwan, on March 11, 2020.

cy since 1971, and that the question of Taiwan’s attendance was one for the WHO’s 194 member states, Steven Solomon, the WHO’s principal legal officer, said on May 4.

The 1971 decision, under which Beijing assumed the U.N. China seat from Taipei, only resolved the issue of who represented China, not the issue of Taiwan, and didn’t grant China the power to represent Taiwan internationally, Taiwan Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Joanne Ou said.

“Only the democratically elected Taiwanese government can repre-

sent Taiwan’s 23 million people in the international community,” she told reporters.

The WHO should “cast off the Chinese government’s control,” and let Taiwan fully participate in fighting the CCP virus, Ou said.

“Do not let China’s improper political interference become an obstacle to impeding the world’s united fight against the virus.”

Taiwan attended the World Health Assembly as an observer from 2009-2016 when Taipei-Beijing relations warmed. But China blocked further participation after

the election of Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, who China views as a separatist, a charge she rejects.

The United States has strongly supported Taiwan’s participation at the WHA as an observer, another fault line in Washington-Beijing ties that have been already overshadowed by the Trump administration’s criticism of how China and the WHO have handled the COVID-19 outbreak.

China says Taiwan is adequately represented by Beijing and that Taiwan can only take part in the WHO under Beijing’s “one China” policy, in which Taiwan would have to accept that it is part of China, something Tsai’s government won’t do.

Taiwan has reported far fewer cases of the new CCP virus than many of its neighbors, because of early and effective detection and prevention work.

By Ben Blanchard. Epoch Times staff contributed to this report. From Reuters

China Knew Virus Was Contagious But Kept Silent for Days: Leaked Documents

FRANK FANG

Chinese health officials were drawing up plans to combat the CCP virus, which they knew to be infectious, days before they informed the public about its potential to spread, according to internal government documents obtained by The Epoch Times.

The CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus, commonly known as the novel coronavirus, originated in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019. The virus has since spread to more than 200 countries and territories, causing more than 61,000 deaths in the United States alone.

China officially confirmed that the virus could be transmitted between humans on Jan. 20, when top respiratory expert Zhong Nanshan made the announcement.

Now, internal documents provided to The Epoch Times show that Beijing covered up what it knew, as central authorities were secretly providing directives to regional governments on how to cope with the outbreak.

On Jan. 15, the regional health commission in northern China’s Inner Mongolia issued a “super urgent” emergency notice to its municipal counterparts, explaining how medical facilities should respond to a new form of pneumonia. The notice said that China’s National Health Commission had implemented treatment and prevention measures for local health agencies to deal with the new disease (now known as COVID-19).

Three measures stated in the notice clearly indicated that Chinese officials knew the disease was infectious.

First, it asked hospitals to take measures to prevent the disease from spreading inside their facilities and train staff on such actions. Second, it asked hospitals to set up fever clinics and to “pre-screen and triage” anyone experiencing a fever, to determine levels of urgency for treating patients.

Hospitals also were directed to ask



L: A man wearing a protective suit aboard a train heading to Shanghai at Wuhan Railway Station in Wuhan, Hubei province, on April 21, 2020.

R: A copy of the second edition of China’s National Health Commission guidelines on virus response, with the words, “not to be disclosed” at the bottom.

Despite instructions that show central authorities knew the virus could be spread among medical staff, they kept silent until Jan. 20.

those patients if they had been to markets in Wuhan in the previous two weeks. While Wuhan authorities initially claimed that the virus likely originated from a local fresh food market, studies have since shown that some of Wuhan’s first patients had no link to that market.

Finally, hospitals were instructed to set up special treatment teams that included infectious disease experts, the notice stated.

The Inner Mongolian health commission had no intention of informing the public about these plans, stating that the notice was “for internal use only, and cannot be distributed on the internet.”

In another internal document, issued Jan. 15 by the local health commission in Xilingol League—one of 12 administrative divisions within Inner Mongolia—authorities also emphasized fever as a key symptom.

The league’s health commission stated that local health agencies must “strengthen their management of screening and triage patients with fever,” adding that it called for such management based on teleconferences held by officials in Central and Inner Mongolia about the virus.

On Jan. 19, a top Wuhan health of-

ficial took questions from reporters, saying that he couldn’t “rule out” human-to-human transmission, “but its risk was rather low.”

On Jan. 23, three days after Zhong’s public statement, China’s National Health Commission publicly released the third edition of a document, titled “Diagnosis and Treatment Plan for the New Coronavirus.”

The document stated that cases reported in Wuhan hospitals beginning in December 2019 were confirmed to be caused by “an acute respiratory infectious disease caused by a new coronavirus.” That statement was also included in the second edition of the document, issued on Jan. 18—two days before Zhong’s announcement.

The second edition, which was leaked to The Epoch Times, was previously kept secret. The notice is marked with the words: “not to be disclosed.”

The second edition contains a section explaining that medical personnel in hospital departments that treat patients with fever, respiratory problems, and infectious diseases should wear a surgical mask, goggles, and one-time-use protective clothing.

Despite instructions that show central authorities knew the virus could be spread among medical staff, they kept silent until Jan. 20.

The Inner Mongolian documents showed that local health commissions were already warned about virus prevention measures by Jan. 15. But that day, the Wuhan Health Commission wrote on its website that the “risk of human-to-human infection is low.”

The World Health Organization (WHO) also initially repeated China’s claims that the virus wasn’t contagious.

“Preliminary investigations conducted by the Chinese authorities have found no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission of the novel #coronavirus (2019-nCoV) identified in #Wuhan,” the WHO tweeted on Jan. 14.

A recent report by The Associated Press, also citing a series of internal memos, similarly found that Beijing knew of the virus’s transmissibility for six days before publicly conceding that on Jan. 20.

It took another two days before the WHO’s mission to China issued a statement confirming that “human-to-human transmission is taking place in Wuhan.”



Chinese Surveillance Company Hikvision Hides Human Rights Abuses

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for providing its technology to the Chinese communist regime to repress Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang.

IPVM discovered that Hikvision deleted a map on its website that showed the location of its research facilities, including the one in Xinjiang. When IPVM asked why the map was deleted, the company responded, “Hikvision does not have a research institute in Xinjiang, and has corrected any information to the contrary on its website.”

The research company also found that Hikvision deleted all job ads posted on various websites soon after IPVM reached out for comment. Dozens of job postings have been deleted, according to IPVM.

One of the ads stated that the company was looking for a “senior system integration design engineer” for large-scale projects in its branch office at Urumqi, Xinjiang’s capital.

The company released its first environmental, social, and governance report in 2018 to address “the concerns of stakeholders.”

“Hikvision respects the human rights,” the report stated, adding that it hired Arent Fox LLP, a U.S. law firm to conduct a review of operations “to better protect human rights.”

The Epoch Times reached out to Hikvision’s press office for comment about the IPVM report but received no response.

A Chinese state-owned enterprise, China Electronics Technology Corp., owns nearly 42 percent of Hikvision through two subsidiaries, according to a report by the Congressional-Executive Commission on China.

The report, released in November

The Hikvision headquarters in Hangzhou, China, on May 22, 2019.

Hikvision supplies “total surveillance and racial profiling, which is providing an absolute horror to the Uyghur people.

Louisa Greve, director of global advocacy at the Uyghur Human Rights Project



2019, stated that Hikvision “was directly involved in the construction, operation, and ongoing maintenance” of a centralized system that aggregates and analyzes large amounts of individuals’ data in Xinjiang.

The Chinese government may have arbitrarily detained individuals flagged by the system “in the internment camps or other detention facilities,” the report noted.

“Foreign suppliers such as Intel, Ambarella, and Nvidia reportedly sold computer processing chips and graphics chips to Hikvision, and the U.S. data storage company Seagate provided the company with ‘custom storage solutions’ for its surveillance systems,” the report added.

Hikvision supplies “total surveillance and racial profiling, which is providing an absolute horror to the Uyghur people; it’s creating a prototype for total surveillance elsewhere in China and potentially throughout the world,” Louisa Greve, director of global advocacy at the Uyghur Human Rights Project, a Washington-

based nonprofit, told The Epoch Times.

Up to 1.8 million Uyghurs have been detained since the spring of 2017 in so-called re-education camps where they have been subjected to torture and brainwashing, according to Adrian Zenz, senior fellow in China Studies at the Washington-based Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. Zenz predicts that there are as many as 1,400 internment camps in the region.

Americans Unwittingly Fund Hikvision

Hikvision is listed on the Shenzhen stock exchange and is one of the Chinese companies that index provider Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) included in its emerging markets index.

Many U.S. investment funds hold shares of Hikvision and hence, U.S. pensioners are unaware that they’re funding the company.

Two of the nation’s largest public pension funds, the California State Teachers’ Retirement System (Cal-

STRS) and the New York State Teachers Retirement System (NYSTRS), hold large shares of Hangzhou Hikvision.

CalSTRS, the nation’s second-largest public pension fund, held 4.1 million shares worth US\$16.5 million as of June 30, 2019, according to the latest disclosure available. NYSTRS also held 81,802 shares of Hikvision as of June 2019.

CalPERS, the largest public pension fund in the United States, came under fire recently for holding US\$3.1 billion worth of shares in 172 different Chinese companies, including those that are involved in the Chinese Communist Party’s rights abuses. The fund held 24,800 shares of Hikvision worth US\$99,586 as of June 30, 2019.

The fund’s other Chinese investments include China Shipbuilding Industry Corp., the largest manufacturer of China’s navy ships, and China Communications Construction Co., which is the largest builder in Beijing’s Belt and Road Initiative.

CalPERS defended its investment in Chinese stocks on its website, stating that the MSCI and Financial Times Stock Exchange indexes “remain the most popular indexes for U.S.-based institutional investors investing in overseas equity markets.”

In an interview for The Epoch Times’ “American Thought Leaders” program in March, Rep. Jim Banks (R-Ind.) said most state pension funds are guilty of investing in Chinese companies that build up the Chinese military.

“So this is a ripe moment for our nation’s governors to pull state pension funds out of dangerous Chinese investments. I hope that our governors will heed that call. California is the biggest offender of this,” he said.

Chinese Diplomats' Threats Contributed to Czech Politician's Sudden Death, Wife Says

ISABEL VAN BRUGEN

A senior Czech politician who died suddenly just days before a planned trip to Taiwan became obviously unwell after receiving threats from Chinese diplomats over the plans, according to his widow and daughter.

Jaroslav Kubera, who was speaker of the upper house of the Czech Parliament, died from a heart attack at the age of 72 on Jan. 20, just three days after he and his wife returned home from a “tense” Lunar New Year banquet at the Chinese Embassy in the Czech Republic.

Kubera, who was the second-highest public official in the European Union country after President Milos Zeman, wasn’t known to be suffering from a serious illness at the time of his death.

Widow's Interview

More than three months after his death, Kubera’s widow, Vera Kuberova, and his daughter, Vendula Vinsova, told Czech media that they believe that threats Kubera was receiving from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) had contributed to his death.

His wife said in an April 26 interview with Czech television that they had discovered two letters in Kubera’s suitcase—one from the Chinese Embassy and one from the Czech president’s office.

A Jan. 10 letter, from the Chinese Embassy and addressed to the Czech president’s office, warned that if Kubera followed through with plans to visit the self-ruled island of Taiwan, Czech companies with operations in China would “pay.”

The CCP, which considers Taiwan as part of its territory, opposes international recognition of Taiwan’s sovereignty.

“I read it and I was afraid,” his widow said. “It seemed quite threatening to me.”

The letter had a stamp of receipt from the presidential office and was handed to Kubera by Zeman during a lunch on Jan. 14, prompting members of Parliament to demand an explanation.

The letter threatened that Czech companies operating in mainland China, such as Volkswagen subsidiary Skoda Auto and lender Home Credit Group, would suffer if Kubera visited Taiwan.

“Czech companies whose represen-



DAVID SEDLECKÝ/CC BY-SA

President of Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, Jaroslav Kubera, speaks in front of the Czech Radio building in Prague during a commemorative event for the 74th anniversary of the Prague Uprising on May 5, 2019.

I saw that he was really sick. He vomited, walked around the garden, which he had never done before. He was nervous.

Věra Kuberová, the widow of the late Jaroslav Kubera who was the second-highest public official in the Czech Republic

tatives visit Taiwan with Chairman Kubera will not be welcome in China or with the Chinese people,” it read.

“Czech companies who have economic interests in China will have to pay for the visit to Taiwan by Chairman Kubera.

“China is the largest foreign market for many Czech companies like Skoda Auto, Home Credit Group, Klaviry Petrof, and others.”

Zeman and Prime Minister Andrej Babis had previously expressed concern that Kubera’s plans to visit Taiwan would lead China to retaliate against the central European country’s business community. Zeman is reported to have a closer relationship with the CCP and Russia than Kubera.

Kubera said last year when announcing his Taiwan visit that the move was not anti-China but pro-business. He noted that Taiwan is the Czech Republic’s third-largest trading partner in Asia.

Beijing has recently pushed for a “one country, two systems” model to claim sovereignty over the island, which Taiwan rejects. While Babis’s government has repeatedly said it adheres to the CCP’s “one-China” policy, the mayor of Prague broke ranks last

year in protest of the pro-CCP policy.

After receiving the “threatening” message, Kubera became noticeably withdrawn, according to his widow.

“I saw that he was really sick. He vomited, walked around the garden, which he had never done before,” Kuberova recalled. “He was nervous.”

She said that for the first time in the 52 years they had been together, “he didn’t confide in me.”

“He came home from that lunch ... other times, he always told me everything. This time, he didn’t tell me anything, just that it went normally,” she said.

“He probably didn’t want to burden me with that. ... He said that it was good, and that he would not be discouraged in any way, that he had always done everything and would not talk about anything.”

But he became even more “tense” after a 30-minute private meeting with the Chinese ambassador, Zhang Jianmin, at the embassy in Prague on Jan. 17, she said. During that meeting, the ambassador allegedly threatened that he would seek to have Kubera replaced if the Taiwan visit went ahead.

Kubera collapsed in his office just

three days later. According to his doctor, the heart attack may have actually happened on Jan. 17 or Jan. 18, coinciding with the time when Kubera was most stressed.

Reactions

Kubera’s successor, Milos Vystcil, announced an investigation into the letters on April 27. He said that the inquiry was needed to defend the country’s sovereignty and freedom.

The Chinese foreign ministry said in February that it didn’t know about the letter’s origin.

But a spokesperson made clear that “China resolutely opposes a country that has established diplomatic relations with China having official exchanges with Taiwan authorities in any form.”

Taiwan’s foreign ministry criticized Beijing’s warning to Prague.

“China’s business pressure on the Czech Republic proves that ‘One Belt, One Road’ is a predatory policy tool, bringing only counter-effects to the global business order,” Taiwanese foreign ministry spokeswoman Joanne Ou said.

Reuters contributed to this report.

Sudan’s Transitional Government Bans Female Genital Mutilation In Landmark Move

KATABELLA ROBERTS

Sudan’s new transitional government has officially criminalized female genital mutilation (FGM) in a landmark move for the country and a sign of its commitment toward improving the rights of women and girls following the ousting of its president, Omar al-Bashir, last year.

The sovereign council and the council of ministers in Sudan approved an amendment to Sudan’s Criminal Law Article 141 on April 22. The procedure is defined as mutilating “the female genitalia by cutting, mutilating, or modifying any natural part of it leading to the full or partial loss of its functions.”

The amendment states that anyone who performs the procedure, whether in a hospital, health center, dispensary, clinic, or elsewhere, faces three years imprisonment and a fine or closing of the premises.

FGM involves the partial or total removal of female genitalia, including the labia and the clitoris, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The procedure is highly dangerous and is known to cause a number of health problems, including severe bleeding, infections of the urinary tract, uterus, and kidney, as well as reproductive issues, fatal childbirth complications, and increased risk of newborn deaths.

However, the practice is en-



ASHRAF SHAZLY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Sudanese women walk to a market in Abu Shouk camp, north of El-Fasher, the capital of the North Darfur state, on Nov. 5, 2019.

trenched in the culture of Sudan, which has one of the highest rates in the world, and is typically carried out by traditional circumcisers who often play other central roles in communities, such as attending childbirths. FGM is often performed due to social pressure to perpetuate the practice, and beliefs about what is considered acceptable sexual behavior. For many communities in Sudan, it is believed that FGM will ensure premarital virginity and marital fidelity by reducing a woman’s libido.

The amendment states that anyone who performs the procedure, whether in a hospital, health center, dispensary, clinic, or elsewhere, faces three years imprisonment and a fine or closing of the premises.

While there are no religious scriptures advocating the practice, practitioners often believe it has religious support, and a number of religious leaders continue to promote it.

According to UNICEF, FGM is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and age 15. Some 87 percent of Sudanese women between ages 14 and 49 have undergone some form of FGM, while more than 200 million girls and women alive today in 30 countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia,

where FGM is concentrated, have been affected despite the fact that at least 24 of these countries have legislation or decrees against FGM.

However, a report published in March in partnership with the End FGM European Network and the US End FGM/C Network, found that hundreds of thousands of cases of FGM have been documented across 92 countries in Asia, the Middle East, Europe, North America, and Latin America.

According to the report, over 500,000 women and girls in the United States have undergone FGM or are at risk of it, while in Australia, more than 50,000 women and girls have been mutilated. A further 600,000 have undergone the practice across the EU, and cases were also found in regions of India, Iran, Israel, and Russia.

FGM is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women and was already illegal in some Sudanese states, but these bans were widely ignored.

Previous attempts to ban the practice in Sudan were rejected by parliament under longtime dictator Omar al-Bashir, who ruled the country for nearly 30 years with an iron fist. The former leader was removed from power by the Sudanese military on April 11, 2019, following months of protests against the regime, triggered by rising prices and a failing economy.

US Government Researchers Changed Endpoint During Remdesivir Trial

ZACHARY STIEBER

Researchers changed the primary endpoint for a clinical trial testing remdesivir against COVID-19, a shift that provoked concerns among some scientists.

The endpoint is the main result measured at the end of a study. The endpoint for the remdesivir trial was originally focused on counting how many patients died after two weeks. After the trial began, it was changed to “time to recovery,” or how quickly patients were discharged after receiving the experimental drug.

Remdesivir is produced by California-based Gilead Sciences. The clinical trial was run by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

“Little was known regarding the natural course of COVID-19 when the trial was initially designed, and the initial endpoint chosen specified a single time point for evaluation, namely day 14,” a spokesperson for the agency told The Epoch Times.

“However, with the growing knowledge during the epidemic, we learned that COVID-19 had a more protracted course than previously known. Further concerns were raised about the reliance on a single time point for evaluating treatment effects.”

Statisticians modeled to see what would happen if “the right day” wasn’t picked for assessing the trial. Models showed that meaningful effects could be missed.

“Time to recovery avoids this issue, and the change in primary endpoint seemed appropriate given the evolving clinical data. This change in primary endpoint was made without any knowledge of data from ACTT,



A vial of the drug Remdesivir held by a researcher at a facility in Hamburg, Germany, on April 8, 2020.

Results indicate the group that received the drug had a lower mortality rate, but the number hasn't yet reached statistical significance.

before any interim data was available,” the spokesperson said. ACTT is an acronym for the Adaptive COVID-19 Treatment Trial.

Under the new endpoint, the trial found remdesivir helped patients recover faster when compared to the control group.

“What it has proven is that a drug can block this virus,” Dr. Anthony Fauci, the head of NIAID, told reporters at the White House.

Results indicate the group that received the drug had a lower mortality rate, but the number hasn’t yet reached statistical significance.

The change was announced on the trial listing last month but received renewed attention after NIAID championed remdesivir last week. Researchers said the trial proved the drug worked against COVID-19, the disease caused by the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus, commonly known as the novel coronavirus.

The positive results prompted the Food and Drug Administration to approve emergency use of remdesivir against COVID-19. Unlike other



Vials of investigational COVID-19 treatment drug remdesivir are capped at a Gilead Sciences facility in La Verne, Calif., on March 18, 2020.

drugs being tested against the new disease, remdesivir hasn’t received official approval for any use in normal conditions anywhere in the world against any illness.

The change in endpoint, though, drew concern from some scientists.

“I think that they thought they weren’t going to win, and they wanted to change it to something they could win on,” Steven Nissen, a Cleveland Clinic cardiologist who has led drug trials, told The Washington Post. “I prefer the original outcome. It’s harder. It’s a more meaningful endpoint.”

“Getting out of the hospital early is useful, but it’s not a game-changer,” he added.

The move has been described as unusual, but does happen. Dr. Todd Lee, a clinician-scientist at McGill University, said the change “makes sense.”

There were also calls for the data to be released and questions about why it hasn’t been.

The full results still haven’t been published. The NIAID spokesperson said there’s no firm date yet for the

release. Fauci said the results are undergoing peer review.

“As much as people respect and admire and trust Dr. Fauci, they’d prefer not to take his word for it that this is promising, but to see the data themselves,” Holly Fernandez Lynch, a medical ethics professor at the University of Pennsylvania, told Quartz. “Even Tony Fauci needs peer review.”

NIAID announced the data several days earlier than it normally would have because of ethical considerations, Fauci said.

“Whenever you have clear cut evidence that a drug works, you have an ethical obligation to immediately let the people who are in the placebo group know so that they can have access,” he said.

Fauci dismissed results from another study that published full results the same day.

Chinese researchers found remdesivir wasn’t linked to a difference in time to clinical improvement. They also found signs of clinical improvement in patients given the drug earlier in the illness.



Matt Pottinger, Special Assistant to U.S. President Donald Trump, gives a speech in Mandarin Chinese during a virtual panel event held by the University of Virginia's Miller Center on May 4, 2020.

Speaking in Mandarin, Senior Trump Advisor Calls for Greater Freedom in China

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all,” Pottinger said in a speech given in Mandarin Chinese during a virtual panel event held by the University of Virginia’s Miller Center on May 4.

Pottinger said he gave the speech in the Chinese language so he could open up a conversation with citizens in China and the Chinese diaspora.

Under China’s Party-state system, he said that “it’s sometimes difficult to cut through the noise, from whether its propaganda, from the wholly state-owned media in China, or the carefully curated social media ecosystem.”

Pottinger studied the Chinese language 25 years ago in Beijing and went on to become a China correspondent for The Wall Street Journal. While reporting, he was once arrested by government agents. On another occasion, he was punched in the face by agents while investigating a Chinese company’s illicit sales of nuclear fuel to foreign countries, according to his written account published in the Journal.

He said Beijing’s lack of tolerance for critical voices has taken a

turn for the worse in recent years.

“It takes courage to speak to a reporter—or to work as one—in today’s China.”

Despite the regime’s iron-fist rule, sparks of free thought haven’t ceased, Pottinger said.

“When small acts of bravery are stamped out by governments, big acts of bravery follow,” he said.

Some recent acts of bravery he cited: Regular citizens who were punished for speaking their minds about the regime’s early coverup of the virus outbreak; journalists who went missing after they filmed video footage of what was happening in Wuhan; and doctors punished for raising the alarm about the virus spreading.

Pottinger quoted a social media post by Li Wenliang, a whistleblower doctor who eventually died of the virus he warned others about: “I think there should be more than one voice in a healthy society, and I don’t approve of using public power for excessive interference.”

The top adviser’s speech comes as the United States escalates its calls for China to be held ac-

countable for the pandemic.

“The U.S. isn’t looking at punitive measures here,” Pottinger said in response to a question about economic sanctions on Beijing. “What President Trump is looking at doing is continuing with the policy that he ran on, the policy that he’s implemented—which is to have a reciprocal and fair relationship with China, not one in which the U.S. allows ourselves to be taken advantage of in the hopes that somehow China will just automatically liberalize.”

Speaking on the anniversary of the May 4 movement, a student-led protest in 1919 at Tiananmen Square that radicalized Chinese intellectual thinking, Pottinger said the event may serve as the philosophical underpinning for Chinese people to reclaim their freedoms.

The unfulfilled democratic aspirations from a century ago were a reminder for Chinese people to take fate into their own hands, he said.

“How China governs itself is going to be up to the Chinese people. It’s not up to anyone else to decide.”

Trump: Canceling US Debt Held by China Is 'Rough Game'

EMEL AKAN

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump said defaulting on debt is a “rough game,” amid calls from some Republicans that the United States should refuse to pay its debt obligations to China as a retaliatory measure for its mishandling of the CCP virus outbreak.

On April 30, during the event “Protecting America’s Seniors” at the White House, Trump suggested that his administration could impose new tariffs on Chinese goods as a way to compensate for losses the United States has incurred due to the pandemic.

“Well, I can do it differently. I can do the same thing, but even for more money just by putting on tariffs,” he said.

Some Republicans, including Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), proposed the United States cancel its trillion dollars of U.S. Treasury securities held by China.

China owned about US\$1.09 trillion in U.S. debt as of February, according to the U.S. Treasury Department. It’s the second-largest U.S. foreign creditor, following Japan’s US\$1.26 trillion.

“You start playing those games, and that’s tough. We have the dollar to protect. We want to protect the sanctity of the dollar, the importance of the dollar. It’s the greatest currency in the history of the world,” Trump said.

“That’s why we’re borrowing at zero, zero interest rate.

“We can do it with tariffs. We can do it other ways, even beyond that, without having to play that game. That’s a rough game.”

Economists believe canceling the debt would damage the credibility of the U.S. government. Such a move would drop the value of U.S. government bonds and increase the interest rates, causing a global financial turmoil.

When asked about the possibility of canceling debt held by China, top White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow told Politico: “Absolutely not. Full faith and credit



U.S. President Donald Trump, flanked by officials and business leaders, in the White House Rose Garden in Washington on March 13, 2020.

of U.S. debt is sacrosanct. And so is dependable currency as the world’s reserve currency. Period. Full stop.”

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany, during her first official press briefing on May 1, criticized the Chinese regime for mishandling the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus, also known as the novel coronavirus.

“We take displeasure with China’s actions, but I certainly won’t get ahead of the president with those announcements,” she said in response to a question about whether the president was seriously considering new tariffs on China.

“It’s no secret that China mishandled the situation.”

She listed coverup efforts by Beijing, saying, “They did not share the genetic sequence until a professor in Shanghai did so on his own. The very next day, China shut down his lab for, quote, ‘rectification.’

“They slow-walked information on human-to-human transmission alongside the World Health Organization and didn’t let U.S. investigators in at a very important time.”

A growing number of countries have stepped up calls for more transparency from the Chinese regime, and for an investigation into Beijing’s handling of the outbreak. Two U.S. states, Mississippi and Missouri, have filed lawsuits against the regime, seeking damages for the human and economic costs of the pandemic on Americans.

OPINION



A resident presents flowers during a silent tribute to martyrs who died in the fight against the novel coronavirus or CCP virus outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, on April 4, 2020.

To Resist the Chinese Communist Party Virus, Say No to the CCP

EDITORIAL BOARD

This year, the CCP virus (commonly known as the novel coronavirus) spread rapidly while the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) concealed the real situation in China, causing incalculable losses to the world.

The plague seems to be unpredictable, but the way it spreads indicates the virus has a goal and a purpose: It is seeking out the CCP in order to eliminate it and the factors associated with it.

So far, the CCP virus has spread to most countries in the world, with more than 2.6 million people infected and 205,000 dead—assuming one takes at face value the official Chinese death toll of 4,642. In fact, many Chinese believe the real number is at least 10 times that.

Facing a huge loss of life and economic devastation, the governments and peoples of various countries urgently need to reflect on the relationship between the plague and the Communist Party, and what individuals and countries should do to avoid the epidemic and save themselves.

The Communist Party’s dark history is intertwined with war, famine, plague, and death. The Epoch Times editorial series “Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party” states that “the essence of communism is an evil specter” whose ultimate goal is to destroy mankind. The CCP is the biggest embodiment of this specter.

The CCP’s 70-year tyranny has killed 80 million Chinese people and destroyed traditional Chinese culture and morality. In the past 30 years, from the Tiananmen Square massacre of pro-democracy students in 1989, to the ongoing persecution of Falun Gong practitioners, which began in 1999, the suppression of and misrule over the Chinese people have brought catastrophe to China and the rest of the world.

For nearly 40 years, the CCP has used globalization and economic incentives to bring other countries under the Communist Party’s influence. CCP infiltration beyond China’s borders runs deep in the political, economic, cultural, and educational spheres. Overt examples of PRC



U.S. flags fly outside the New York Stock Exchange on April 9, 2020.

influence include the Confucius Institutes programs, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and telecom giant Huawei. By trapping people and governments within its system of economic interests, the CCP leads them to accommodate its atheist ideology, tolerate its tyrannical rule, and betray the divine.

Misfortune is certain to befall those countries and regions that increased their engagement with the CCP and endorsed it. The path of the CCP virus as it has spread around the world goes through the countries, cities, organizations, and even individuals that are closely related to the CCP.

The CCP is the last representative in the world of the evil specter of communism, whose ultimate goal is to destroy mankind.

New York City the Hotspot
As of April 27, according to data from the Johns Hopkins University statistics website, there were more than 967,000 confirmed cases and 55,000 deaths in the United States. The number of confirmed cases in New York state accounted for one-third of the national total, and the number of deaths accounted for nearly half.

Ever since President Richard Nixon’s visit to China in 1972, the United States has provided critical support to the CCP

in various forms in the fields of politics, military affairs, diplomacy, economics, finance, education, and science and technology. Later, when the United States helped China to become a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), it gave the CCP access to the international community and caused huge amounts of Western wealth to be transferred to China, making it the “world’s factory.”

Only in the last few years has a general reevaluation of the U.S.–China relationship begun to take place, as American politicians, officials, and think tanks come to realize the role the United States has played in building up mainland China to the benefit of the Communist Party.

Without the help of the United States, and without the support of so many multinational companies, high-tech giants, and large financial groups, the CCP could not have quickly developed from a regime on the verge of economic collapse to an emerging hegemon capable of challenging the United States.

As the world’s No. 1 metropolis, New York City is the global center for the economy, finance, commerce, and media. It is also the location of the United Nations headquarters and has a great influence on global politics, education, and entertainment. With its special status and influence, the city of New York has played a major role in helping the CCP to achieve its agendas and advance its interests.

Wall Street, which represents American financial capital, has “transfused blood” to the CCP for many years and has become the behind-the-curtain financier helping the Chinese Communist regime prolong its life.

By infiltrating New York’s economy, finance, commerce, media, culture, education, and other fields, and the Chinese-American community, the CCP has channeled wealth and technology back to China. While exporting its ideology and abuse of human rights to the world, it has attempted to seize world leadership and challenge the United States.

These factors have made New York a major target of the CCP virus.

Only by rejecting the CCP can we resist the CCP virus.

Devastating Situation in Iran
The CCP considers Iran an intimate comrade-in-arms. While the official epidemic figures from Iran aren’t as high as those from some other countries, analysts believe Iran’s figures of confirmed cases and death toll must be greatly underreported. Similar to the CCP, Iran’s authoritarian regime has likely concealed the true scale in an attempt to “maintain social order.”

Many high-ranking Iranian officials have been infected, and many have died as a result, including Iran’s first vice president and the deputy health minister.

The CCP has been supporting Iran for years, offering economic aid and weapons. It has even provided key nuclear weapons technology to Iran in order to threaten and constrain democratic countries.

In the past 10 years, the CCP also made huge investments in Iran, becoming Iran’s largest trading partner. The CCP openly violated international sanctions targeting the Iranian regime and imported a large amount of oil from it.

For the BRI, which the CCP launched in 2013 to export communist hegemony, Iran is an important geographical and strategic hub from which the CCP can penetrate Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Continued on A12

Lillian Fan, Publisher
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ABOUT US

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

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

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

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

We report respectfully, compassionately, and rigorously.

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

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

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

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SPECIAL SERIES

How the Specter of Communism Is Ruling Our World

Desecrating the Arts

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 Eleven (Cont.)

3. Communism’s Sabotage and Abuse of Art

Since art has such a tremendous effect on changing society, it’s not surprising that communism uses art in its aim of socially engineering man.

a. Art in Communist Countries

Communist parties know the power of art and use it to brainwash people and turn all art forms into tools to advance their brainwashing. Many people have ridiculed the CCP for having singers and actors as military generals. They wonder how civilians who have neither undergone military training nor been trained in arms or warfare could be qualified to be generals. The CCP believes that the people in such roles are just as important as trained military men in promoting and upholding the communist cult—perhaps they are even more crucial. In this sense, their military rank is perfectly in conformance with Party principle. As Mao Zedong said, “We must also have a cultural army, which is absolutely indispensable for uniting our own ranks and defeating the enemy.”

Artistic performances in communist countries are designed to have people forget the miseries they suffer under communist rule, and to cultivate their loyalty to the party through art. This propaganda effect—called “thought work”—cannot be achieved by mere martial power.

Compare the CCP’s grand opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics, which was put on at enormous taxpayer cost, North Korea’s large-scale song and dance festival Arirang, and the former Soviet Union’s ballet troupes. All serve the needs of the party. In September 2011, when the CCP’s Ministry of Culture held a so-called Chinese cultural festival, “China: A Nation’s Art” series, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, it performed the CCP’s classic ballet model “Red Detachment of Women,” which promotes class hatred and communist violence.

If orthodox art that was close to the divine and promoted traditional values were to exist simultaneously with party-controlled art used for brainwashing the public, then the latter would lose its monopoly and have no effect. This is why all communist countries have a strict censorship system for the arts and the publishing industry.

The term ‘avant-garde’ was first used by socialist scholars to describe artistic movements that matched their own political aspirations.

b. Communist Elements Behind the Avant-Garde

For centuries, classical art has been passed down from generation to generation. This tradition continued until the 20th century, when it came to an abrupt end. The transmission and inheritance of art was replaced by a radical avant-garde and began quickly degenerating. As artist Robert Florczak says, “The profound, the inspiring and the beautiful were replaced by the new, the different, and the ugly. ... Standards declined until there were no standards. All that was left was personal expression.” Humanity thus lost its universal sense of the aesthetic.

The source of this battery of new artistic movements is closely connected to ideological trends influenced by communism. Many of these artists are either straight communists or para-

communists of one kind or another, or they have been subject to the sway of these ideologies.

Georg Lukacs, the Hungarian cultural commissioner of the Communist International and founder of Western Marxism, founded the Frankfurt School. One of its tasks was to establish a “new cultural form” by abandoning traditional culture. This new cultural form set about excluding art that sought to represent the divine. As Herbert Marcuse, a German socialist and a representative of the Frankfurt School wrote: “[A]rt both protests these [given social] relations, and at the same time transcends them. Thereby art subverts the dominant consciousness, the ordinary experience.”

That is, they enlist art in the revolt against the divine and the subversion of morality. Views of this sort dominate the direction of modern art.

Gustave Courbet, the founder of the French realist school, was one of the participants in the Paris Commune. He was elected as a committee member of the Commune and the chairman of the radical Federation of Artists. Courbet devoted himself to transforming the old system and establishing new artistic directions. He ordered the Federation to demolish a neoclassical building, the Vendôme Column (which was later rebuilt). Courbet denied that human beings were created by God, and was determined to use art to express the worldview of the proletariat, as well as materialism. He is known for remarking, “I have never seen either angels or goddesses, so I am not interested in painting them.”

Courbet believed reform of the arts was really a revolution. In the name of painting what he called reality, he replaced beauty with ugliness. His nude paintings, for instance, focused in particular on depicting the female genitalia, a supposed revolutionary act, as a way of rebelling and transgressing against tradition and somehow further inciting communist activism. The thinking and life of Courbet is an illustration of the close link between the communist ideology of revolution and modern art.

Under the influence of modernist thought, the revolutionary fervor of artists from the late 19th century brought about a series of movements in the art world. Unlike traditional schools of artistic expression, these were avant-garde movements that explicitly sought to rupture tradition. The term “avant-garde” was first used by socialist scholars to describe artistic movements that matched their own political aspirations.

In the late 19th century, these influences brought about impressionism. Ever since, modern artists have abandoned the demands of traditional oil painting, including the need for precision, proportion, structure, perspective, and transitions between light and shade. Neoimpressionism (pointillism) and postimpressionism then came along, centering their works on the exploration of the personal feelings of the artist. Representative figures in this school include Georges-Pierre Seurat and Vincent van Gogh, both of whom were involved in socialism. Van Gogh abused absinthe and suffered mental illness, and his paintings seem to reflect these tendencies.

Works of art contain the messages their creators want to convey and are the media by which their authors communicate to their audiences. The artists during the high Renaissance conveyed compassion and beauty to their audiences. Compare this to contemporary artists, who exude negative and dark messages. Modern artists abandon their own thoughts and allow themselves to come under the control of low-level and ghostly entities. They themselves are often incoherent and confused, and their works are similar—dark, negative, hazy, gray, depressed, decadent, and disordered.

After impressionism came expression-

ism and fauvism, followed by Picasso’s cubism. In 1944, Picasso joined the French Communist Party. In his letter “Why I Became a Communist,” he said: “My joining the Communist Party is a logical step in my life, my work and gives them their meaning. ... But during the oppression and the insurrection, I felt that that was not enough, that I had to fight not only with painting but with my whole being.”

Artistic performances in communist countries are designed to have people forget the miseries they suffer under communist rule, and to cultivate their loyalty to the party through art.

Picasso encouraged a break with the classical methods of painting. For him, everything was a piece of dough to be picked up and shaped as he pleased. The eerier his works became, the happier he was. The process of creating monstrous images is the process of destroying an image, to the point where no one can understand it. Even Georges Braque, the modern artist who co-founded cubism with Picasso, didn’t like the painting “Les Femmes d’Alger (O. J. R. M.)” and claimed that Picasso must have taken a swig of petroleum and spat fire on the canvas.

Marcel Duchamp, the founder of the Dada art movement, also sought to subvert and rebel against tradition with his display and use of readymade objects. He repurposed found or factory-made items and turned them into so-called art installations. Duchamp was called the father of conceptual art, and advocated the idea that anything could be called art. The Dadaist movement is itself a communistic project, as evidenced by the manifesto of the Berlin Dadaists, who called for an “international revolutionary union of all creative and intellectual men and women on the basis of radical Communism,” as well as “the immediate expropriation of property” and “immediate regulation of all sexual relations according to the views of international Dadaism through establishment of a Dadaist sexual center.”

Dada’s criticism of tradition evolved into surrealism in France, as represented by the communist André Breton, who advocated revolution. He was against the supposed suppression brought by reason, culture, and society—typical perspectives for modern artists in Europe at the time. The artistic movements that extended these principles include abstractism, minimalism, and pop art. Abstractism is about the emotional expression of rebellion, disorder, emptiness, and escapism. All of these schools are a kind of postmodernism, which sets out to overturn all rules, reasoning, and morality. At their most outrageous, these artists create works that openly desecrate the image of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Not all modern artists support left-wing politics, but there is a clear ideological commonality with communist thought—that is, the rejection of the divine, and the attempt to replace God as the starting point for understanding human life. These isms came to exert increasing influence in the public sphere and have ultimately come to completely marginalize classical art.

See next edition for the next installment.

How Much ‘Capital Transfusion’ Has New York Provided to Communist China?

WANG JIN

New York, the world’s top financial and business center, has been hit hard by the CCP virus, commonly known as the novel coronavirus.

Amid the Chinese regime’s coverup and mishandling of the outbreak, which has caused a global pandemic, many countries and institutions are re-evaluating their relationship with Beijing.

Could New York’s powerful institutions, such as Wall Street and the pharmaceutical giants headquartered in the city, ever consider “decoupling” from China, given their long history of close economic ties?

How much of a “capital transfusion” have they provided to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in the past?

“The entire operation of the Chinese Communist Party and what they’re running in China is being funded by Wall Street. Corporate America today is the lobbying arm of the Chinese Communist Party and Wall Street is its investor relations department,” former White House chief strategist Stephen Bannon said during an interview with CNBC on April 25, 2019.


As of Feb. 25, 2019, there were 156 Chinese companies listed on the NASDAQ, the New York Stock Exchange, and the NYSE American (formerly known as the American Stock Exchange)—the three largest U.S. stock exchanges—with a total

The entire operation of the CCP and what they’re running in China is being funded by Wall Street. Corporate America today is the lobbying arm of the CCP and Wall Street is its investor relations department.

Stephen Bannon, former White House chief strategist

The unoccupied trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on March 24, 2020. The NYSE was closed temporarily for the first time in 228 years as a result of the CCP virus lockdown measures.





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market capitalization of US\$1.2 trillion, according to a document released by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC), which reports regularly to Congress.

This document also shows that among the Chinese companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges, Alibaba had a market value of US\$458.6 billion. Its main investment institutions include top U.S. financial institutions such as New York-based Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, and Citigroup, among others.

PetroChina, a state-owned enterprise directly controlled by the CCP, has a market value of US\$123.6 billion. Its major investor institutions include New York-based BlackRock—one of the largest investment management corporations for listed companies in the United States—as well as JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, and Goldman Sachs.

Sinopec, another Chinese state-owned enterprise, has a market value of US\$5.4 billion, and Morgan Stanley is one of its major investor institutions.

Needless to say, the funds Chinese companies obtained from the U.S. stock market have fallen into the pockets of the CCP or these financial institutions. If any Chinese company is delisted from U.S. exchanges, apparently both China and the U.S. financial institution would have to suffer the loss.

How Much Has Wall Street Invested?

Wall Street has invested hundreds of billions of dollars in Chinese companies listed in the United States. Statistics from Bloomberg at the end of November 2017 revealed that one-third of the 215 major investment funds on Wall Street bought Alibaba shares.

In October 2019, BBC compiled a table based on data provided by Refinitiv and CNN, which showed that BlackRock held about US\$9 billion worth of Alibaba shares, nearly US\$1 billion worth of Baidu stock, and tens of millions of dollars’ worth of Tencent shares.

Among all U.S. institutional investors, BlackRock, T. Rowe Price Associates, and Vanguard Group are the top three in total investments in China. Their combined investments in Chinese companies exceeded US\$40 billion.

Two other major investment funds—State Street Global Advisors US and Invesco Advisers Inc.—also held a large

amount of shares of Chinese companies, with a total market value of approximately US\$15 billion.

What Is the Return on Investment?

In 2019, data released by the Washington State Investment Board showed that from 2017 to 2018, the internal rate of return on investment (ROI) in the Warburg Investment China Fund reached 24 percent, while the fund’s private equity portfolio ROI was only 15.3 percent in 2018.

Chinese state media touted Alibaba as an outstanding performer for investors. The return was usually several times that of the initial investments.

So, to what extent has the CCP penetrated U.S. capital markets?

“I’ve seen a number of US\$1.9 trillion from the equity or stock side alone and as much as another trillion in bonds,” Roger Robinson, former economic and financial strategist under President Ronald Reagan, offered an estimate of the scale of investments in China in an interview with NTD reporter Simone Gao at the end of 2019.

Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Francis Chan and Sharnie Wong estimate that—barring a major economic slowdown or change of course—foreign banks and securities companies could rake in profits of about US\$9 billion a year in China by 2030, according to a market analysis report by Bloomberg in 2019.

Facing the temptation of huge profits, would Wall Street use its voice to support the CCP in Washington?

Wall Street Lobbies the White House

In fact, some top Wall Street executives have been acting as CCP lobbyists for many years.

In addition to lobbying former U.S. President Bill Clinton to allow the CCP to join the World Trade Organization (WTO), Wall Street also sought to convince the White House not to label China as a currency manipulator.

The New York Times reported that former presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama both considered designating China as a currency manipulator, but Wall Street always opposed it. Both Bush and Obama eventually failed in their attempts.

Why did Wall Street help China to avoid being designated as a currency manipulator?

KEARNEY FERGUSON VIA AP



If the United States designates China as a currency manipulator and gains support from the International Monetary Fund, it will be much easier for the U.S. government to intervene in the operations of U.S. financial institutions. For instance, the White House would be able to ban American funds from buying U.S. debts issued by Chinese companies in Hong Kong.

It has also been reported in the media that Wall Street used its political power in the United States to influence U.S. policy toward China, such as intervening in U.S.–China trade negotiations.

Additionally, many American companies, including pharmaceutical giants, have continually given “transfusions” to the CCP.

Major Pharma Companies Invest Heavily in China

In the current pandemic, the CCP once threatened to stop exporting active pharmaceutical ingredients and medical products to the United States. The Trump administration has therefore called on pharmaceutical companies to return production to the United States, thus reducing their dependence on China.

However, lobbying organizations for several U.S. pharmaceutical giants sent a letter to President Donald Trump, opposing his “buy American” executive order.

White House economic adviser Peter Navarro criticized these pharmaceutical companies for their reluctance to move production back to the United States.

Many American companies, including pharmaceutical giants, have given ‘transfusions’ to the CCP.

He specifically mentioned a lobbying agency PhRMA, which is working on behalf of at least two top pharmaceutical companies headquartered in New York—Pfizer and Bristol-Myers Squibb. For decades, these two companies have made huge profits by investing in China.

Pfizer ranks among the Fortune Global 500 and is the world’s largest pharmaceutical company. With three advanced production facilities in China and R&D

centers in Shanghai and Wuhan, the company has more than 11,000 employees in China, and its business covers more than 300 cities across the country. It’s invested nearly US\$1.5 billion in China and has also profited hugely from its China investments and operations.

Bristol-Myers Squibb is also a Fortune Global 500 and a well-known multinational pharmaceutical company. It is best known for cardiovascular drugs, anticancer drugs, and central nervous system drugs. It also develops and produces anti-rejection drugs (Nulojix) for organ transplantation, which was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2011.

Where Is the United States Heading?

A “capital transfusion” to Communist China, the worst human rights violator in the world, is undoubtedly similar to a transfusion of blood to a criminal regime.

The State Department’s 2019 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices cited a study by Australian National University on China’s official statistics of organ donations, which concluded that there was “highly compelling evidence” based on statistical forensics that the data was “falsified.”

In June 2019, China Tribunal, a London-based independent tribunal investigating allegations of forced organ harvesting in China, published its final judgment, confirming that the CCP had forcibly harvested organs from Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience “on a significant scale” for many years.

“On the basis of all direct and indirect evidence, the Tribunal concludes with certainty that forced organ harvesting has happened in multiple places in the PRC and on multiple occasions for a period of at least twenty years and continues to this day,” stated the summary judgment, which was later quoted by the State Department.

It also noted, “Waiting times [for organ donors] in the PRC ... are much shorter than usual in the rest of the world and often as little as two weeks.”

An independent investigation team, formed by David Kilgour, former Canadian secretary of state (Asia-Pacific), and human rights lawyer David Matas published a report on July 6, 2006, after two

months of investigation and evidence collection. The report stated that with verification and reverification of 18 categories of evidence, the team concluded that “there has been and continues today to be large scale organ seizures from unwilling Falun Gong practitioners.”

At a news conference, Matas called forced organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners “an unprecedented evil on this planet.”

At a press conference of the Committee on the Present Danger: China (CPDC) in June 2019, Bannon, a committee member, criticized Western elites such as Wall Street, for dancing with the CCP even though they were fully aware that the regime has severely violated human rights and freedom of religion.

A ‘capital transfusion’ to Communist China, the worst human rights violator in the world, is undoubtedly similar to a transfusion of blood to a criminal regime.

“The problem is that the elites in this world, the capital markets guys from Frankfurt, the city of London, Wall Street, the international corporations—they have been running this scam for 20 years, financing and providing the technology to the radical cadre of the CCP that has built up such a Frankenstein monster,” he said.

In November 2019, the CPDC held another press conference, pointing out that Chinese companies financing in the U.S. capital market, including ZTE, Hikvision, and others, not only threaten U.S. national security, but also violate human rights inside China.

Robinson spoke at the press conference, saying that the United States is now at a crossroads. He warned about the multitrillion-dollar stakes associated with China’s access to U.S. capital markets, and the problematic nature of many of the Chinese companies now being financed by major U.S. corporations.

He said the CCP should be blocked from receiving financing from the United States immediately. Otherwise, the consequences for the United States could be devastating.

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To Resist the Chinese Communist Party Virus, Say No to the CCP

CONTINUED FROM A8

Countries in Europe
Aside from China and Iran, out of nations with higher numbers of cases (5,000 or more), Spain has the highest relative number (at least 466 per 100,000 people), with more than 225,000 cases and 23,000 deaths. Three close relatives of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and the deputy prime minister have been infected. The severe epidemic sent a strong warning to Spain that the government’s pro-communist policies have brought misfortune to the country.

Spain was the first EU country to make friendly gestures toward the CCP after the Tiananmen Square massacre on June 4, 1989. Sánchez chose to build closer relationships with the CCP after taking office in 2018. Not only did he reconfirm Spain’s “strategic partnership” with the Chinese regime, but he also praised the BRI. When the CCP was criticized by various countries for concealing the epidemic, Sánchez still repeatedly expressed support for it.

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The severe epidemic sent a strong warning to Spain that the government’s pro-communist policies have brought misfortune to the country.

Italy is the hardest-hit area in Europe. The root cause of its being hit hard by the CCP virus is due to the intimate relationship between the Italian government and the CCP. Italy is a member of the G-7 and a developed and democratic country. Despite the opposition of its allies, it formed an alliance with the CCP in March 2019 to “strengthen a comprehensive strategic partnership.” Italy is also the first EU country to sign onto the BRI.

Italy has 74 sister-city relationships with communist China, including in the Lombardy region, which has the highest number of infections and deaths, and cities such as Milan, Venice, and Bergamo. Major European countries such as the United Kingdom, France, and Germany are now also caught up in the CCP virus pandemic. People have suffered huge losses, and even the British prime minister has been infected.

One thing these countries have in common is that they have been “close to” the CCP in recent years. For instance, the CCP wants to use Huawei’s 5G technology to infiltrate the world, but the United Kingdom, France, and Germany have ignored U.S. warnings and given the company the green light.

The areas with the worst outbreaks in these countries—London in the UK, Oise in France, and North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany—have also forged friendly relations with the Chinese Communist Party.

When the pandemic hit the world, the experiences of European countries sounded the alarm to the world.

Severity in China’s Neighboring Countries Varies
Compared with European and American countries, the situations in the areas near mainland China more clearly illustrate the relationship between the epidemic and the CCP.

Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan are all close neighbors of mainland China. The numbers of people infected in Hong Kong and Taiwan are far lower than those in Japan and South Korea. The key difference is in these countries’ attitudes toward the CCP.

Currently, Japan and South Korea each have more than 10,000 confirmed infections. In Hong Kong



SAM YEH/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Children wearing protective masks leave their elementary school at the end of the day in New Taipei City, Taiwan, on March 3, 2020.

and Taiwan, which have closer trade and economic relations with mainland China, the number of confirmed cases is only 1,037 and 429, respectively. Among them, the early cases in Hong Kong were imported from the mainland, and later infected persons included riot police and pro-government personnel. The vast majority of cases in Taiwan were imported from abroad.

Since establishing diplomatic relations with the CCP regime in 1992, South Korea has gradually strengthened its economic and trade relations with the CCP. Since the current government came to power, it has moved closer to the CCP and has increased bilateral investment.

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Wall Street has become the behind-the-curtain financier helping the Chinese communist regime prolong its life.

Although the relationship between the Japanese government and the CCP is not close, a large number of Japanese companies have invested in China, thereby relying on the CCP and transferring vital resources to it. Japan and the CCP have formed 256 ties of friendly provincial and municipal relations. Among them, Hokkaido, Tokyo, Aichi Prefecture, Kochi Prefecture, and other areas are experiencing serious outbreaks of the CCP virus.

Although Hong Kong and Taiwan have extremely close economic and trade relations with the mainland, the people of Hong Kong and Taiwan haven’t been blinded by their financial interests. In 2019, the people of Hong Kong launched large-scale protests against the CCP’s control and even risked their lives to stand up to it.

The brutal suppression of the Hong Kong protests lay bare the true face of the CCP and awakened the Taiwanese people. Voting this January for a pro-free world president showed the determination of the people of Taiwan to keep their distance from the CCP. The results of the presidential election saved Taiwan.

In Taiwan today, people aren’t quarantined at home and the economy hasn’t been suspended, yet the number of infections and deaths remains among the lowest in the world. The key to Taiwan’s anti-epidemic success lies in its distrust of the CCP and its refusal to blindly follow the World Health Organization (WHO), which is being controlled by the CCP.

The epidemic situation in Hong Kong and Taiwan reveals the secret of the success of prevention and self-help during the CCP virus pandemic: Only by rejecting the CCP can we resist the CCP virus.

Rejecting the CCP
Major plagues always come on suddenly and then, at a certain point, disappear without a trace. Historical records show that every plague had a clear target.

The bubonic plague at the end of the Ming Dynasty was a typical example. The transition from the Ming to the Qing dynasties, also known as the Manchu conquest of China, was a decadeslong period of battles between the Ming army, the Qing army (established by the Manchu clan in Northeast China), and the Li Zicheng army, a rebel peasant force.

The bubonic plague in this period of time pointed at the Ming army only, leaving the Qing and Li Zicheng armies unaffected.

It can be seen that the arrival of a plague is not accidental. The CCP virus epidemic was triggered by the CCP’s crimes, and it spread globally due to the CCP’s concealment. The spread of the virus shows a clear pattern: It is selectively targeting the CCP and is aimed at eliminating the CCP and those who are pro-communist or who have close ties with the CCP.

All regions that are hard-hit by the virus outside China are those having intimate ties with the CCP, those who have supported the CCP in terms of trade, investment, or helping the CCP improve its international image. Likewise, individuals who have been the CCP’s supporters often find themselves vulnerable to the CCP virus.

In fact, this spreading pattern helps to point out a life-saving path for all nations and people all over the world. It is a path that directly connects to the spiritual side of all beings.

Recently, there were several cases of people recovering from the CCP pneumonia miraculously after they condemned the CCP. Some cases can be found in media reports.

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The CCP virus epidemic was triggered by the CCP’s evil crimes, and it spread globally due to the CCP’s concealment.

In March, three key politicians of the Vox party, Spain’s third-largest party, contracted the virus. They are Santiago Abascal, president of Vox; Javier Ortega Smith, secretary-general and the second most prominent official in the party; and Macarena Olona, member of the congress of deputies for Vox.

Amazingly, all three recovered from the CCP pneumonia shortly after they strongly condemned the CCP.

At an EU meeting, Vox proposed a resolution against the CCP and WHO. At a domestic parliament session, Vox requested an international investigation into the culpability of the Chinese communist regime. In February, Connie Brix, a Dan-

ish woman, was infected with the CCP virus while traveling in Spain. Her condition worsened in March. After Brix learned about the CCP’s cover-up of the outbreak, she berated the CCP angrily for wreaking havoc on the entire world. Two days later, Brix’s symptoms disappeared and she, too, recovered miraculously.

In mainland China, after a patient was diagnosed with the CCP pneumonia, he denounced the CCP for concealing the epidemic and other evildoings. He then recovered, with all symptoms disappearing completely.

However, he was then deceived by the CCP’s brainwashing propaganda and thought the CCP’s medical system was his savior, having provided an effective cure. He even felt thankful for the CCP. As a result, the CCP virus returned—he had a relapse and tested positive again.

These true stories tell us that one’s understanding of and attitude toward the CCP will determine whether he or she is immune to the virus. Rejecting and condemning the CCP is an effective cure for the virus.

Conversely, supporting the CCP, endorsing the CCP, or establishing a close partnership with the CCP, will likely invite the virus. Some may even experience a relapse if they choose to side with the CCP.

Everyone longs for peace and health amid a global pandemic. Facing this sudden disaster, the limitations of modern technology and management methods become obvious. Please keep in mind that the divine has been caring for humanity for thousands of years.

Look up at heaven, uphold your inner goodness, reflect on your actions, and reject the CCP—the representative of the greatest evil. By doing so, you will be protected by the divine. This is the most fundamental protection for mankind.

If someone is infected with the CCP virus, we suggest that he or she sincerely says “down with the CCP.” Maybe a miracle will happen.

Staying away from the CCP and condemning the CCP can help any individual, organization, or country alleviate or even avoid the CCP pandemic entirely. They may then embrace a wonderful future.

The pandemic occurred because of the CCP, and the situation will change when people change their attitudes toward the CCP. For various reasons, some people are reluctant to accept and believe this statement. They are also reluctant to face this serious issue.

Out of concern for the health of mankind and out of a sense of responsibility, we intend to reveal the truth and let more people benefit from it so that they can be free from the virus. We hope all kind-hearted people will get through this catastrophe as soon as possible.

*Editorial Board
April 26, 2020*

New to Baking Bread?
Start Here

This simple, versatile yeasted dough makes a beautiful beginner’s loaf.

See B2

JILL WINGER



The Story of Soju

As Korea’s favorite spirit grows in global popularity, it’s worth getting to know a little better—beyond that iconic, cheap green bottle.

See B9

LIFE

THE EPOCH TIMES

ALL IMAGES BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Mothers’
Hands

While their loaves were being baked, the women gathered, sharing company, experiences, and advice.



CARDINALE MONTANO

My mother’s hands have shaped at least a thousand loaves of bread. She learned this from her mother, who learned it from her mother, long before.

In Germany during the war-torn years of World War II, my grandmother would send her 14-year-old daughter, with linen-bundled leavened dough in a bicycle basket, to pedal off to the nearest village. There, a baker offered up his oven to those who did not have one in their homes. While their loaves were being baked, the women gathered, sharing company, experiences, and advice. Another errand would be to run to the butcher and for dry-goods until the bread was done and ready to pick up. Then all would hurry home again, the heavenly aroma of steaming, fresh-baked loaves lingered in the air as the women left the village on separate paths.

In a different part of the world a very full 20 years later, my older sister was just a few months beyond her first year on this planet and I was imminently due. Charlotte Osterwald, our “Omi,” had traveled from Germany to help my mother. When the third baby girl arrived less than two years after I was born, she was followed some seven minutes later by an unexpected twin who made his surprise entry into the world, feet first. His appearance finally brought my proud Italian father a son and my mother a room full of 60 some-odd roses as well as, no doubt, sweet relief that her childbearing was now complete.

Throughout the years, freshly baked bread has remained a constant.



Somewhere amid the hubbub and excitement, my gentle grandmother made the quiet, self-effacing decision to stay right where she was needed most, for the next 18 years of her life. And so we became a solid, intense unit of seven, and the bubble of life as we would know it for the next 11 years, took form in a three-story brown and white Tudor on Oxford Street, in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Ours was a fairly quiet family neighborhood. Decent sidewalks, with cracks made just to skip over, ran across the bases of paved driveways, which every morning slowly would deposit humming, heavy-bodied Chevys and Fords into the street, and every evening welcomed them back again. Average-sized lawns in front of nicely kept houses were mowed religiously every weekend, sometimes all at once. A droning, industrious fugue of multiple small motors would ring through the neighborhood in a comforting and modestly proud, Saturday morning declaration of home ownership.

Mothers knew they’d be heard when they cupped their hands to the sides of their mouths and called their offspring home for supper. You could get a pretty good idea of what your friends were going to eat simply by inhaling deeply as you walked (or ran, if you had lost track of time!) down the street to get through your front door 5 o’clock, salivary glands prepped and a pretty good appetite established.

We were the odd family that had our main meal at noon. Back then, lunch break was long enough to allow a walk home from

Continued on B4



New to Baking Bread?

Start Here

This simple, versatile yeasted dough makes a beautiful beginner’s loaf—or pizza crust, dinner rolls, or cinnamon rolls

JILL WINGER

Name a way to mess up a bread recipe, and I’ve probably done it. Whether it’s killing the yeast with blazing-hot water, over-rising the dough and spilling it all over the oven, or baking loaves that emerged doughy and under-baked or so hard they could double as bricks, I can guarantee you that it has happened in my kitchen at some point.

Yet, onward I march. Stubbornness aside, I’ve stayed committed to this bread journey because I find there are few things as primally satisfying as making bread with your own two hands.

Possessing the power to command flour and water to become whatever shape and flavor I desire at that moment feels magical. It’s an infatuation I suspect traces back to the first humans who accidentally discovered that flour and water, if left alone, spontaneously become leavening.

For me, making bread is a form of meditation. Like many modern folks, I tend to spend an extraordinary amount of time wrapped up in technology—always multitasking, always rushing to the next thing.

But when I’m baking bread? I’m baking bread. The mixing, kneading, punching, and smelling require all of my senses and keep me singularly focused on the task in front of me. That’s a tall order these days.

Plus, the fruits of my labor are delicious. However, somewhere along the course of human history, we unfortunately decided that baking bread was not only difficult, but best left to the experts. But while there is absolutely a time and place for a hunk of crusty, artisan bread handcrafted by your favorite bakery, I have good news, my friend:

With a handful of very basic ingredients, it is entirely possible to make an outstanding loaf of bread at home—no machines or fancy mixers required.

In a moment, I’ll introduce you to the simplest, most versatile bread recipe you’ll ever meet. It’s my standby recipe, as it lends itself well to a variety of flours and can even be morphed into pizza crust or cinnamon rolls. But first, let’s tackle a few of the most common questions that arise around the topic of homemade bread.



ALL PHOTOS BY JILL WINGER

This simple sandwich bread is perfect for beginners.

I find there are few things as primally satisfying as making bread with your own two hands.

The Yeast

What kind of yeast to use? I recommend using basic active dry yeast that can be purchased at most grocery stores. I’ve found the small jars to be more reliable than the single-serving packets, which can be more hit-or-miss in their rising power.

The age and freshness of the yeast you use are two of the most important contributing factors to a successful loaf. You can test the strength of your yeast by following the simple proofing process that I detail in this recipe.

Active dry yeast stores very well in the freezer, so even if you don’t make a lot of bread, it’s a good investment.

The Flour

In case you’ve seen the bread flour at the grocery store and are concerned that you don’t have it in your pantry, never fear.

Bread flour simply contains more protein, which is handy, but not absolutely necessary for the average home baker. Regular all-purpose flour will

work perfectly fine in this recipe.

Can you use whole wheat flour instead? Absolutely. Just keep in mind that whole wheat flours are heavier and might slightly affect the texture and density of the finished loaf. A good place to start is by substituting half of the all-purpose flour in the recipe with whole wheat.

Your favorite 1:1 gluten-free flour should also work well with this recipe.

Kneading the Dough

Yes, you have to knead this dough, but don’t worry—kneading isn’t as hard as you think.

As much as I love the ever-popular no-knead recipes, the process of kneading is incredibly easy and very low-tech.

Perfect technique isn’t important. Just work the dough with the palms of your hands until it’s smooth and add more flour if you need it.

This recipe calls for a quick 4–5 minute kneading step, which will result in a loaf with a soft texture and impressive rise.

CHINESE HOME COOKING

Steamed, Not Baked, to Soft, Fluffy Perfection



ALL PHOTOS BY CICI LI

Chinese mantou, humble steamed buns, are best homemade and served fresh

CICI LI & CRYSTAL SHI

A soft, pillowy mantou, eaten fresh from the steamer, is a simple pleasure.

Mantou are plain Chinese steamed buns, made from a yeasted dough of white wheat flour, milk, and sugar. They have smooth, snowy white surfaces and soft and fluffy insides, with just a hint of sweetness.

In northern China, where wheat is the main starch—as opposed to the rice-growing regions of the south—humble mantou are a staple food eaten with every meal. In other parts of the country, you can find them served at restaurants

For fresh, fluffy homemade mantou, you’ll just need six pantry ingredients, a steamer, and a bit of patience—and arm strength.

and sold from food carts, most often enjoyed for breakfast—especially washed down with fresh soy milk. For an indulgent dessert, they can be deep-fried until their outsides are crisp and golden, then served with sweetened condensed milk for dipping.

Packages of pre-cooked, frozen mantou are readily available at Chinese supermarkets, microwave- or steamer-ready. But these store-bought versions can contain preservatives and other unnecessary ingredients, so why not make your own?

For fresh, fluffy homemade mantou, you’ll just need six pantry ingredients, a

steamer, and a bit of patience—and arm strength.

Step-by-Step

This simple, six-ingredient recipe uses two leavening agents, instant yeast and baking powder, to ensure proper rise and the fluffiest results. Combine them with all-purpose flour, sugar, vegetable oil, and milk, and knead them into an elastic dough.

Auntie Liu, a cook at New York City’s Radiance restaurant who has been making mantou since she was a little girl, offered some helpful advice: a proper mantou dough should be kneaded until it is “san



1. Proofing the yeast.



2. Combining the wet and dry ingredients.



3. The dough after kneading.



4. Letting the dough rest and rise.



5. A second rise in the loaf pan.



6. Baked until lightly browned.

THE SIMPLEST HOMEMADE BREAD DOUGH

MAKES ONE 9 X 5-INCH LOAF (OR ONE 12-INCH PIZZA CRUST, OR ONE 9 X 13-INCH PAN OF CINNAMON ROLLS, OR ONE 9 X 13-INCH PAN OF DINNER ROLLS)

1 1/3 cup warm water (40 degrees C, see Notes)
1 1/2 teaspoons active dry yeast
2 teaspoons brown or white sugar or honey
1 egg
1 teaspoon fine sea salt
3–3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

In a large mixing bowl, combine the water, yeast, and sugar.

Stir well, then allow to sit for 5–10 minutes to “proof” the yeast. You should begin to see some bubbles form. If you don’t see any bubbles, it may mean your yeast is old and you will need to try again with fresh yeast.

After the proofing process is complete, mix in the egg and salt.

Add 3 cups of flour, one at a time, mixing with a fork between each addition. Once the mixture is too stiff to

mix with a fork, transfer it to a well-floured countertop. Knead the dough for 4–5 minutes, or until it is smooth and elastic. Use the remaining 1/2 cup of flour to dust the countertop and the dough if it wants to stick to your hands.

Shape the smooth dough into a ball and place it back into the bowl. Cover it with a dishcloth and let rise in a warm place for one hour, or until the dough has doubled in size (see Notes).

After this first rise is complete, use these directions to turn it into the following baked goods:

For sandwich bread: Grease a standard-sized (9 x 5-inch) loaf pan. After the first rise is complete, punch down the dough and shape it into a log. Place it into the loaf pan and allow it to rise 20–30 more minutes, or until it starts to peek over the edge of the pan. Bake in a 175-degree-C oven for 25–30 minutes, or until lightly browned.

For pizza: After the first rise is complete, press the dough into a 12-inch circle on a baking stone or baking sheet (you can also use a standard cookie sheet, if that’s all you have). Top with sauce, cheese, and your favorite toppings. Bake in a 230-degree-C oven for

15–20 minutes, or until the crust is golden brown and the cheese is bubbly.

For dinner rolls: After the first rise is complete, divide the dough into 15 pieces. Shape into balls and arrange in a greased 9 x 13-inch pan. Rise for an additional 30 minutes in a warm place. Bake at 190 degrees C for 20–25 minutes, or until golden brown.

For cinnamon rolls: After the first rise is complete, roll the dough into a 13 x 20-inch rectangle on a floured countertop. Spread 4 tablespoons of softened butter on top, leaving a 1/2-inch margin around the edges, and sprinkle with 1/2 cup brown sugar and 2 tablespoons cinnamon. Starting on the long side, roll it up and press the seam together to seal the roll. Using a serrated knife, cut into 12 rolls. Arrange the rolls in a greased 9 x 13-inch pan and allow to rise for 30 minutes, or until the rolls are puffy. Bake in a 175-degree-C oven for 25 minutes, or until golden brown.

KITCHEN NOTES

The water you use should be warm, not hot. Test it with your finger—it should feel close to the temperature of comfortable bathwater.

Dough rises best when it’s warm. I like to put my rising dough next to our wood stove or near the oven if something is baking. However, if you don’t have those options, simply preheat your oven to 175 degrees C for 4 minutes, turn it off, and then allow the covered dough to rise in the warm oven for one hour.

MAKE AHEAD

To freeze this dough, simply make it and allow it to finish the first rise. Then, punch it down, wrap it tightly in plastic wrap, and freeze it for up to 3 months. When you are ready to use it, defrost it on the countertop, then shape as directed for the item you’re making. Let the dough complete the second rise before baking.

Alternatively, you can freeze the finished, baked loaves by wrapping them tightly and popping them in the freezer, where they will keep for 3–6 months. When you are ready to enjoy, allow them to gently defrost on the countertop until they come to room temperature.

Jill Winger is the founder of ThePrairieHomestead.com, where she helps folks who are uninspired with modern life learn how to grow their own food and master old-fashioned skills.



1. Mixing the dough.



2. Kneading the dough until smooth.



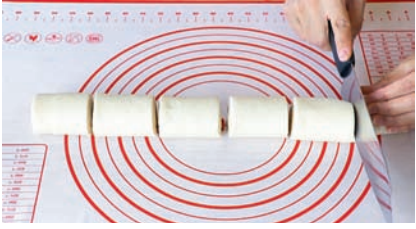
3. Rolling out the dough into a rectangle.



4. Folding the dough into thirds.



5. Rolling the rectangle of dough up into a log.



6. Dividing the log into uniform pieces.



7. Letting the formed buns rest and rise.



8. Freshly steamed buns.

guang,” literally meaning “three smooth.” The “three” refers to your dough, your hands, and your working surface. When they are all smooth, with no unincorporated flour or bits of dough stuck anywhere, you’re ready to go.

After a quick rest, the dough will be spongy and slightly springy, ready to be rolled out and shaped.

Here’s where that arm strength comes in: The next step requires repeatedly rolling your dough out into a rectangle, folding it on itself in thirds, like a letter, and rolling it out again. This will ensure that you press out any air bubbles in the dough, giving your finished buns a fine crumb.

To shape the dough into buns, you’ll simply roll it up into a log and cut it into uniform segments. Before steaming, the formed buns again need to rest until doubled in size, which could take up to an hour and a half, depending on your kitchen temperature and humidity. Auntie Liu suggested speeding up the process by letting them rest in a warm and humid place; try putting them in an oven preheated to 75 degrees C and turned off, with a pot of just-boiled water placed on the bottom of the oven.

When you finally take a bite of a warm, freshly steamed mantou, all your hard work and patience will have paid off.

CHINESE STEAMED BUNS (MANTOU)

Prep Time: 30 minutes
Rest Time: 45–90 minutes
Cook Time: 15 minutes
MAKES 6 TO 8 BUNS

EQUIPMENT:
Large mixing bowl
Rolling pin
Pastry brush
Steamer
Knife
6 (3-inch x 4-inch) pieces of wax paper

INGREDIENTS:
2 cups all-purpose flour
3 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon instant (rapid rise) yeast
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons whole milk

Make the dough:
In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, sugar, instant yeast, and baking powder. Pour in the vegetable oil and milk.

First, use a pair of chopsticks (or fork) to begin to combine the wet and dry ingredients. Then use your hands to knead the mixture until it comes together into a ball of dough, and the sides of the mixing bowl are clean.

Transfer the dough to a flat working surface. Continue to knead the dough until smooth, and there are no bits of dough or flour sticking to your hands or working surface, about 10 minutes.

Cover the dough with an upside-down bowl and let it rest for 3–5 minutes.

Shape the buns:
Using a rolling pin, roll out the dough into a 7-inch x 14-inch rectangle: First, roll from the middle of the dough to the top, rolling away from you; then, roll from the middle to the bottom, rolling toward you. Press out any air bubbles as you go. Rotate the dough 90 degrees and repeat, first rolling from the middle to the top, and then from the middle to the bottom. Rotate the dough 90 degrees again and repeat, continuing to roll and rotate until the dough becomes

a 7-inch x 14-inch rectangle and there are no more air bubbles.

Fold the dough into thirds, like a letter: Orient the rectangle of dough vertically, so that the shorter edges are at the top and bottom. First, take the bottom third of the dough and fold it up; then, fold the top flap down and over it.

Rotate the dough 90 degrees and again roll it out into a rectangle, pressing out any air bubbles.

Repeat the above steps once more: Fold the dough into thirds, like a letter; rotate it 90 degrees; and roll it out into a rectangle, pressing out any air bubbles.

Now, roll up the dough into a log: Orient the rectangle of dough horizontally, so that the longer edges are at the top and bottom. Use a pastry brush to brush a thin layer of water all over the surface of the dough. Starting from the bottom, slowly roll the dough up into a long log. If the top edge of the dough begins to curl as you roll, use your fingers to flatten it before continuing. Use your palms to roll the log of dough back and forth until it becomes uniform in size everywhere.

Trim the ends of the log with a sharp knife, then cut it into 6 uniform pieces. Place each bun on its own square of wax paper.

Transfer the buns to the steamer rack or basket and cover with the lid. Let the buns rest in a warm and humid place until they double in size, about 45–90 minutes.

Steam the buns:
Add water to the steamer and bring to a boil. Cover and steam the buns over high heat for 15 minutes.

Turn off the heat. Slightly open the lid to let the steam escape, for about 5 minutes. If you completely uncover the buns right away, they might deflate. Serve.

MAKE-AHEAD

Mantou freeze well, so you can make a big batch to stash in the freezer for later. Simply steam all your mantou (working in batches as needed, depending on how big your steamer is), then let them cool completely and freeze in a single layer in ziploc bags. To reheat, steam them directly from the freezer, over high heat, for about 8 minutes.

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

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Put a book in his hand, the right book, and you provide him with a guide.

JEFF MINICK

Many young men are puzzled these days about the meaning of manhood, perplexed by what they hear in a classroom, learn online, or see in their friends. They want to work, to love, to do good in the world, to emulate other men. Unfortunately, maps for these destinations seem in short supply.

Help is at hand. Literally. Put a book in his hand, the right book, and you provide him with a guide.

Below are 10 books that might help him on his way.

1. CHARLES MURRAY'S "The Curmudgeon's Guide to Getting Ahead: Dos and Don'ts of Right Behavior, Tough Thinking, Clear Writing, and Living a Good Life." Murray's short book offers advice on manners, marriage, handling a bad boss, leaving home, joining the military, getting a real job, and much more. The book is a concise, valuable guide to life beyond high school or university.

2. A BOOK OF QUOTATIONS. Winston Churchill believed that "it is a good thing

for an uneducated man to read books of quotations." A worthy compilation of quotations offers inspiration, ideas for writing, and the sheer pleasure of browsing. On my desk are several such books, including "Bartlett's Familiar Quotations," inscribed and given to me by my mother 40 years ago. Recommended as well are Nicholas Phillips's "What They Said" and "The Oxford Book of Quotations." For amusement, try Robert Byrne's "The 2,548 Best Things Anybody Ever Said."

3. BRETT AND KATE MCKAY'S "Manvotionals: Timeless Wisdom And Advice On Living The 7 Manly Virtues." Ranging from Xenophon to Jack London, Manvotionals is a collection of great writing about manhood. More practical is their book, "The Art of Manliness: Classic Skills and Manners for the Modern Man."

4. DAVID JOACHIM'S "A Man, A Can, A Plan: 50 Great Guy Meals Even You Can Make." The guy has to eat. If he hasn't learned to cook, get him a copy of this book from the editors of Men's Health. It's sturdy—the pages are thick, glossy cardboard, made to take all manner of

culinary abuse—and the recipes are easy, straightforward, delicious, and healthy.

5. MATT BURRIESCI'S "Dead White Guys: A Father, His Daughter, and the Great Books of the Western World." Though Burriesci wrote this guide for his daughter, Dead White Guys is a storehouse of wisdom for young men, as well. Burriesci combines his thoughts on such figures as Aristotle, Christ, Montaigne, and Locke with his own experiences for a splendid introduction to the Great Books.

6. JAMES MUSTICH'S "1,000 Books to Read Before You Die: A Life-Changing List." This one is a keeper. Mustich, who once edited the superb mail-order catalogue, A Common Reader, reviews a thousand classic novels, histories, biographies, books of science and philosophy, as well as pointing the reader to several thousand other titles. This text is a literary extravaganza guaranteed to delight and guide its readers.

7. MARK HELPRIN'S "A Soldier of the Great War." This 792-page novel tells the story of Alessandro Giuliani, an Italian who fought the Austrians and Germans in the

First World War. A priest recommended this book to one of my sons, and after my own reading, I place it on my top 10 list of fiction written in my lifetime. Over the years, I have given away a dozen copies or more to students and friends. The prose is beautiful, the story uplifting, and the dialogues between Alessandro and a much younger man entertain models of wisdom. Alessandro's humanity and goodness make him a role model for men young and old.

8. JORDAN PETERSON'S "12 Rules For Life: An Antidote to Chaos." There's a reason why Jordan Peterson, author, professor, and YouTube sensation, so strongly appeals to young men. He teaches life lessons they hunger for: pursue the meaningful, tell the truth, set your house in order, seek the path of virtue. And the foremost rule, as Norman Dodge tells us in his foreword, is "that you must take responsibility for your own life. Period."

9. F. WASHINGTON JARVIS'S "With Love and Prayers: A Headmaster Speaks to the Next Generation." I especially recommend this one for high school students. "With Love And Prayers" is a col-

lection of addresses which Jarvis, an Anglican priest, gave to the young men at Boston's Roxbury Latin School during his 30 years as headmaster. I used this fine book in the classroom for two decades, where students and parents alike praised it.

10. "Movies Make the Man: The Hollywood Guide to Life, Love, and Faith for Young Men." As a long-time teacher and a parent to three sons, I witnessed first-hand the struggles of young men in a world that often seems bent on abolishing manhood. "Movies Make the Man" was my attempt to help them. Using various films as examples, "Movies Make the Man" addresses such topics as the codes men live by, work, faith, friendship, love, and marriage.

A young man needs guides, equipment, and maps for his journey. These books, and dozens of others, can serve him as a compass.

This article was originally published on Intellectual Takeout by Jeff Minick. He is a freelance writer and teacher living in Front Royal, Virginia. He may be found online at JeffMinick.com

ALL IMAGES BY SHUTTERSTOCK

THE EPOCH TIMES

Stay informed and keep safe
All Australians deserve the TRUTH

The Chinese Communist Party's (the CCP) coverup led to a pandemic that now threatens the lives of people around the globe. The CCP relies critically on the control of information to uphold its power.

As a fearlessly independent media, The Epoch Times was MONTHS AHEAD of other news outlets in covering the pandemic.

Join us in exposing the CCP's systematic propaganda campaign and control of vital information. For you, your family and future generations.

WHY SUPPORT US?

Since our founding in 2000, the Chinese Communist Party, with its multibillion-dollar lobbying and overseas propaganda budget, has tried relentlessly to stop The Epoch Times.

We've been fighting a long battle against the CCP's systematic lies and fake news operations, and standing up to the world's biggest dictatorship.

At the time of the CCP virus outbreak, the CCP is flooding the world with deceptive propaganda, and The Epoch Times is at the forefront of exposing the truth.

Similarly, The Epoch Times was among the first to report on the SARS epidemic in 2003. We are truly independent and not afraid of honest reporting on the Chinese Communist Party and the threat it poses to the world.

See through the deception, stay informed, support us in combating the CCP's lies and control of information.

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Mothers' Hands

Continued from B1

school, time to sit down, and actually ingest a full, hot, German-style meal, before desperately running to get back just in time for afternoon classes. Any food coma would be thoroughly burned off in the process with the remaining side ache working its way out, during art class.

Those were days when sit-down family meals were a religion unto themselves. I would not hesitate to substitute the word "eat" for "pray" in many cases when it came to what families did to "stay together" back then. Mealtimes were for eating, but they also were for conversation. Between "pass the potatoes" or "the butter, please," arguments could be started or resolved, problems addressed and handled, and humor exchanged. In the space of one mealtime, all the separate doings of the day were pulled together like strings on a good knot, togetherness reestablished, and familial foundations laid in fresh concrete.

I may not need to mention here, but will, the fact that cell phones had not yet crept up the corners of all tablecloths and taken over the part of the family dining table, where the conversation used to reign.

We did not attend church regularly, but my parents must have figured that with grace before meals, bedtime prayers, our Omi's occasional exclamation of "Ach du lieber Gott!" ("Oh my dear God!"), and my father's prayers to St. Jude, St. Anthony, and St. Christopher, the gray area between my father's Catholicism and my mother's Christianity was covered. If help was needed, something was lost, someone was going somewhere, or something had spilled on the freshly washed and ironed linen tablecloth, this combination held our blissful childhood's sense of safety intact. With these punctuations and bookends to all of our daily activities, the acknowledgment was given that something larger than ourselves provided grace and order, from a world beyond our little corner.

This past year on Christmas Eve, my mother celebrated her 90th birthday. Lately, there has been much reminiscing. She sits at the peak of such a long, full, life, and is astounded herself.

The past two years since she moved from her home are the only, out of her entire lifetime,

where she has lived without her own kitchen. It is the one thing she says she misses. And yet, she has moved into this chapter of her life with little, and passing, resistance. The time once filled with cooking has been replaced by poetry classes, singing, painting, and her lifelong love of dance.

We were fortunate, despite the inevitable bumps and curves of growing up, to have not only one, but two mothers at the helm of the ship we called Home. These women, with utter dedication tirelessly, prepared for us every day the things we needed, whether from the kitchen or by hand from other tables of loving intent.

And throughout, there was always freshly baked bread.

As I pick up my mother for her weekly visit, she skips over the cracks in the sidewalk on her way to the car. It is something, she says laughing, that she has done since she was a child. In the car, she pulls a loaf of locally baked, organic, sourdough raisin bread from her basket, and hands it to me. She hopes we will enjoy it. It is fresh and delicious, and she can't possibly eat it all herself.

Cardinale Montano is a freelance writer living in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts. She shares her creativity with good friends, family, and eager learners, and celebrates daily the blessings of nature in the beautiful Berkshires. She is the founder and designer at LineflaxAndRoving.com





IRINA MURZA/UNSPLASH

“Well-schooled kids have a low threshold for boredom; help your own to develop an inner life so that they’ll never be bored.”

John Taylor Gatto

INSIGHTS ON SCHOOL That Every Parent Should Know

The late John Taylor Gatto on the differences between schooling and education

BARBARA DANZA

If you’re unfamiliar with the late John Taylor Gatto, and you have children, seek him out—his books, his videos, and his blog, at JohnTaylorGatto.com. You’ll want to hear what he had to say. Gatto was a New York City school teacher. His 30-year career teaching in Manhattan, in both the most advantaged neighborhoods and the least, garnered him the city’s Teacher of the Year award not once but three times in 1989, 1990, and 1991. He was also named New York State Teacher of the Year in 1991. That same year, he issued his resignation. In an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal titled, “I Quit, I Think,” he announced his intentions explaining, “I can’t teach this way any longer. If you hear of a job where I don’t have to hurt kids to make a living, let me know.” After that, Gatto devoted his energies to blowing the whistle on what he called “compulsory government monopoly mass-schooling” and empowering parents to take back control of their children’s education. He wrote a number of books including: “Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling,” “Weapons of Mass Instruction: A Schoolteacher’s Journey Through the Dark World of Compulsory Schooling,” and “The Underground History of American Education: A Schoolteacher’s Intimate Investigation Into the Problem of Modern Schooling.” He traveled the world lecturing to thousands. Before his passing in 2018, he was

working on a documentary film. Gatto’s insights into what modern schooling is really like, the motives behind its strategies, and how children actually become educated drive a spear through the myth that public school exists for the good of students. What he describes of his personal experiences teaching middle school English, and what he reveals in his deep dives into how our modern school system came to be will make you rethink what you thought you knew about school. Indeed, what he came to realize was that the school system was harming the children it purportedly served. As he put it in the prologue to “Weapons of Mass Instruction”: “After 30 years in a public school classroom serving this creature, when I quit teaching in 1991 I promised myself I would bear witness to what I had seen and, forgive me, done. This book is my way of keeping that promise.” **Schooling Versus Education** In his books and lectures, Gatto drew a stark distinction between “schooling” and “education.” In a local television feature on Gatto entitled, “Classrooms of the Heart,” Gatto explained, “I don’t teach the kids that education is bad. I say that schooling’s bad. Education is a personal thing. You develop your powers of singularity to the utmost.” “But schooling,” he continued, “is not an education. Schooling is an attempt to write the one right way for everybody. And in that sense, it’s an evil thing because there are infinite variations in humanity.”



John Taylor Gatto.

C-SPAN

SEVEN LESSONS

- “Dumbing Us Down” includes the text of Gatto’s acceptance remarks upon receiving the New York State Teacher of the Year award. He boldly began, “The license I have certifies that I am an instructor of English language and English literature, but that isn’t what I do at all. I don’t teach English; I teach school—and I win awards doing it.” He went on to outline what teaching “school” entails, and it’s not at all the reading, writing, and arithmetic one might guess. Instead, Gatto said there are seven lessons that all schoolteachers impart, whether or not they realize it. To anyone who has gone through the public school system, they sound disturbingly familiar, even if never laid out in this way before. To anyone holding faith in the school system for their children, they are terrifying. Some of the lessons of school, according to Gatto, are confusion, class position, indifference, emotional dependency, intellectual dependency, and provisional self-esteem.
- Confusion** “The first lesson I teach is confusion,” Gatto said. He pointed to the disjointed array of subjects, irregular interruptions in the day, and the chaotic sequencing of information disseminated as if its purpose was to confuse rather than educate. “Everything I teach is out of context. I teach the un-relating of everything,” he continued. Real education, he argued, is a search for meaning. “Meaning, not disconnected facts, is what sane human beings seek, and education is a set of codes for processing raw data into meaning.”
- Class Position** “The second lesson I teach is class position. I teach that students must stay in the class where they belong.” Here Gatto referred to the stifling labels students are given and the academic tracks they are assigned, such as gifted, remedial, or otherwise. Once given a label, it’s hard to shake. “If I do my job well, the kids can’t even imagine themselves somewhere else because I’ve shown them how to envy and fear the better classes and how to have contempt for the dumb classes,” Gatto said.
- Indifference** “The third lesson I teach is indifference,” Gatto

said. “I teach children not to care too much about anything.” Gatto spoke of the effects of the school bell constantly cutting off any effort and forcing students to briskly move onto the next subject. “The lesson of bells is that no work is worth finishing, so why care too deeply about anything? Years of bells will condition all but the strongest to a world that can no longer offer important work to do.” **Emotional Dependency** “The fourth lesson I teach is emotional dependency,” he said. “By stars and red checks, smiles and frowns, prizes, honors, and disgraces, I teach kids to surrender their will to the predestinated chain of command.” **Intellectual Dependency** The fifth lesson Gatto deemed the most important lesson of all. “The fifth lesson I teach is intellectual dependency. Good students wait for a teacher to tell them what to do.” He spoke of the faceless “experts” who decree what is to be studied and how it is to be studied—in fact, what to make the children think. “We’ve built a way of life that depends on people doing what they are told because they don’t know how to tell themselves what to do,” he said. **Provisional Self-esteem** Finally, Gatto highlighted the detrimental effects of the grading system students are subject to. Regarding this system, he said, “Some people might be surprised how little time or reflection goes into making up these mathematical records.” The consequences for the child, however, are great. “A monthly report, impressive in its provision, is sent into a student’s home to elicit approval or mark exactly, down to a single percentage point, how dissatisfied with the child a parent should be,” Gatto said. In his Wall Street Journal op-ed, he summed up his realization of what he has actually been teaching. Gatto lamented, “I’ve come slowly to understand what it is I really teach: A curriculum of confusion, class position, arbitrary justice, vulgarity, rudeness, disrespect for privacy, indifference to quality, and utter dependency. I teach how to fit into a world I don’t want to live in.”

The key is seeing each child as the individual he or she is and allowing him or her to seek out the genius that lies within.

Hope for Parents While his revelations are disturbing, or perhaps a confirmation of what had been suspected all along, they are also enlightening for anyone who has gone through the public school system and felt cheated by it. What’s more, they offer hope and courage to parents who are hesitant to follow the status quo. Gatto has inspired many parents to rescue their children from the inept school system he portrayed. Many have chosen to homeschool instead. In homeschool circles, he’s often viewed as a hero. He offers hope for all parents, even if homeschooling is not an option for them, by empowering them with information and an understanding of how school and education truly work. In “Dumbing Us Down,” he wrote: “Once you understand the logic behind modern schooling, its tricks and traps are fairly easy to avoid. School trains children to be employees and consumers; teach your own to be leaders and adventurers. School trains children to obey reflexively; teach your own to think critically and independently. Well-schooled kids have a low threshold for boredom; help your own to develop an inner life so that they’ll never be bored. Urge them to take on the serious material, the grown-up material, in history, literature, philosophy, music, art, economics, theology—all the stuff school-

teachers know well enough to avoid. “Challenge your kids with plenty of solitude so that they can learn to enjoy their own company, to conduct inner dialogues. Well-schooled people are conditioned to dread being alone; they seek constant companionship through the TV, the computer, the cell phone, and through shallow friendships quickly acquired, quickly abandoned. Your children should have a more important life, and they can.” **More Relevant Than Ever** Though it has been almost 30 years since Gatto penned his resignation announcement to the world, his message is more relevant than ever before. The good news is that options for families are becoming increasingly abundant. While reforming the current school system may not be a realistic or worthwhile goal for most parents, reforming one’s family’s approach to school is easier than ever. The key is seeing each child as the individual he or she is and allowing him or her to seek out the genius that lies within. Gatto said, “After a long life, and 30 years in the public school trenches, I’ve concluded that genius is as common as dirt. We suppress genius because we haven’t yet figured out how to manage a population of educated men and women. The solution, I think, is simple and glorious. Let them manage themselves.”

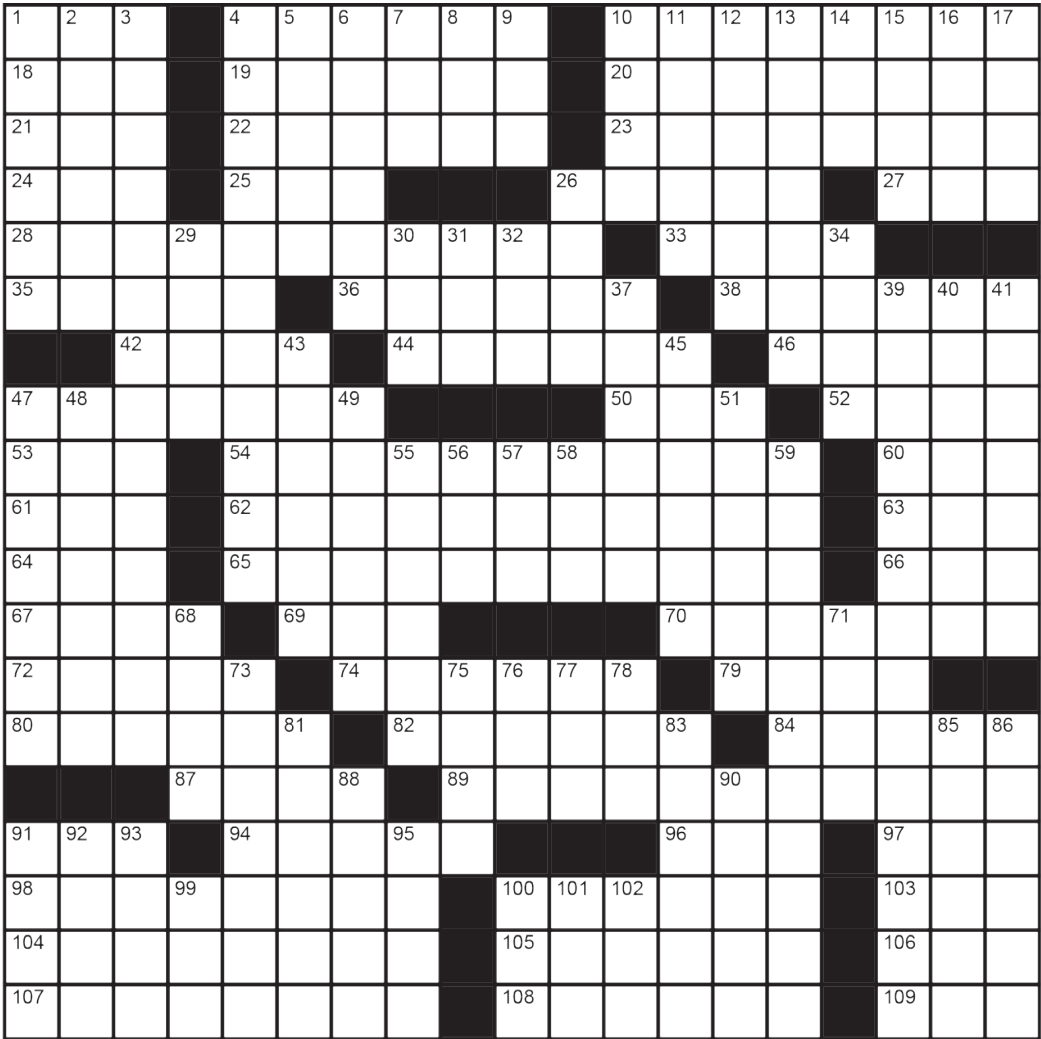
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CROSSWORD

CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON
EPOCH TIMES STAFF



Across

- 1. Word with bum or bunny
- 4. Fitted (an arrow) on the string.
- 10. Chef, at times
- 18. Lot
- 19. Cinderella's stepsisters vis-a-vis Cinderella
- 20. Ladies' man
- 21. Met collection
- 22. Bright red
- 23. Like Olympians
- 24. "Pygmalion" opens with it
- 25. John
- 26. Not moving
- 27. Member of an order
- 28. Tolerant

- 33. Auto parts giant
- 35. Tedium
- 36. All-in-one software packages
- 38. Sweet Spanish wine
- 42. Spore cases
- 44. Bryzoan corals, e.g.
- 46. Pacific nation
- 47. A greenhouse gas
- 50. Sticker
- 52. Run through
- 53. Cuckoo bird
- 54. Menorahs
- 60. Some ducts carry them agcy.
- 62. D. W. Griffith classic
- 63. Really bad coffee

- 64. Indian bread
- 65. Negligence
- 66. "We ___ Family"
- 67. Highchair feature
- 69. Notes after dos
- 70. Adds extra info to
- 72. Makes eyes at
- 74. Biologically encapsulate
- 79. Lawyer's "unless"
- 80. Mortar's mate
- 82. Giggle
- 84. Virile
- 87. Bit
- 89. Salad ingredient
- 91. Special ___
- 94. "___ of Endearment"

- 96. "Hokey religions and ancient weapons are no match for a good blaster at your side, kid" speaker
- 97. Contraction
- 98. End of a December song
- 100. Under ideal circumstances
- 103. Rumania's 100 bani
- 104. Lotions
- 105. Magna ___
- 106. "Catch-22" pilot who repeatedly crashes
- 107. Strap hangers
- 108. Thistlelike plant
- 109. Digit

Down

- 1. Mainstay
- 2. Bibimbap cuisine
- 3. Olympic games, e.g.
- 4. Gene material
- 5. "Ah" and "OMG" in old writing
- 6. Robert Totten's character on Gunsmoke
- 7. Cassis-flavored aperitif
- 8. "Always" to a poet
- 9. Arid
- 10. Aim at the barcode
- 11. No longer on the plate
- 12. Guru's retreat
- 13. Alkali flat
- 14. Small bill
- 15. Perceive
- 16. Nefarious
- 17. Torture device
- 26. Footnote word
- 29. Talk effusively
- 30. Fraternity letters
- 31. Expire
- 32. Pilot's announcement, briefly

- 34. Wistful word
- 37. Witches gathering
- 39. Otto in "Airplane!" movie
- 40. Etching
- 41. Morning love songs
- 43. Comparatively cocka-mamie
- 45. "Tossin' and ___" (#1 tune of 1961)
- 47. High platform on some sailing ships
- 48. Swell
- 49. Porterhouse, say
- 51. Masked varmint: (Var.)
- 55. "Who ___?"
- 56. Wing
- 57. Neckpiece
- 58. Curve
- 59. Nostalgically schmaltsy
- 68. Elusive creature
- 71. "Quickly!"
- 73. On the schedule
- 75. Irish luck
- 76. Bow wood
- 77. Any car, affectionately
- 78. Driver's helper?
- 81. "... nature's copy's not ___": Shak.
- 83. Some solvents
- 85. Straight
- 86. Sewage
- 88. Appalachian feature
- 90. Clobber
- 91. Numbered work
- 92. Confined, with "up"
- 93. It's a long story
- 95. "... another fine ___ you've gotten us into"
- 99. Printing
- 100. Take steps
- 101. Oft-read article
- 102. Bleat

4NUMBERS

CONSTRUCTED BY C. CHANG
AT 4NUMS.COM

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

14

32

76

14

19

+

-

X

÷

Hard 1 - 1 Solution

24

36

21

16

30

+

-

X

÷

Hard 2 - 1 Solution

5

10

37

4

8

+

-

X

÷

Easy 1 - 2 Solutions

4

6

32

1

5

+

-

X

÷

Easy 2 - 1 Solution

WORDSEARCH

CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON
EPOCH TIMES STAFF

Help with Today's Crossword Puzzle?

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

- AT BEST

CHARTA

CHERRY

CLEVIS

DERELICTION

EATEN

ENLARGE

ENNUI

ENTRÉE

ETERNE

ETHERS

HETERO
- INANER

INERT

KOREAN

MACHO

MAINTOP

METHANE

NAURU

NOCKED

OGHAM

OGLES

ORDURE

PASTE
- PEAR TREE

RACON

SABBAT

SUITES

TEASEL

TERMS

UNGUENTS

ARÊTE

ASHRAM

ATHLETIC

AUBADES

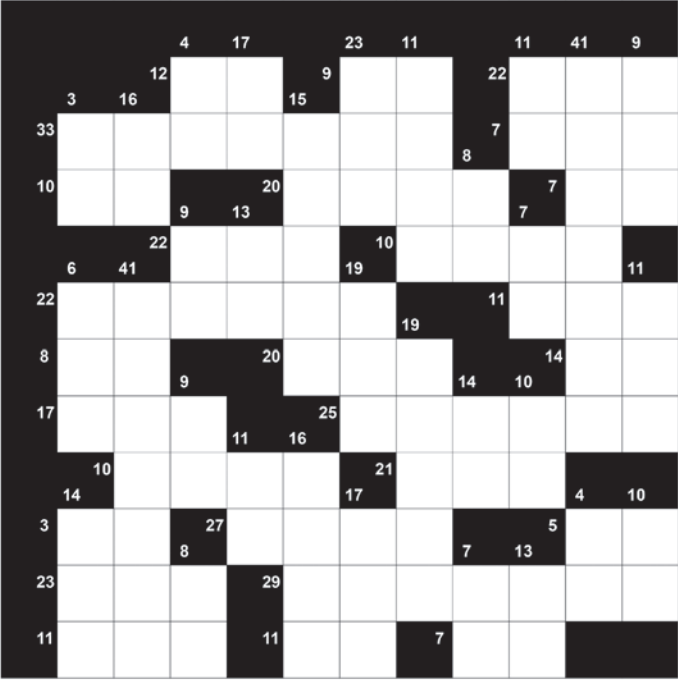
STAPLE

KAKURO

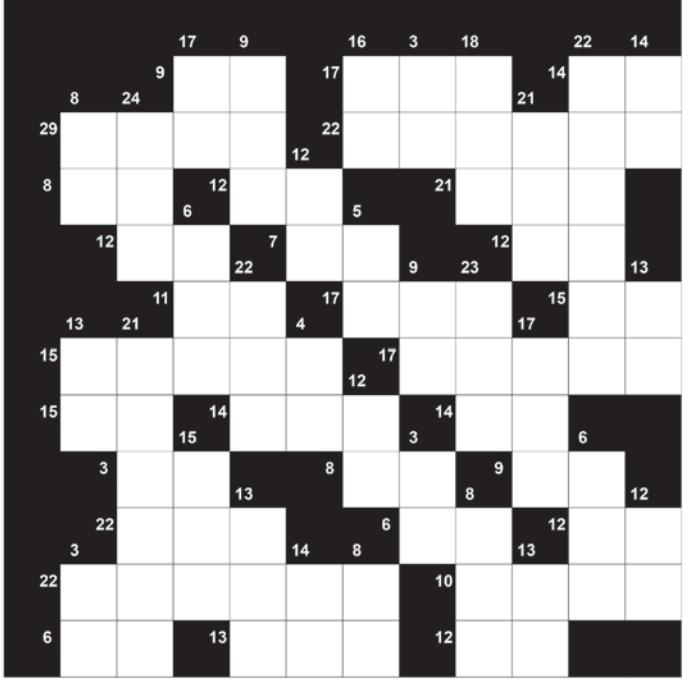
CONSTRUCTED BY EPOCH TIMES STAFF

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

Large: Hard



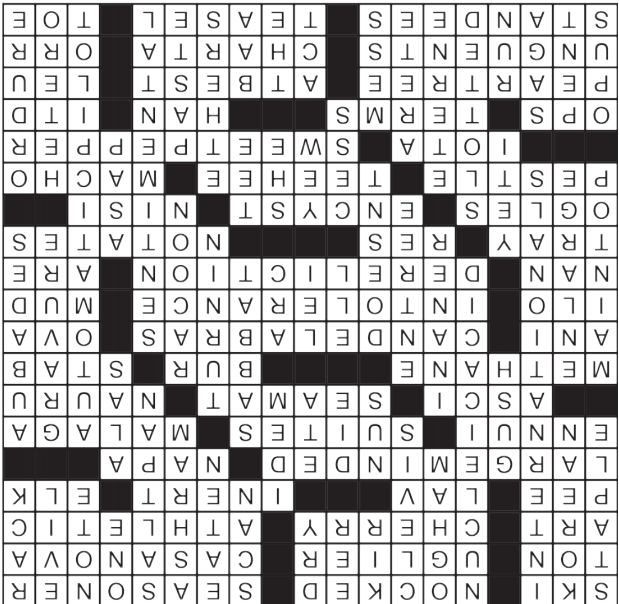
Large: Easy



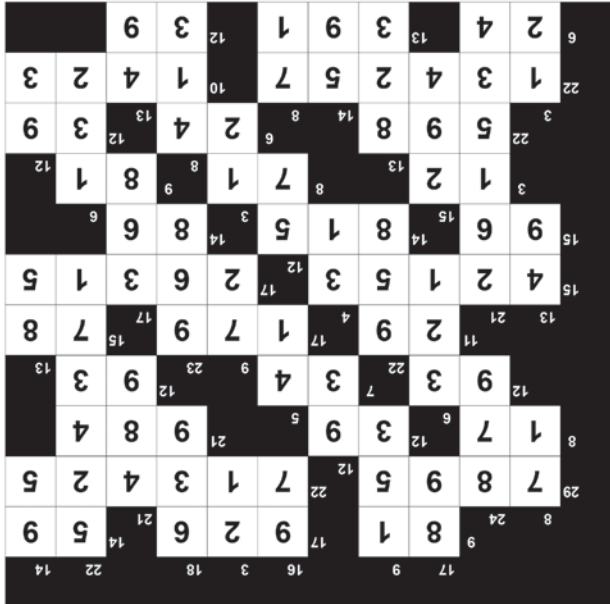
WORK SPACE

SOLUTIONS

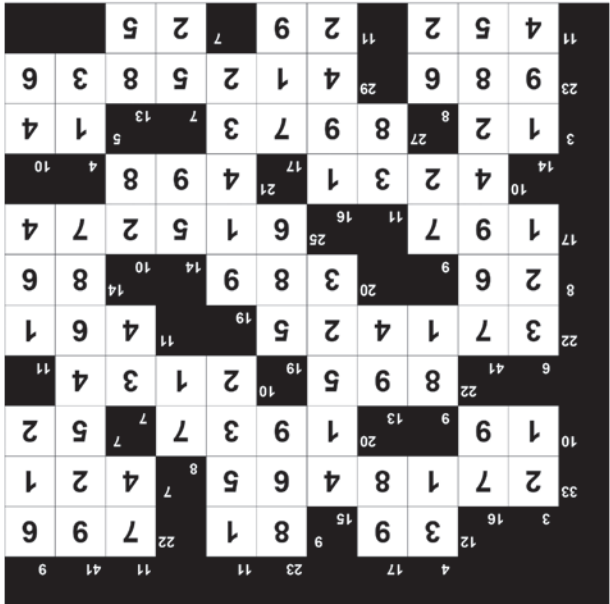
CROSSWORD



KAKURO LARGE: EASY



KAKURO LARGE: HARD



4 NUMBERS

- HARD 1

61

(32 - 14 - 14 = 14) × 1 × 19
- HARD 2

30

(30 - 16) × 16 ÷ 36 ÷ 24
- EASY 1

8

8 × 4 + 4 + 10 - 5
- EASY 2

5

(5 + 1) × 6 - 4



Women generally become more susceptible to cystitis if they are older, pregnant, diabetic, or confined to bed rest for long periods of time.

FOOD AS MEDICINE

Green Tea

Helps Cystitis Sufferers and Prevents Antibiotic Resistance

This energizing beverage has long been acknowledged for healing effects now being recognized by researchers

If you are one of the millions of women who have suffered from a painful urinary tract infection, a common cause of cystitis, make sure you have green tea in your kitchen cabinet. Science has yielded proof that this delicious drink can help you heal faster and ensure that any necessary antibiotics are effective. A frequently prescribed antibiotic combination, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, is used to treat many types of infection, including bronchitis, middle ear infections, and cystitis, a common infection of the bladder. Sold under the brand names Bactrim, Bactrim BS, and Sulfatrim Pediatric, these antibiotics, jointly called co-trimoxazole, have proven effective against E. coli, the bacteria responsible for up to 95 percent of cystitis infections. But the overuse of antibiotics worldwide has caused many bacterial strains, including E. coli, to become increasingly drug-resistant, prompting scientists to explore the use of anti-microbial herbs in combination with antibiotics in order to boost their efficacy. Co-trimoxazole has been shown in clinical studies to have synergistic effects when combined with green tea catechins, powerful antimicrobials, and active polyphenols in green tea.

Green Tea May Aid Cystitis Sufferers

These synergistic effects were explored by researchers at Kerman University of Medical Sciences in Kerman, Iran, in a pioneering clinical trial investigating green tea as an adjunct therapy for the treatment of cystitis in women. In this triple-blind, randomized trial, researchers selected 35 patients from a sample group of healthy, premenopausal, non-pregnant adult women between 18 and 50 years of age with acute uncomplicated cystitis. Women with complicating factors such as diabetes, discharge, or vaginitis, as well as regular green tea drinkers were excluded from consideration. Researchers hypothesized that the response rate to co-trimoxazole would be around 50 percent, and that this rate would rise to around 80 percent by adding green tea to patients' daily intake. To test their hypothesis, 107 patients were allocated into one of two groups, experimental or placebo (control). Participants were assigned to receive four 500-milligram (mg) capsules of green tea in the experimental group, while the control group received the same number of starch-only capsules with identical shape, color, and packaging. Both groups were dosed daily for a period of three days, while also receiving the standard course of antibiotic treatment: two 480-mg tablets of co-trimoxazole twice daily for three days.

Green Tea's Powerful Antimicrobial Effects
Green tea is known for powerful healing properties, including the ability to fight viral infections and prevent periodontal disease. In prior studies on the antimicrobial effect of green tea

for urinary tract infections, it has been noted that effectiveness is enhanced when green tea is administered before bed due to the retention of therapeutic catechins in the bladder overnight. Study authors noted that more than 90 percent of the antimicrobial agents in green tea are excreted in the first eight hours after ingestion, therefore the patients received their capsules in the evening during the study period.

The presence of acute uncomplicated cystitis symptoms was recorded via urinalysis at baseline and also on the fourth day at the end of the study period. Patients were screened for symptoms during the three-day trial via phone consultation. Patients whose symptoms were not resolved on the fourth day were referred to physicians for further treatment, and patients were asked to return to the clinic at two, four, and six weeks post-commencement for physician assessment of the symptoms of recurrent uncomplicated cystitis.

Green Tea and Uncomplicated Cystitis
Of the 107 eligible participants, 70 women completed the trial. Women in the green tea group showed a statistically significant decrease in the prevalence of cystitis symptoms at each time point after initiating treatment in comparison with the placebo group. Meanwhile, the addition of the green tea resulted in a statistically significant improvement in urinalysis results (abnormal urine color, the presence of pus, and bacteria in the urine), with the exception of blood in the urine (hematuria), after three days of treatment. Regarding the side effects of

treatment, seven patients in the placebo group and six in the green tea group reported mild nausea that was resolved within two days. There was no statistically significant difference in the incidence of nausea between the two groups. No other significant side effects were reported. In the placebo group, 63 percent of the patients remained symptomatic, 37.1 percent had bacteriuria, and 57.1 percent had pyuria on urinalysis after three days of co-trimoxazole therapy, suggesting that there is a high prevalence of co-trimoxazole resistance among E. coli strains in the urinary tract for individuals in the geographic region of Kerman, Iran. Previous in vitro studies in Iran have reported that more than 47 percent of the E. coli isolates from patients with urinary tract infections were resistant to cotrimoxazole. However, in the green tea group, almost all the patients responded to the treatment. If the response rates were related to the synergistic effects of green tea catechins, it suggests that adding green tea to co-trimoxazole therapy could be a way to decrease and control the rates of co-trimoxazole resistance among uropathogenic E. coli strains. In their final analysis, researchers concluded that green tea was an effective adjunct to trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole therapy for treating acute uncomplicated cystitis in women. They concluded that this result could be related to the antibacterial effects of green tea catechins and its synergistic effects when taken in conjunction with standard antibiotic treatment.

Common or 'uncomplicated' cystitis is a bacterial infection of the bladder that is the most prevalent type of urinary tract infection in women.

Cystitis: A Common Infection for Women
Common or "uncomplicated" cystitis is a bacterial infection of the bladder that is the most prevalent type of urinary tract infection (UTI) in women, spurring more than 6 million trips to the doctor every year in the United States.

Cystitis is typically caused when E. coli bacteria enter the bladder through the urethra, although other types of bacteria can also cause cystitis. Cystitis can occur as a reaction to certain drugs or radiation treatment, or in response to irritants such as feminine hygiene sprays and spermicides. Health factors, like having a blocked bladder or loss of bowel control, create conditions where bacteria are more prevalent around the urethra. These bacteria move up the urethra and into the bladder causing cystitis, which is why illnesses requiring the use of a urinary catheter increase the likelihood of developing a UTI. Women generally become more susceptible to cystitis if they are older, pregnant, diabetic, or confined to bed rest for long periods of time.

Signs You May Have Cystitis
Discomfort while urinating is typically the first sign of a cystitis infection. The sensation of painful, urgent, or more frequent urination may accompany a sensation of bladder fullness or lower abdominal discomfort. The region around the pubic bones may become more sensitive. You may also have a low-grade fever and may even detect blood in your urine. During the more than 6 million visits to physicians that women make each year seeking treatment for UTI, diagnostic measures generally include asking the patient to urinate into a cup for a leukocyte esterase dipstick urinalysis, aimed at detecting white blood cells in the urine, showing that infection is present. Doctors may also take a bacterial culture. GreenMedInfo.com has identified more than 400 reasons to drink green tea. To learn more about the power of plant-based medicine, including the impressive health benefits of green tea, explore the scientifically-backed research on GreenMedInfo.com.

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YEONGSIK IM/SHUTTERSTOCK



The Story of **Korea's Favorite Spirit:** **Soju**

THAMKO/SHUTTERSTOCK

JUDY JOO

When someone mentions soju, the first image that comes to mind is usually that famed little green bottle—Jinro brand soju, the largest producer and distributor of South Korea's national drink globally. In 2016, Jinro soju was the world's top-selling alcohol, boasting 73.9 million cases in sales.

Despite its ubiquity, however, this soju does not truly represent what “real,” traditional soju is. In fact, most people, including experts, heavily debate what soju actually is; there is no legal definition for this clear spirit, and production does not have any standardized guidelines or rules. You can make soju anywhere, from anything, and using any process.

Soju was originally made from only rice, but most modern versions of soju are made from sweet potatoes or other starches, and are actually diluted. The tubers are fermented, and the resulting 95 percent ethanol is then diluted with water to the necessary alcohol proof, which can range from 16.8 to 53 percent. Various sweeteners and flavorings are then added to make it palatable, and the result is the popular cheap soju that most people know today.

But as Korea's favorite spirit grows in global popularity, it's worth getting to know a little better—beyond that glittering green bottle.

Through Feast and Famine

Soju has a centuries-old history that spans Korea's checkered past, through feast and famine.

The origins of the drink date back to the 13th century, during the Goryeo Dynasty, when Mongol invaders brought distilling techniques they had learned from Persia to the Korean peninsula. Brewers used these techniques to fortify makgeolli, Korea's much-loved milky, fermented rice wine, and soju was born.

The process begins with nuruk, a wild yeast starter culture, which is used to ferment rice. Then the resulting elixir, makgeolli, is then distilled to a clear liquid. The name “soju” literally translates to “fire alcohol” or “burned alcohol,” with the “fire” referring to the heat required during this distillation process.

Only pure white rice was used, which was an expensive and coveted ingredient; hence, soju was considered a luxury item. It quickly won favor among the wealthy upper class, who loved it—so much that alcoholism quickly became a problem, resulting in the government banning soju manufacturing in 1375. Still, consumption and production continued, in the form of a spirited homebrewing bootlegging culture.

During the Japanese occupation of South Korea, starting in 1910, rations and taxation made it virtually impossible for Koreans to make alcohol, especially from rice. These constraints paved the way for inexpensive

Only pure white rice was used, which was an expensive and coveted ingredient; hence, soju was considered a luxury item.



JEAN OZALIS



Jinro soju, South Korea's number one soju brand.

sweet potatoes to be used, and introduced the dilution process—a way to create a cheap, bastardized version of soju. Even though it hardly resembled the original product at all, it served its purpose during those strained times of poverty.

After the occupation ended, producers began to distill soju again, but ultimately, further scarcity issues led the government to formally outlaw the use of rice for alcohol production in 1965. Not only did it ban the use of this precious white grain, but it also forbade all forms of distilled soju.

Manufacturers again were forced to turn to alternative cheap starches, such as wheat, barley, tapioca, molasses, and sweet potatoes, and dilution was reinforced as the norm. Thus, the soju we know now became the standard.

The government ban was finally lifted in 1999, and producers again began using rice and distillation techniques. But soju drinkers had already become accustomed to the cheap alternatives, so most producers stayed true to their low-cost recipes, only slightly tweaking their formulas to incorporate some rice.

A Soju Revival

There has been a large movement, however, to bring back traditional, “real” distilled soju, made from just rice. Certain provinces of Korea, such as Andong, are particularly famous for their handcrafted brews, and small-batch companies are actively campaigning to revive Korea's lost artisan alcohol tradition.

Having tried both types of soju, I find it hard to believe that they are called by the same name.

For instance, Hwayo, a popular premium soju brand, uses only pure spring water and the highest quality rice from the Icheon region of Korea. They age their distilled liquor in porous ceramic onggi jars, allowing it to breathe, while playing classical music to the vessels—apparently the musical vibrations aid in the oxygenation.

The result is subtly fruity with light floral notes, a decidedly sophisticated product. It is reminiscent of vodka, but with a distinct flavor of its own, and comes in various ABVs. I can gladly neck back shots of chilled Hwayo soju straight; it is smooth and clean with a tight finish.

Diluted soju, on the other hand, tends to taste artificial, overly sweetened, and frankly,

akin to cleaning solution. I admit I used to drink copious amounts of the stuff, especially as a poor student. As I have gotten older, though, my tastes have changed and now I find it rather harsh.

Korean Drinking Culture

Still, Koreans love their diluted soju.

In Korea, where business and social gatherings very much revolve around drinking, soju is a cultural cornerstone. To do business together means to drink together, and the drink of choice is soju.

Many companies have monthly, even weekly mandatory work dinners called “hoesik” centered around drinking. These are considered a way to get to know someone better, an essential bonding exercise.

It is a ritual riddled with social etiquette rules as well, and knowing the nuances of how and when to drink is vital. Showing respect to elders is important, and you always know everyone's age and rank (“How old are you?” is one of the first questions someone will ask you when meeting).

The table hierarchy is then set, and the youngest is assigned with the task of pouring drinks for everyone, always with two hands to show respect. Once everyone's glass is full, shots are ceremoniously done together, while turning away from the eldest member, again to show respect. The whole thing is repeated numerous times—until you are stumbling home. Korean business dinners are notoriously drunken affairs.

Trends are changing, however, as Koreans are becoming more health conscious. The younger generation is drinking less, and lower-ABV beverages are becoming more popular. Tea and coffee cafes are sprouting up all over Seoul, rivaling bars for date nights and late evening social gatherings.

Still, though, there is just something so classic about soju, whether distilled or diluted. I have so many epic memories with this spirit—and my college days would not have been as fun-filled without those little shots. It makes me happy to see soju's growing popularity around the world.

And despite my gripes, I will always have a fondness for those little green bottles.

Geonbae!

Judy Joo is a chef, restaurateur, author, and TV personality. Her newest book is “Judy Joo's Korean Soul Food.”

STYLE

Suit or PJs? What to Wear While Working From Home

For Bosses

It's not easy for company leaders to see suspended operations or unwanted lay-offs. But they still have to get going, and motivate and inspire staff.

Choose an outfit that is office-appropriate and professional. Ladies can ditch the heels and switch to flats, like ballerinas. You don't have to wear a suit; a nice blouse and dressy pants will do. It is autumn and you are working from home, so your blouse can be a bit casual; try one with delicate prints or small florals, a nice alternative to the dark suit required at the office. Makeup should be light.

For men, a blazer is "de rigueur." This must-wear item means business and reinforces the professional dress code. But again, gentlemen, you are working from home and the situation is more relaxed, so you can wear your blazer with a dark T-shirt or a crisp white shirt.

Grooming is essential; not shaving for days might send a message of despondency or loss of motivation to the team. It is very important to appear strong in front of your team members to reassure them. Another tip: ironing is critical, whether you opt for a T-shirt or a formal shirt—no creases allowed.

(Top) Slim Fit Virgin Wool Blazer by Paul Smith, \$1,455.

(Bottom) Printed Blouse by Luisa Cerano, \$368.



For Employees

Employees can opt for a casual-chic style, especially if you have multiple video conferences during the day.

Ladies, choose colorful tops, to show your enthusiasm. For bottoms, you can get away with casual pants, like dressy joggers or khakis, or a skirt. The most important item is your top and its vibrant tones. You can wear jewelry with these bright colors, but opt for a natural look for your makeup (red lipstick should be put in quarantine!).

For men, a nice flannel shirt with khakis will do. A flannel shirt is neither too dressy nor too relaxed; it's the perfect item to wear for video meetings. Grooming is also important. Nails should be clean and your hair well-trimmed.

(Top) Short Sleeves Knitted T-shirt by Dolce & Gabbana, \$1300.

(Bottom) Chest Pocket Cotton Blend Flannel Shirt by Dunhill, \$562.





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MANY NGOM

Working from home can be tricky. The environment is relaxed and we keep watching the news to monitor the evolution of the pandemic. That can easily put us in a “oh-my-the-world-is-crazy-now-I-can’t-work” mood.

The dress code you choose for yourself every day will help you manage your time well and stay productive.

Here are some tips for those telecommuters—whether you’re a boss, an employee, or self-employed—who may be scratching their heads as to what to wear.



LIGHTFIELD STUDIOS/SHUTTERSTOCK

For the Self-Employed

Ladies, with no video conferencing to do, no one knocking on your door, and the fridge and pantry full, yes, you can lounge in your pajamas. Keep your look nice, though, just to remind you that, after all, you are the CEO of your own company. Opt for silk PJs, or light, soft flannel if it’s still cold.

Gentlemen, you can don your favorite lounging clothes—a henley shirt and sweatpants. Make sure the pants are in good condition, without holes, discolorations, or ironing burns. At some point during the day, you will go out for a walk or do some errands, and you want to look decent. Complete the look with a nice pair of running shoes.

No matter what style you opt for when telecommuting, what is most important is to separate your private life from your professional one. Remember to take breaks, and not work too late, just because you are home.



GOODLUZ/SHUTTERSTOCK



(Top) Indigo Long-Sleeve Henley T-shirt by Orlebar Brown, \$275.
(Bottom) Bianca Striped Cotton Poplin Pyjamas by Emilia Wickstead, \$904.



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Some ideas for building warmth might include beginning the day with cuddles, some massage, a good story, or even some rough-and-tumble games on the bed if you're up for it.

PARENTING

Boundaries and Warmth: How to Enjoy Time at Home With Young Children

JUNE KELLUM

The worldwide spread of COVID-19 is both scary and concerning. It has brought us all a lot of uncertainty, but as many of us are now staying at home, we have unexpected and precious time with our families.

If your children are young, I hope you are cherishing this closeness with them. However, increased closeness almost always brings new tensions into play, and if you're not used to hanging out all day with toddlers, you may be feeling like you're about to unravel. If so, please read further.

I'm a stay-at-home mom of two and I've unraveled my share of times, but from these painful experiences I've learned two things: All uncomfortable dynamics with toddlers are fixable, and that, as the parent, I have full control to fix it—if I'm willing to find my shortcomings and put in the effort to fix them.

If your children are acting out, they are probably reacting to the environment you have created for them.

Now you may be thinking that since only one of your children is causing the issues, it must be that child and not you, because the rest are fine. Please don't compare your children with each other or with other kids. If you are blessed with difficult children (and some children seem to come that way) then you are truly blessed because they will help you get to the depths of your heart and soul, and the love and wisdom you will gain from parenting them well will be immense.

The second thing to consider is that if your children are acting out, they are probably reacting to the environment you have created for them. Elements in the environment to consider include diet, the cleanliness of the home, the number of toys, and your parenting style and moods.

If you're in need of some motivation I recommend watching some episodes of British supernanny Jo Frost and/or dog trainer Cesar Milan. The common theme

running through both of these is that children and dogs with very strange behaviors or consistently aggressive or obsessive behaviors change dramatically when their parents/owners step up their game.

I wrote last week on the importance of finding a rhythm in your day. This article will discuss two other key elements to child happiness: good boundaries and warmth.

These two are very much connected because if you don't have clear boundaries with your children, then you will not enjoy them, and it's nigh impossible to feel warm and loving toward them.

Boundaries

After babies are born, we quickly become accustomed to meeting their every need right away. However, when they become toddlers, we start needing to discern their wants from their needs, which is not always easy! So it may be only after they age that we see with clear hindsight, and learn what certain behaviors we should have nipped in the bud.

With boundaries, my general rule of thumb is don't let your children do things you don't like them to do. However, as you well know, it does not work just to tell a young child to stop or change their behavior. You will have to teach them—model the behavior you want to see and have clear consequences if they don't. You will also need to consider if your behavior is unknowingly encouraging theirs.

For example: your child won't sit through a meal. You might need to first consider the quality of the meal environment. Are you sitting with them or are you bustling around? If they see you moving, they probably see no reason to stay put. I try to eat with my kids as often as possible. We say a little blessing before the meal, which many young children really seem to love, and then we talk about things or read stories (after every page they eat a bite), or I bring a small toy to the table for a little puppet show. This of course takes some patience and dedication on my part, but I've been rewarded with kids who look forward to mealtimes and eat well.

It will take some careful consideration on your part to understand how to set correct boundar-

WHAT BLOCKS WARMTH

- **Looking at your phone.** Kids don't like it, and it's always annoying to be interrupted.
- **Checking social media.** It's very easy to be triggered by things, and you are not in control of what you see.
- **Consuming news.** Same as social media, news can be triggering. I don't let my children listen or watch the news because I think it's important that while young, their world is bright and beautiful.
- **Not being disciplined with time and money.** This will leave you feeling stressed or guilty.
- **Lack of sleep.** It's a no-brainer, but just a reminder to make it a priority.

ies in problem areas. An excellent and concise book for setting good boundaries is: "Love and Logic Magic for Early Childhood."

Some key principles for good boundaries from the book are:

"Replace anger and frustration with empathy."

"Replace threats and warnings with simple actions."

"Set limits you can enforce."

"Give away control you don't need."

An example of simple actions from the book: baby spits out food that he normally likes. You determine that the food is not spoiled, and he is testing the limits. You say with "gentle, sweet sorrow" something like: "How sad. Lunch is over." Then calmly put him in his crib and clean up.

Another key to effective boundaries discussed in the book is that children need to feel the consequences of their actions. As the parent, you can look forward to their mistakes because they are a wonderful occasion for children to learn valuable lessons. Making lots of mistakes makes kids wiser.

Warmth

Warmth is the real key to enjoyable and productive interactions with young children. In fact without it, no technique will produce a happy cooperative child.

It's a similar principle to good customer service—when the agent takes your problems seriously and tries to be helpful, you want to do business with the company again. If the agent is curt, you will probably go elsewhere. Children can't choose to take their business anywhere else, but they will reflect our grumpiness right back at us, often in unexpected and maddening ways.

"Take her clothes off!" my 4-year-old screamed today, referring to the apparel I'd just put on his younger sister. I had spent too long on a video call with my family and had ignored the early warning signs that he was reaching his limit. He certainly didn't care what she had on; he was upset because I was paying attention to her while he needed TLC.

Warmth is what fosters a deep connection with a child and is very healing and fortifying—something we all can use right now. It can be expressed quietly with eye contact, a smile, or with enthusiastic praise; it comes from a place of calm and optimism. When you increase your warmth toward young children it builds

a wonderful buffer for the inevitable conflicts.

Of course you will not always be able to find warmth during a conflict, but if you make the effort to practice warmth when times are easy, it will increase your capacity during the tough times.

And there is nothing quite like seeing the joyful sparkle in a child's eye when they feel appreciated and loved.

I have had great success gaining cooperation too by increasing my efforts to connect in a loving way with my children during the day.

Some ideas for increasing warmth: beginning the day with cuddles, some massage, a good story, or even some rough-and-tumble games on the bed (if you're up for it) get things off on a positive note; singing together (as long as you enjoy it); taking care as you dress them; noticing and commenting on their interests during the day; and offering sincere praise for their good behavior and accomplishments.

In order for you, the adult, to maintain warmth, it's of course important to be kind and gracious with yourself as well as disciplined. These are tough times and you may be under a great deal of stress for many reasons, including finding yourself squeezed between full-time childcare and working from home.

If this is the case, I suggest waking early to work and working when they sleep. Young children have little tolerance for watching us stare at a screen.

Now maybe mornings and evenings are usually your "me time"? As many of us stay-at-home mothers have found, you probably need to recalibrate self-care. Right now, you may not be able to take time in the evening to relax and entertain yourself because you have to work. But I encourage you to find great relaxation and calm during the day. This is much easier if you have a solid routine and you can find small ways to increase your moments of enjoyment. For example, allow yourself 15 minutes of reading with a hot beverage. Listen to your favorite show as you clean up at night. I like to meditate next to my kids as they fall asleep, as I find it relaxes and refreshes me for the night's work ahead.

A good book to further explore warmth is "Joyful Toddlers and Preschoolers: Create a Life That You and Your Child Both Love."

Good luck! I wish you great enjoyment and parenting success in the time ahead.

