



A C.P.D.C. POSITION PAPER

Winning the Ideological Competition with the C.C.P.

We find ourselves in a Second Cold War. As in the First Cold War, this battle will be chiefly waged in the realm of ideas. The ideological domain is the most important strategic domain of all, since the winner of the ideological competition will occupy the “high ground” of ideas – boosting domestic morale, undermining the legitimacy of the enemy’s institutions, and attracting allies from around the world.

CCP leaders recognize the importance of winning this contest of ideas. This is why CCP leaders from Mao to Xi consider “propaganda” to be the first and most important of the three “Magic Weapons” that the CCP will use to defeat American primacy. Propaganda is used to convince people that the CCP’s techno-authoritarian “Socialism with Chinese Characteristics” is a superior model of economic development and social control. The second magic weapon – United Front Tactics – is simultaneously deployed to enhance this propaganda effort by creating pro-CCP organizations, and subverting existing ones, in target countries. Armed force, that is, the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), constitutes the third and last Magic Weapon.

In order to win this war of ideas, the U.S. must simultaneously defend the American way of democracy and individual liberty while attacking the myriad weaknesses of the CCP. The CCP itself in April 2013 explicitly identified its greatest weaknesses by [urging](#) Party members to guard against seven political “perils”: (1) constitutional democracy, (2) human rights, (3) civil society, (4) the free market, and (5) freedom of the press, along with (6) criticism of the history and (7) the ideology of the CCP. Our policy [should be](#) one of relentlessly attacking these points of vulnerability, to wit:

(1) Strengthening Human Rights, Religious Freedom, and Democracy: Human rights have continued to deteriorate in China on virtually all fronts since Xi Jinping became Secretary General of the CCP in 2012, reaching levels not seen since Mao’s Cultural Revolution. The CCP’s crimes against humanity are legion and include such recent examples as:

China has issued a National Security Law in Hong Kong which crushes all dissent, punishing vague crimes with sentences up to life in prison. The CCP has detained an estimated one to two million Uyghur Muslims in internment camps, where they are subject to forced labor, torture and death. The human rights violations in Tibet – including surveillance, imprisonment and torture – have risen to the level that hundreds of Tibetans have immolated themselves to call international attention to their plight. Religious persecution is intensifying with the “Sinicization” of all religions, resulting in the surveillance, detention and torture of religious believers and leaders, as well as the defacing or destruction of places of worship. Elderly Christians are being forced to deny their faith in order to receive government survival stipends. For years, forced “organ genocide” has been perpetrated on an industrial scale throughout China, murdering Chinese prisoners, especially Falun Gong practitioners and Uyghur Muslims. Women continue to be forcibly aborted and sterilized under the Two Child Policy, especially in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). The CCP’s handling of the coronavirus outbreak was replete with human rights violations, including the silencing of whistleblowers, seizing people and dragging them out of their homes, and forcing people into quarantine where they received little or no medical care. The CCP forcibly repatriates refugees from North Korea, in contravention of international refugee law. Once repatriated, these refugees may face detention, torture and often execution. For such reasons, among many others, the CCP should be designated as an Transnational Criminal Organization.

(2) Enhancing U.S. alliances and partnerships, including with Taiwan: The CCP has made a concerted effort to disrupt the U.S.-dominated post-World War II security order that has largely kept the peace for decades in the Pacific. In the face of such threats as the construction and fortification of islands to control the South China Sea and economic, espionage and military provocations aimed at intimidating the region's nations – including such American allies as Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand and friends in Taiwan, the time has come to forge multilateral partnerships in the region and in the world specifically aimed at countering the present danger from China.

There are encouraging signs in this direction in terms of the Quadrilateral Alliance (the U.S., India, Japan, and Australia), as well as the recent decision by the Five Eyes (the U.S., U.K., Canada, Australia and New Zealand) to move beyond intelligence-sharing to coordinate on other matters of national security including supply chains. The Quad should be expanded to the Quad-Plus by incorporating other nations of like mind. Every effort should be made to bring Taiwan into these efforts, at least in an observer status.

(3) Employing Information Statecraft: In 2014, Xi Jinping ordered the CCP to “increase China’s soft power, and give a good Chinese narrative.” A massive propaganda effort ensued: Xinhua now has 170 foreign bureaus, China Radio International (CRI) controls 30+ radio stations in 14 countries, and the CCP has created, or has plans to create 100+ global think tanks. The CCP’s information warfare against America has made inroads. An Oxford [study](#) shows its English-language outlets “have a substantial online audience ... comparable to the BBC.” CCP propaganda is, for example, gaining some traction with its “conspiracy theory” that the coronavirus was a U.S. “bioweapon.”

- **Countering propaganda and disinformation:** The central effort falls to our international broadcasters: the Chinese language services of the Voice of America (VOA) and Radio Free Asia (RFA), with the support of the Department of State. This effort should involve the strengthening of every broadcast medium within these organizations – short-wave and medium-wave radio, television, and internet – as well as the development of new technologies to reach foreign audiences, including digital radio and satellite radio.
- **Offensive counter-messaging to break through “the Great Firewall” and push back CCP narratives:** The U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) should actively support U.S. public diplomacy and serve as a voice of freedom to peoples who lack a free media. All language services should receive systematic counterintelligence protection to prevent foreign penetration and sabotage. Mere entertainment programs that do nothing to advance the mission of the USAGM should be replaced with programs that provide objective and comprehensive reporting, as well as exemplifying America’s commitment to truth, freedom and human rights. Expose the Chinese to honest history, alternative ideas, and freedom of religion. A truthful recounting of the CCP’s past campaigns of terror will, by itself, be tremendously corrosive to CCP legitimacy.

(4) Exposing the CCP’s global corruption: The best way to come to understand the pervasiveness and severity of the CCP’s corrupt practices abroad is by examining corruption within the PRC itself. The BBC [reported](#) in late 2016 that “over one million officials” were charged with corruption during the first three years of Xi Jinping’s reign.” That number has doubled in the years since as the so-called “anti-corruption campaign” has continued, primarily directed at Xi’s political enemies.

Given that the CCP is literally built on corruption, it is not surprising that it engages in corrupt practices overseas, as well. The CCP quite naturally sees such practices as a powerful political tool and invariably resorts to them to win friends and expand its influence abroad. Among the practices that the CCP engages in are the provision of grants, fellowships, lecture fees, and all-expense paid trips to China to opinion makers, as well as more traditional corrupt practices such as bribes, “loans,” and investment “opportunities” to foreign politicians.

(5) Challenging the CCP’s efforts to spread “Socialism with Chinese Characteristics” around the world and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): The CCP’s outreach to other nations has been less ideological than economic. The reason is that its governing ideology, called “Socialism with Chinese Characteristics,” is a distinctly Chinese ideology more akin to National Socialism than to Communism. Indeed, its frequent references to the Chinese Nation-Race

(*Zhonghua Minzu*) has overtones of the same kind of racial consciousness, even racial supremacism, that was characteristic of Nazi ideology. This should be highlighted in our counter-messaging.

While CCP ideology has very limited appeal to non-Han Chinese, its massive Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which involves the CCP's provision of low interest rate loans to fund massive infrastructure projects, has generated considerable interest in developing countries. Over the past couple of years, however, it has become increasingly clear that the BRI in practice is actually "debt trap" diplomacy. The CCP has repeatedly extended huge loans to poor countries for projects that are simply not economically viable. When, predictably, a country becomes unable to honor its obligations under the terms of the BRI contract, the debt defaults to equity. The CCP then *owns* the infrastructure project in question, and often seeks to extract additional economic or political concessions from its debtor. American officials should point out that this constitutes a new kind of neocolonialism, and indicate that alternative financing may be available for projects with economic potential. In addition, by characterizing the targeted countries as incipient "Captive Nations," we can draw them into a potentially potent domestic and international group with existing ones like Southern Mongolia, Tibet, East Turkistan and the territory of Hong Kong.

(6) Contesting CCP influence in international organizations (e.g. UN, WHO, and standards setting bodies for technology): China has, in recent years and through various machinations, managed to place CCP officials in top jobs at four of the 15 specialized UN agencies. Other agencies are headed by individuals whose candidacies the CCP supported and amount to Chinese puppets. The most infamous of these is the head of the WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who appears to have conspired with Beijing to cover up the CCP virus outbreak until it had reached pandemic proportions.

Those the CCP entrusts with running international organizations are expected to serve the Party's interests, rather than those of the institution in question or the international community's. The dangers of doing otherwise were on vivid display in the case of Meng Hongwei, a former vice-minister at the Public Security Ministry, whom the CCP installed as president of Interpol in 2016. Three years later Meng was ordered back to China where he was arrested and charged with "corruption," for which he is currently serving a 13 ½ year sentence.

America should resolutely oppose each and every candidate put forward by China, without exception. The recent successful effort to defeat the CCP's candidate to become the next director general of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is an example of what needs to happen going forward.

(7) Denouncing the CCP's Environmental Predations: China's air, lakes, rivers and soils suffer from some of the most severe pollution on the planet. A March 2019 ranking of air pollution globally found that 57 of the world's 100 most polluted cities are in China. Indeed, Chinese air pollution affects other countries as well, even those on the other side of the globe. A significant portion of the air pollution in California, for example, comes from China. The aggressive building of large dams, such as the Three Gorges Dam, has also caused immense damage to the environment. Chinese citizens who raise these and other environmental concerns, however, risk persecution and imprisonment.

Appendix: A Sample of Recommended “Ideological Competition” Actions

(1) Strengthening Human Rights, Religious Freedom, and Democracy:

- Sanction all CCP officials engaged in human rights abuses, organ genocide, suppression of religious freedom and democracy in mainland China and the Captive Nations of Southern Mongolia, Tibet, East Turkistan and the territory of Hong Kong.
- Require disclosure of foreign funding by universities, think tanks and media outlets.
- Protect North Korean refugees.

(2) Enhancing U.S. Alliances and Partnerships, Including with Taiwan:

- Establish in-theater a new allied command center for dealing with any military attacks in the East and South China Seas.
- Deepen and expand information security arrangements with our allies, friends and emerging partners.
- Promote the Quad and Quad Plus across all domains of national power, including via annual training exercises in the South China Sea with Taiwanese military participation.
- Begin intensified operational level planning for the defense of Taiwan. In addition, allow U.S. military forces to make port calls/rotational deployments to the island and expand the scope and scale of arms sales to Taiwan.

(3) Employing Information Statecraft:

- Insist on strict reciprocity with regard to CCP-operated/controlled media and social media entities in the United States that use their un-reciprocated access here to spew propaganda and disinformation.
- Require all U.S. media, marketing, public relations, or lobbying firms or individuals who receive funds from CCP entities – irrespective of the form the funding takes (e.g., advertising fees, consulting services, speakers fees) – to register as foreign agents according to Foreign Agent Registration Act. CCP-operated/controlled/influenced media entities should be barred from receiving U.S. government funding or grants via direct contracting or subcontracting.
- Defeat CCP efforts to jam our programs by broadcasting them via multiple directions and frequencies.
- Give audiences in China and other authoritarian/totalitarian countries programs in subjects denied them, including an honest history of the CCP, of Communism in general, and freedom of religion. The governing principle should be to provide information about events in China not otherwise accessible to the Chinese population in order to place the CCP permanently on the defensive on its own home turf.
- Require the current leadership and staff of the USAGM, VOA and RFA to disclose any financial or other ties to China, or any other potential conflict of interest. Incorporate this into the vetting process for hiring staff, which should be made more rigorous.
- The U.S. military should *take the offensive* in counter-messaging to push back against CCP narratives. The U.S. Cyber Command, Psychological Operations (PSYOP), Military Information Support Operations (MISO), and other relevant departments should establish a joint China Task Force, parallel to the “China initiative” established in the Department of Justice.

(4) Exposing the CCP's Global Corruption:

- Regularly feature on all USGMA assets reporting about CCP corruption, both at home and overseas, to alert the world community that such practices are *not* aberrations, but are simply standard operating procedure for the criminal conspiracy that rules China and seeks to extend its writ throughout the world.

(5) Challenging CCP Efforts to Spread “Socialism with Chinese Characteristics” Around the World and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):

- Partner with Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Taiwan to create an focused effort to provide “Blue Dot” infrastructure plans and funding to Pacific Island nations that are in desperate need of such help and are being tempted to join the CCP's debt-trap Belt and Road Initiative.

(6) Contesting CCP influence in international organizations (e.g. UN, WHO, and standards setting bodies for technology):

- Oppose as a general rule candidates the CCP proposes and supports for any position in any international organization, whether they are Chinese nationals or not, since the latter are *always* compromised. For the same reason, their reappointment for an additional term should be opposed.

(7) Denouncing Environmental Predation:

- Use U.S. government intelligence assets to document CCP environmental predations and publicize such findings on USAGM platforms.
- Pressure the World Bank, IMF and other international banking entities to decline to fund any CCP projects that will significantly damage the environment.