

lynching. Both involve self-appointed extra-legal judgment and punishment.

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Deceiving the Sky: Inside Communist China's Drive for Global Supremacy

Bill Gertz

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The irruption and transmogrification of communism as a practiced political ideology have been the dominant world historical events of the past one hundred years. When Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks broke the back of the monarchy, and of their revolutionary rivals, to set in motion the communist takeover of Russia in 1917, a force was unleashed on the world that would result in more than one hundred million deaths, untold suffering for hundreds of millions more, and the virtual midnighting of entire nations, almost entire continents.

And the end is not yet. The standard narrative in the West is that the Cold War ended in 1991 with the failure of an attempted putsch by communist hardliners in the Soviet Union. Everything thereafter was window dressing for the “end of history,” the Hegelian eddying of historical time in an idyll of liberal democracy. That narrative is false. Reports of communism’s death have been greatly exaggerated. The Soviet Union had many bastard children, but it also had a brother in many ways more hideous than Lenin and Stalin themselves: the People’s Republic of China.

After the collapse of the USSR, it became almost rhetorically, even psychologically, impossible for Western liberals to admit that there was another communist behemoth right next door to Marx-haunted Russia. But wishing it was not so did not erase the existence of the blood-red Far East. Mao Zedong had famously tussled with Stalin, and then with Khrushchev, over their not having been communist enough—over their failure, as Mao saw it, to continue the worldwide conversion (at the barrel of a gun, preferably, for revolution is not a dinner party) of peoples to proletariat, human beings to political weapons, nations to nodes in a global network of dictatorial socialism.

Exhausted by the struggle with the Soviets, Westerners decided to tell themselves a fairy tale, that the Chinese—although the latter gave no indication of it at all—were going to become liberals, too, a billion Vaclav Havels just waiting to buy Levi's and join the ranks of the postmodern Davos-men.

We now understand that that fairy tale was not just false, it was irresponsible. While the soi-disant elites in the Beltway of the United States and all the well-heeled capitals of Western Europe assured us that the "rise of China" would be peaceful, that everything that rises must converge, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was planning, and executing, the literal takeover of the planet. We in the West threw money at the problem, hoping China would grow lazy, like us, as it grew rich like us. We cast nets of trade agreements, international organizations, bodies and conventions and leagues. China joined, and smiled, and promised to change. All the while, their agents were infiltrating our universities and governments, stealing intellectual property from our corporations, subverting religion, and perfecting, at home, a surveillance and disappearance machine the efficiency of which any Stasi veteran must today behold with awe.

In 1991, the same year that the Soviet Union collapsed, the Chinese military watched the United States pick apart Iraqi units with such ease that the People's Liberation Army decided that conventional warfare with its rival, America, would be suicidal. As outlined in *Unrestricted Warfare*, a book written by Col. Qiao Liang and Col. Wang Xiangsui and intercepted by Western intelligence forces, the Chinese after the Gulf War resolved to pursue a course of stealthily undermining American power, through cyber attacks, disinformation campaigns, massive theft of intellectual property, and the patient build-up of a military that, when the time was right, could finally be deployed against a weakened and disoriented adversary for the coup de grace—and for hegemony over East Asia and far beyond.

In 2020 it is now apparent even to those erstwhile Orpheuses who sang Western defenses to sleep that China's rise was peaceful only superficially, and strategically. Beneath the surface of China's apparent engagement with the world as the West made it was a furious program of remaking the world as the Communist Party in Beijing wanted it to be. The Han communists who rule the People's Republic of China with an iron fist, and who have committed genocide against their most propinquitous would-be challengers in East Turkestan, Inner

Mongolia, and Tibet, possess nuclear weapons, fighters and bombers, aircraft carriers, submarines, missile systems, a vast intelligence network, virtually endless resources, and, the most important element of all: momentum. China as the new superpower seems inevitable, as inexorable as destiny.

In his new book, veteran reporter and investigator Bill Gertz outlines just how strong the CCP has become, and just how badly we in the West have been deceived (mostly by ourselves). Prepare to be shocked. In thirteen crisp, brisk chapters, Gertz spins a tale that sounds, in many places, like pure science fiction: the “Assassin’s Mace in space,” “the coming space war with China,” “corporate communism: Huawei and 5G”. But it is all very, very real. China has pulled off perhaps the greatest swindle in world history. It has gotten much of the rest of the planet to cooperate in pulling the wool over its own eyes while China quietly assembled the hardware, software, and infrastructure to project communist absolutism domestically and abroad with impunity.

It should have been obvious, for example, that the One Belt, One Road project was not a trade initiative, as Chinese president Xi Jinping pitched it, but a debt-trap bait-and-switch rough draft of a new base network to stymie, and then end, the American counterpart in Eurasia, Africa, and the Middle East. It should have been clear that a country that regularly and flagrantly falsifies official statistics—little has changed in this regard since the outlandish fake spreadsheets of the Great Leap Forward years—would, of course, be lying about its military spending. It should have been as plain as day that when China built new islands in the South China Sea, weaponized its fishing boats to ram Japanese naval vessels, stole islands from Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Indonesia, and flooded Western universities with “students” and “professors” who just happened to have an irrepressible curiosity about nuclear physics, radar technology, and digital security for DoD networks and nationwide power grids, that something other than a “peaceful rise” was underway.

What happened? Human cravenness. As Gertz details on page after page of *Deceiving the Sky*, Americans in positions of power capitulated to Chinese communists to advance careers, avoid troublesome confrontations, enrich themselves, or just enjoy a banquet-heavy docket tour on the CCP’s dime. Perhaps the most astonishing episode from Gertz’ book comes from Chapter Nine,

“Influence Power: Beijing and the Art of Propaganda and Disinformation Warfare”. Here, we learn of how Chinese dissident Guo Wengui, who fled for his life after witnessing staggering and ruthless corruption as a businessman inside of the PRC, has been betrayed by many in the West who we think are on the side of freedom and democracy. The Hudson Institute, a think-tank in Washington, gutlessly cancelled an appearance by Guo under pressure from the Chinese government. The PRC took advantage of its dominance of Interpol (this is another fact that should terrify Americans) to smear Guo internationally by issuing phony warrants for his arrest. The Chinese also used Steve Wynn and a White House advisor in the Trump administration to try to force the US to send Guo back to China, where he would face certain death after a kangaroo court convicted him of whatever crime the Central Committee wanted him to hang for. The Chinese government even twisted the already stomach-turning 1-MDB scandal—which toppled the presidency of Najib Razak in Malaysia and implicated Wall Street and Washington in the process—in a further ploy to have Guo sent back to the PRC for revenge.

If the above is astonishing, the fact that the US State Department, under then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, actively cooperated with the PRC to extradite Wang Lijun back to China is positively jaw-dropping. Wang, who ran in the top political circles in the PRC’s west, sought asylum in the United States after he, too, witnessed corruption in China, in Wang’s case having been caught up in the internecine power struggles when Xi Jinping exterminated his rivals in consolidating his grip on the Party. Xi’s main rival, Bo Xilai, the former mayor of the western city of Chongqing, was rounded up in a transparently partisan corruption dragnet, and Wang was reduced to dressing in women’s clothing to escape a similar fate. Wang managed to enter the American consulate in Chengdu, where he offered to tell the Americans everything. Worried about spoiling an upcoming summit meeting with Xi, however, the Obama White House had Secretary Clinton order Wang—who was stuffed to the gills with invaluable information on the inner workings of the Communist Party—evicted from the consulate. (See Chapter Three, “China Wars: The Failure of Pro-China Appeasement”.)

These anecdotes are dizzying in what they reveal about the nature of the federal government, but by now few will be truly surprised to

learn that Washington, DC, is a place where the worst we breed gather to plumb the depths of depravity. It has been obvious for at least the past twenty years that the Chinese government has been systematically lying about its capabilities and activities, but the American elites have bent over backwards to cover for them.

Gertz details the case of a 2007 test by the PRC of a satellite-killer missile, a test that was not only illegal and against all existing agreements and protocols, but which also left a cloud of metal debris in orbit, posing a serious threat to other satellites and spacecraft. China lied about it all, denying that anything had happened—even though U.S. intelligence knew “instantly,” as Gertz writes, what was going on. Still, the U.S., along with its allies, simply “lodged quiet diplomatic complaints in protest notes,” with even this mousy response “done in secret so as to avoid upsetting cherished relations with a Communist state favored by many business leaders and pro-China government officials.” Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Professor Joseph Nye, the doyen of panda-huggers, “led the academic community and their cousins in the US policy and intelligence communities, who put forth the noxious argument called the self-fulfilling prophecy toward China. Call out China, [Nye] argued, for its quasi-totalitarian communist system, its support for rogue states, its human rights abuses, and its use of lies and deception that are the main feature of that system, and the world will create a China threat.”

“If you treat China as an enemy’,” Gertz quotes Nye as pontificating, “it will become an enemy.” The same, of course, could have been said about the Sicilian mafia. The best that then-president George W. Bush could do was send his assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, Christopher Hill, to tell his Chinese counterparts that his country “remained concerned” about the Communist dictatorship’s blatant and sudden weaponization of space.

Ten years later, as Xi Jinping advanced his “China Dream” (which Gertz rightly calls “essentially a dream to destroy America”), American liberals were still scolding ordinary Americans for over-reacting to the massive influx of fentanyl from China, a reversal of the Opium War designed to hook as many Americans as possible on deadly narcotics, killing them and crippling the government in the process. Next up: Huawei and 5G, which Gertz understands as a ‘corporate communist’ intelligence-gathering assault on the entire world. This has not fazed Google, the “don’t be evil” company that has worked hand-in-hand

with the Chinese government in developing surveillance and censorship technologies. Google “so sought to gain access to the Chinese market,” Gertz writes, “that it agreed to develop a version of the Google search engine capable of blacklisting websites and search terms viewed as dangerous, such as human rights, democracy, religion, and peaceful protest.” Communism is dead; long live communism.

The real meat of the Gertz book comes in the brief conclusion. “What is to be done?” Gertz asks. “Declare China an enemy, liberate the Chinese people,” he rhetorically replies. As in his most recent book before *Deceiving the Sky*, *iWar*, Gertz here, too, advocates that an aggressive counter-disinformation campaign be waged against the PRC. He also says that a “pro-freedom, pro-prosperity, and pro-rule of law network” should be created in Asia, and that “the United States should begin a gradual policy of disengagement from Communist China economically”. These, and Gertz’ other suggestions for isolating and finishing off the communist beast in Beijing, are truly welcome, and I hope that they will all be implemented post haste.

Especially number thirteen, “create a parliament in exile”. The truth is that the Chinese Communist Party is not a legitimate government, but a slaveholding enterprise and criminal operation holding nearly one and a half billion human beings in physical, intellectual, and spiritual bondage. (It must be for this reason that Gertz dedicates *Deceiving the Sky* to the people of China,

Bill Gertz’ *Deceiving the Sky* is a fact-based, journalistic exposé of how bad the PRC really is. It is also a kind of decoder ring for understanding the heady time in the West after the putative death of communism. While the liberals were crowing about winning the Cold War, the USSR’s more-evil twin was plotting something even worse than the misery the Bolsheviks had wrought. To read Gertz’ newest book is to see the past thirty years in a new light, one of reassuring falsehoods repeated *ad nauseum* by the Washington establishment so that they would not be required to act on the emerging threat from Beijing. Unfortunately, the days when preventive action would have sufficed are gone. What Bill Gertz is trying to tell us is that, henceforth, the world’s last communist empire might spell the end of the world’s first democratic one.

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