

Falun Gong, Humanity's Last Stand



The Conscience Foundation
The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group

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“If right and wrong can be compromised, why have right and wrong? If good can cave in to evil, what will values and principles be based on?

Conscience, the innate knowing of goodness, is the very essence of humanity. Everything else, even our “inalienable rights,” can be forcibly taken away. The alteration of our conscience, no matter how small, must be consented to from within. Conscience, thus, defines human nature, and the right to conscience is a human being's most fundamental right.

No crime, therefore, is worse than the crime against conscience.”

By Shizhong Chen

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A group of policemen assaulting Falun Gong practitioners on Tiananmen Square.

History Unfolds

July 20, 1999, in the wee hours, behind the curtain of the dark night, the Chinese armed police force, ushered on by China's then-ruler Jiang Zemin, launched a nationwide blitz arrest of Falun Gong practitioners, jump-starting a violent oppression of 100 million innocent citizens.

No one at the time—neither the oppressed nor the oppressor—believed the persecution could last long. To Falun Gong practitioners, the persecution must have been the result of a misunderstanding. Less than three months earlier, on April 25, Premier Zhu Rongji had met with representatives of Falun Gong practitioners and assured them of their right to practice Falun Gong. As recently as June 14, a government spokesperson had stated that the government never prohibited Falun Gong practice, and that people had the right to practice. How could a government contradict itself so quickly?

More importantly, Falun Gong practitioners

could not think of any justifiable reason for the persecution. Falun Gong only teaches people to follow the principle of Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance to improve their moral and mental quality, and to practice five sets of meditative exercises to improve their physical wellbeing. The authorities were quite aware of Falun Gong's positive impact on society; a February *US News and World Report* article quoted an official from the National Commission of Sports as crediting the practice with saving 100 billion yuan in medical expenses for the 100 million people practicing Falun Gong.¹ One third of the 60 million Chinese Communist Party (CCP) members and a large number of high-ranking government officials practiced Falun Gong. How could a government turn on its own supporters?

To the CCP the persecution was meant to be a quick kill. Jiang himself, for example, had claimed: "I simply do not believe our Communist Party cannot conquer Falun Gong."

As history unfolds, what seemed a lopsided onslaught has turned out to be an epic struggle of peace vs. violence, truth vs. lies, and conscience vs. evil.

The regime had every reason to be self-assured. For several months, its intelligence agents had locked onto Falun Gong practitioners whom they thought to be “leaders,” and its propaganda machinery had prepared potent fabrications to vilify Falun Gong and turn the public against it. In so many previous persecutions, these two steps alone were enough to break the backbone and spirit of any victim group.

The regime commands the world’s most powerful machinery of repression: the largest army, armed police force, public security police force, and detention center/labor camp system. This well-oiled machine has accumulated the most experience and skill in controlling people’s minds, dictating people’s social behavior, and annihilating nonconforming groups. In addition, the regime has achieved a feat no oppressors had ever accomplished before:



Ms. Wang Xia was sentenced to seven years of forced labor for telling people about Falun Gong. She was forcibly injected with nerve-damaging drugs. Two years of continuous torture has reduced Ms. Wang to skins and bones; she was on the verge of death before her release.



As a peaceful appeal to the general public, practitioners demonstrate the Falun Gong exercises at Tiananmen Square.

enticing the world’s acquiescence towards repetitive human rights abuses through economic favors. There simply seemed no stopping it from doing what it wanted to do.

So overflowing was the regime’s arrogance that the CCP deviated from its usual practice of labeling its political persecutions as “internal affairs” to divert international attention, and instead boldly trumpeted its new persecution abroad and even asked Interpol to apprehend and extradite the founder of Falun Gong. With such confidence, the CCP gave itself three months to “completely solve the Falun Gong question.” Some China experts and international observers thought the government needed just a week.

As history unfolds, what seemed a lopsided onslaught has turned out to be an epic struggle of peace vs. violence, truth vs. lies, and conscience vs. evil.

There is no doubt regarding the oppressor’s ferociousness. In the first few years of the persecution, the CCP was able to bring the weight of the entire society down onto Falun Gong practitioners. Every element of society, from government ministries to neighborhoods, was turned against Falun Gong.

Practitioners were forced to renounce their belief, or be fired from their jobs, expelled from schools, stripped of business licenses, evicted from their homes, and deprived of retirement payments.

There is also no doubt of the regime's brutality. Those who refused to yield to the political and social pressure were incarcerated, brainwashed, tortured, and killed. Millions upon millions of Falun Gong practitioners, from young children to pregnant women and the elderly, have been detained and abused. Thousands have been tortured to death, while countless others have simply disappeared. Most shockingly, at least one clandestine concentration camp has extracted vital organs from thousands of Falun Gong practitioners. With the regime's information blockade keeping the full picture hidden, the scope and severity of the atrocities are difficult to fathom.

Facing the extreme injustice, facing heinous torture and killing, Falun Gong practitioners have remained completely peaceful. They remain peaceful in the face of police beatings; they remain peaceful towards inmates whom police coerce into becoming torturers. They have exemplified Falun Gong's teaching of "not hitting back when attacked, and not talking back when insulted." Only the righteous command the moral power of non-violence. Such moral power is not displayed by just one or two, or a few, but by all Falun Gong practitioners. Their great tolerance and righteousness have touched countless people, including the torturers.

At the same time as the violent persecution, the communist



A Falun Gong practitioner trying to hold up a banner on Tiananmen Square, while plainclothes policemen pull him down.

regime also launched a far-reaching campaign of disinformation to demonize Falun Gong, to incite hatred, and to put pressure on Falun Gong practitioners. The CCP's propaganda machine flooded the printing presses and airwaves with the basest lies and fabrications, claiming that Falun Gong preached doomsday and encouraged suicide, that the regime had treated Falun Gong practitioners "like a

mother treats her daughters," and that it had won "decisive victories and successfully transformed 98% of Falun Gong practitioners." In early 2001, the regime even staged a self-immolation of five people in Tiananmen Square and, like Nero's shift of blame for the Great Fire of Rome to Christians, blamed the immolation on Falun Gong. The potent propaganda poisoned many people into hating Falun Gong and participating in the persecution.

With great compassion towards those who are under



This female practitioner was raped by a policeman. She is showing the bruises caused during the incident.

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To let the Chinese people learn the truth about Falun Gong and the persecution, practitioners have posted flyers in many public places. Many people read the Falun Gong flyers.

the influence of the venomous lies, Falun Gong practitioners have persisted in what the Chinese language describes as “truth clarification” informing people of the facts about Falun Gong and waking them up about a persecution that is completely based on lies. In the beginning, few people listened, and they even turned many practitioners in to the authorities. Gradually, people started to listen. As they learned about the heinous torture and saw through the CCP’s lies, they began to distance themselves from the persecution. The CCP can no longer mobilize society to assist in the persecution. More and more people have also started to protect Falun Gong practitioners and help them to spread the truth.

For the first time the CCP has had to restrain its propaganda machine; to continue its smear campaign against Falun Gong would only convey the message that Falun Gong is still standing and Falun Gong practitioners are still going strong in China. For the first time in its long history of dictatorship the CCP has had to take its persecution underground and stop claiming more “decisive victories.”

The regime, however, cannot stop the tide

This resistance to a violent persecution through truth clarification and awakening people’s conscience is unprecedented.”

from turning. The persecution of Falun Gong has thoroughly exposed the despotic nature of the CCP. At the same time, the courage of Falun Gong practitioners has awakened people’s consciences. Large numbers of people have renounced their CCP memberships and resigned from other CCP-affiliated organizations as a declaration to reclaim their consciences. By November 2006, more than 15 million people had renounced their allegiance to the CCP, and the number is rapidly growing.

This resistance to a violent persecution through truth clarification and awakening people’s conscience is unprecedented. The steely will Falun Gong practitioners have demonstrated and the tremendous sacrifices they have made are what the Chinese language describes as “startling the heavens and moving the gods.” When this page of history is turned, there is no doubt that historians, writers, and scholars for generations to come will visit and revisit the epic story playing out today.

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History Ignored

As the epic struggle has unfolded in China, the free world has largely stayed on the sidelines watching, or even looking the other way. No government has yet formally denounced such large-scale violations of human rights. On the contrary, in the last nine years, Western countries have coveted economic favors from the Chinese regime, and in return given tacit approval by awarding China the 2008 Olympics and WTO membership. The only times the Chinese regime has received real international pressure have been when economic conflicts were heightened and when a situation in China, such as the SARS epidemic, threatened the world.

Mainly because of these economic interests, the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong has been treated as an inconvenient and untimely distraction, sidestepped or downplayed, and Falun Gong practitioners' appeals for help have often been ignored, misunderstood, or even mistrusted. Two common questions bear this out.

One is "Why didn't we know about it?" That question was asked when Falun Gong practitioners around the world publicized how 18 female practitioners had been stripped naked and thrown into the cells of male criminals. That question was asked when Falun Gong practitioners around the world publicized horrifying pictures showing how nine hours of electric shocks had disfigured Ms. Gao Rongrong's face. That question was asked when Falun Gong practitioners around the world publicized the systematic extraction of vital organs from living Falun Gong practitioners. There is no lack of information. For nine years, Falun Gong practitioners in China have taken great risks to collect and send abroad, on a daily basis, detailed



Ms. Gao Rongrong's face was shocked by three electric batons continuously for seven hours, burning her face to a crisp. The picture was taken seven days after the heinous torture. After she published this picture on the Internet, the CCP tortured her to death. She died on June 16, 2005.

information on the extensive and severe human rights violations that have been going on in China. Institutions that influence public opinion, including governments and media, have paid little attention to the atrocities, leaving the public largely uninformed.

Another frequently asked question is "Why does the Chinese government persecute Falun Gong?" To justify its persecution, the Chinese regime has spread many lies. It is therefore not surprising that, in the beginning, world governments and media were influenced by the CCP's propaganda. What is surprising is that, after nine years, there is still no independent in-depth study of this serious issue. Several so-called China experts have further rationalized the regime's persecution as a consequence of feeling threatened by the sudden appearance of Falun Gong's large following. It is hard to think of another recent major human rights crisis in which the aggressor's lies had such a lasting and pervasive influence. It is a combined result of

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When this page of history is turned, future generations will ponder how the democratic governments could cast aside the most fundamental values of the free world to seek economic favors from a despotic regime.

the CCP's lies and the lack of genuine concern for the victims.

At the same time, the governments of the free world have been reluctant to listen to Falun Gong practitioners' side of the story. Some governments, including those of Germany and Canada, do not even believe the severity of the persecution, and have forcibly returned Falun Gong practitioners back into the waiting hands of the Chinese regime. Some countries, including Germany, France, Singapore, Australia, Canada, Mexico, and Russia, have caved in to the Chinese regime's pressure to curb Falun Gong practitioners' protests during Chinese officials' visits, and some have even arrested Falun Gong practitioners for staging such protests.



On March 7, 2005, the German authorities repatriated Falun Gong practitioners Mr. Jiang Renzheng and Ms. Guo Rui, and their two children back to China. The couple faced persecution the moment they stepped off the airplane. After one month of continuous harassment and intimidation, on April 8, 2005, the police detained Mr. Jiang and sentenced him to three years of forced labor at the Benxi Labor Camp.

Because of the misunderstanding, or the lack of desire to understand, the free world remains unaware of the deep awakening of people's consciences in China. The acquiescence, financial investment, and technologies from the West have in effect played the role of working against these changes and have helped bolster the regime and its repression. Some Western companies, such as Cisco and Yahoo, have directly assisted the regime in oppressing the Chinese people.

Because of the mistrust, when two witnesses, who are not Falun Gong practitioners, disclosed the systematic extraction of vital organs from live Falun Gong practitioners in a hospital in China, no government expressed any genuine concern. The US State Department went as far as mischaracterizing the disclosure as "claims by the Falun Gong group" and declared "no evidence had been found" after Chinese officials organized two guided tours of the hospital.

The free world's persistent silence towards such severe and extensive human rights violations is also unprecedented. When this page of history is turned, future generations will ponder how the democratic governments could cast aside the most fundamental values of the free world to seek economic favors from a despotic regime, and how the bottom line of humanity had slid so far that even the use of human organs as a commodity was not enough to cause these governments to make a sound.

The epic struggle of peace vs. violence, truth vs. lies, and conscience vs. evil is still ongoing, and history is still being written. Those who are living the history now still have the opportunity to learn about the epic struggle and choose for themselves which side of history they want to be on.

The Chinese Tradition of Cultivation Practice

Falun Gong—also known as Falun Dafa, the Great Way of Law-Wheel Cultivation Practice—is an ancient form of cultivation practice. ²

From its earliest establishment, Chinese culture has embraced the concept of the “Oneness of Heaven and Man.” The way for man to achieve the Oneness, or his true self, is cultivation practice. Chinese literature is filled with legends of people achieving the status of deities, becoming enlightened, or obtaining the Tao through cultivation, and there have existed thousands of different schools of cultivation over the course of Chinese history. Cultivation practice, therefore, is a generic term for the practice of mind and body transcendence, with cultivation referring to mental improvement and practice referring to physical refinement.

Cultivation practice has left its imprint on almost every aspect of Chinese culture. The teachings of Lao Zi and Confucius, for example, were originally for guiding the cultivation of their respective disciples. A great number of historic figures who contributed to shaping Chinese history were practitioners of cultivation. In fact, cultivation of moral character was a prerequisite for students of any serious study, and “cultivate oneself, put family in order, govern a state, and pacify the world” had been a maxim for Chinese intellectuals for generations. As a result, the ethical values derived from teachings of cultivation have played an essential role in establishing and maintaining morality.

Cultivation practice is similar in spirit to the religions in other cultures. Their role in maintaining society's morality is also similar.



Before the persecution, practitioners usually gathered at parks in the morning to do the exercises.

Cultivation has also long been recognized for its effects on physical health and supernormal abilities. The health benefits of Tai Chi and martial arts exercises, for example, are known worldwide. All the famous doctors and physicians throughout Chinese history were practitioners of cultivation and had developed supernormal abilities to detect and cure diseases. In fact, they were entirely responsible for establishing the theory and practice of Chinese medicine, such as the system of meridian points in acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine that we know today.

Cultivation practice is similar in spirit to the religions in other cultures. They all believe in the existence of higher realms, and they believe in the attainment of the higher realm by following and practicing certain spiritual teachings. Their role in maintaining society's morality is also similar. Cultivation differs, however, from other religions in form: while other religions believe in achieving higher realms after life, most cultivation teachings aim to achieve consummation in this life.

The Spread of Falun Gong

Communist rule in the mainland brought an abrupt end to the rich tradition of cultivation in China. The Communist Party's atheist ideology and totalitarian power precluded any other ideas. Cultivation was branded as "superstition" and brutally persecuted. During the first two years of communist rule, approximately two million people were executed in the movement of "suppressing counter-revolutionary superstitious sects and secret societies." It was not until the late 1970s that some schools of cultivation practice reappeared in society, but they confined themselves to teaching physical fitness and healing diseases to avoid the risk of attracting the CCP's attention.

In 1992, Mr. Li Hongzhi began to give public lectures on Falun Gong. He explained that a complete cultivation practice contains both the spiritual and physical aspects, and expounded that the key to cultivation is the improvement of one's moral and mental quality. A practitioner should



Students learning the Falun Gong exercises at one of the public lectures in Dalian City of Liaoning Province.

first of all be a good person with higher and higher moral standards. One should make an honest living and give up selfish and harmful thoughts. In case of conflict, one should consider others first, search within

oneself to find one's own shortcomings, never harm others for one's own gain, and let go of attachments to fame, wealth, and lust. Through continuous improvement of one's mental and moral quality one becomes a better and nobler person, and eventually enlightens to and achieves a higher realm.

Following the Falun Gong principle of Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance, Falun Gong practitioners devote themselves to the cultivation of their inner selves, and regard the elevation of one's heart and mind as fundamental. This, combined with five supplementary sets of gentle exercises of proven efficacy in health improvement, has enabled practitioners to achieve purposeful living, morality, total health, and inner peace.

Changing People's Hearts towards Goodness and Reviving Morality

At the time Falun Gong was introduced to the public, Chinese society was going through its worst destruction of morality and values. The Tiananmen massacre in June 1989 not only destroyed the authorities' claim to legitimacy and morality, it

also devastated people's most fundamental values. The ensuing political purge further suffocated all dissenting voices for social justice. To divert the volcanic social discontent and to dampen moral pressure from the general public, the regime turned

to the lure of human greed and selfishness, letting loose a genie that no ruler in Chinese history had ever unleashed before. With slogans such as “getting rich is glorious” and “let some people get rich first,” the regime opened the floodgates for officials at all levels to appropriate public property, and a frenzy of material desire swept through China. This turned the nation’s morality upside down, replacing right and wrong with gain and loss. Morality slid down so severely that people refer to it as the “era of the entire people becoming corrupt” with no sense of remorse, and it is even fashionable to mock traditional values: “How much for a pound of conscience?” “What is morality worth?” This moral bankruptcy has caused severe social problems, such as an extreme disparity between the rich and the poor, a widespread mafia, ³ prostitution, drug use, and a high suicide rate. Never before in the history of China had such a destruction of humanity been seen.

Like a long-awaited call during troubled times, the refreshing moral teachings of Falun Gong awakened so many people from the moral destruction. “One should return to one’s original, true self; this is the real purpose of being human”—Mr. Li’s words revived people’s innate yearnings. They enlightened to a new sense of life, a life of cultivation. They experienced a peace from within. They let go of previous grudges without a feeling of loss. They gave up

“One should return to one’s original, true self; this is the real purpose of being human”—Mr. Li’s words revived people’s innate yearnings.

attachments to material gains and stopped worrying about being taken advantage of. Officials resisted corruption and rejected bribes. Businessmen shunned cheating and abided by honest practices. Gangsters, drug addicts, prostitutes, and thieves alike turned over a new leaf and led new lives. Countless people thanked Falun Gong for giving them a second life or saving their families.

While Falun Gong emphasizes individual cultivation, the high moral standards exemplified by Falun Gong practitioners have had a positive

impact on society, and this has been well recognized by many people as well as by various levels of the Chinese authorities. For example, it is a standard procedure to sift and re-weigh grain that farmers turn in to the public procurement stations. In Jianli County of Hubei Province, however, this procedure was waived for grain turned in by Falun Gong practitioners. Many companies even established a preference for hiring Falun Gong practitioners, as Falun Gong had become synonymous with honesty and credibility.

The experiences of Falun Gong cultivation are so wondrous and real that by 1999, Falun Gong had become a global phenomenon of over 100 million practitioners across more than 50 countries.



The founder of Falun Gong, Mr. Li Hongzhi, is pictured on the cover of the March 1993 issue of the *Magazine of Qigong and Science*. He is doing the sitting meditation.

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The Escalating Hostility of CCP Dictators towards Falun Gong

In spite of its positive impact, the CCP dictators were affronted by the increasing popularity of Falun Gong. They could not accept the fact that after more than 40 years of Marxist indoctrination so many people, including Communist Party members, would look elsewhere for moral and spiritual guidance. They did not want to admit their jealousy, so they tried various tactics to suppress Falun Gong.

The CCP tried to plant secret agents and frame Falun Gong. In December 1994, a letter by “over one hundred Falun Gong practitioners” was fabricated, accusing Mr. Li of falsifying his date of birth, amassing wealth, and evading taxes. It was used as the basis for the Ministry of Public Security’s order to ban Falun Gong. All the accusations were proven to be groundless, and the ban never materialized.

The CCP tried to brand Falun Gong as “pseudo-science,” and in 1996 banned Falun Gong books for “propagating pseudo-science.”

The CCP tried a smear campaign. In 1996 and 1998, state-controlled media nationwide ran numerous slanderous “stories,” “reports,” and articles against Falun Gong.

The CCP tried harassment and intimidation. In 1997 and 1998, the Ministry of Public Security conducted nationwide investigations to “collect



On May 26, 1999, under orders from high-level Chinese government officials, local authorities in Hegang City, Heilongjiang Province used a high-pressure hose to shoot water on practitioners and force them to leave their practice site.

evidence of Falun Gong’s criminal activities”—accusing practitioners of criminal activities even though they had no evidence. In 1998, the same ministry instructed its police force in many cities to ban the Falun Gong practice, and arrested and fined Falun Gong practitioners for holding group practices on the charge of “participating in illegal gatherings.”

These tactics were clear CCP-style political warning signals. They failed to deter Falun Gong practitioners, however, because the attacks and accusations were so groundless and incompatible with practitioners’ personal experiences of Falun Gong cultivation. The injustices also failed to provoke Falun Gong practitioners. Adhering to Mr. Li’s teaching of “Other people may treat us badly, but we do not treat others badly, nor do we treat people as enemies,”⁴ Falun

The Communist Party could not accept the fact that after more than 40 years of Marxist indoctrination so many people would look elsewhere for moral and spiritual guidance.

Gong practitioners quietly endured the bullying and time and again gave those prejudiced people

opportunities to understand what cultivation is about and what kind of people practitioners are. Many practitioners also risked their careers or even their personal safety to write to the central leadership to testify from their own experiences that Falun Gong is beneficial to society, and not a threat.

At the same time, the number of people practicing Falun Gong continued to grow. In early 1999, the authorities estimated that 70 to 100 million people were practicing Falun Gong. A group of retired senior leaders also submitted a formal report to the Political Bureau of the Communist Party in support of Falun Gong. This further irritated the CCP dictators, particularly Jiang Zemin, the Party's General Secretary, and the authorities heightened their allegations. On April 11, 1999, a magazine in the city of Tianjin published an article comparing

Falun Gong to the Boxer Rebellion that had "ruined the country." The CCP had previously eulogized the Boxer Rebellion as a patriotic movement that saved China from imperialist exploitation. Apparently the regime would go to any length to find an excuse to incriminate Falun Gong.

Since that article was full of fabrications, many Falun Gong practitioners visited the editorial office of the magazine to tell the editors their personal experiences of Falun Gong practice, and asked the magazine to retract the erroneous article. On April 22 and 23, 1999, in broad daylight, armed policemen violently assaulted Falun Gong practitioners in front of the magazine's office and arbitrarily detained 45 of them. Oddly, the police urged Falun Gong practitioners at the scene to go to the central government in Beijing to address their grievance.

The April 25 Peaceful Appeal by Falun Gong Practitioners



In April 25, 1999, over 10,000 practitioners appealed outside the State Council Bureau of Appeal after the first illegal arrests and beatings in Tianjin. Practitioners were orderly while standing on the sidewalk and were also careful to leave room so that pedestrians and traffic were not blocked.

Two days later, on April 25, 1999, over 10,000 Falun Gong practitioners gathered quietly in Beijing outside the State Council Appeal Office, located near the Chinese leadership compound, to request the release of those practitioners detained in Tianjin and the lifting of the ban on Falun Gong books.

The gathering was peaceful, orderly, and a demonstration of practitioners' kindness. They stood three-deep in rows between the

roadway and walkway to make room for traffic. They advised curious pedestrians to move on so as not to create a scene. They picked up all the trash that cars and passers-by littered around. They even picked up the cigarette butts dropped by the police who were watching them. The police took advantage of their kindheartedness, however. Soon after the petition began, they told practitioners to follow them to see the central leadership. The police then divided the practitioners into two columns, one marching from south to north, the other from north to south. The two columns met at the gate of Zhongnanhai, the Chinese leadership compound, resulting in an encirclement of Zhongnanhai. This was later used to incriminate Falun Gong for “besieging the central government.”

Upon learning of the gathering, Zhu Rongji, China’s premier, held two dialogues with representatives from the gathered practitioners, and then ordered the release of those detained in Tianjin. Upon learning the news, the practitioners quietly dispersed.

Because of this gathering Falun Gong began to receive international attention. The peaceful resolution of the April 25 petition was also highly regarded by international observers and media. Many viewed it as a precedent for solving social conflict through compromise, a milestone in China’s progress towards civil society.

The All-out Persecution of Falun Gong

The peaceful resolution of the April 25 petition brought Jiang Zemin’s jealousy to a boil. According to reliable sources, upon hearing a report on the course of the April 25 petition, Jiang waved his fists and yelled: “Crush it! Crush it! Resolutely crush it!” Unable to conceal his rage any longer, he even

spelled out his jealousy in the memo he wrote that night to the CCP leadership: “Can it be that the Marxism we communists have, the materialism and atheism that we believe in, cannot triumph over the stuff propagated by Falun Gong?”

Laying the groundwork for an outright persecution, he lied about his previous resentment of Falun Gong and used the peaceful gathering as his excuse. In the same memo he wrote, “Without a soul knowing, over 10,000 people converged in front of the Party’s and nation’s center of power, and the siege lasted for a whole day... We must take effective measures immediately to sternly prevent similar incidents from happening.”

In his speech on June 7, 1999, to the full assembly of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, Jiang clearly stated his reasons for persecuting Falun Gong, “The appearance and spread of Falun Gong is a political contest of domestic and international hostile forces to fight with the Party and the government for a vantage point and to win people’s favor.”



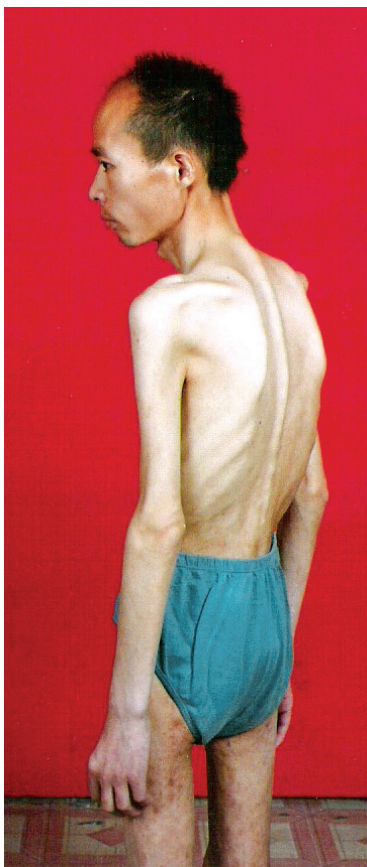
Because the persecution is the policy of the central government, many practitioners go to Beijing to appeal for justice. The photo shows the police arresting a female practitioner on Tiananmen Square.

Following Jiang's speech, the Central Committee decided to crack down on Falun Gong.

On July 20, 1999, the regime launched its violent persecution of Falun Gong.

Just overnight, as if time had been turned back 30 years, the nation relived the horror of the Cultural Revolution. Tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners were arrested throughout China. State-run media bombarded the nation 24 hours a day with anti-Falun Gong propaganda, scenes of burning Falun Gong books, the arrest and sentencing of Falun Gong practitioners, and tearful "confessions" and "denunciations" from "transformed" Falun Gong practitioners. All government ministries and departments, all institutions, businesses, schools, organizations, work units, villages, and even neighborhoods were instructed to hold political study sessions to "study, comprehend, and implement" the regime's policy on the "Falun Gong question." Everyone, whether Falun Gong practitioner or not, was required to "declare a clear-cut position and pass the test" to be "in unity with the Party."

To implement this all-out persecution of Falun Gong, the Party leadership formed the "610 Office" system (named for the date of its formation, June 10, 1999) to "handle the Falun Gong question." The "610 Office" has absolute power over the existing Party hierarchy. It has the authority to directly issue orders to the military, security forces, police, the judiciary, and the propaganda ministry. It has the



Because he refused to renounce his belief in Falun Gong, Mr. Zhang Xiaohong was tortured to skin and bones. He died on August 4, 2003.

power to link the promotion of officials to their participation in and support of the persecution. Those who were passive or resistant were demoted or dismissed. Those who dared to support Falun Gong were themselves arrested. Through the "610 Office," the whole regime's structure was mobilized to power the persecution. At the height of the persecution as much as 25% of the nation's resources were committed to the persecution of Falun Gong.

The objective of the persecution is to "completely eradicate Falun Gong"—to coerce each and every Falun Gong practitioner to renounce Falun Gong, to force all of them to change their belief. Throughout China, Falun Gong practitioners are forced to "have a correct understanding of Falun Gong, to draw a demarcation line with Falun Gong, and come back to the side of the Party." To

demonstrate their "complete break from Falun Gong," practitioners are also forced to sign pledges renouncing Falun Gong.

Under such an atmosphere, few officials thought twice about turning against Falun Gong practitioners. To protect their position, or to seize the opportunity to achieve a higher position, officials throughout the country used all means to coerce Falun Gong practitioners, forcing them to choose between their belief and their employment, education, retirement pensions, property, and families. To exacerbate the pressure, some officials even used the employment, education, or pensions of family members to coerce Falun Gong practitioners to renounce Falun Gong.

Just overnight, as if time had been turned back 30 years, the nation relived the horror of the Cultural Revolution.

Torture and Killing

Those who refuse to give in to the pressure are sent to “brainwashing centers,” detention centers, labor camps, drug rehabilitation centers, mental hospitals, and jails, where they are subjected to unrelenting torture. These places are home to the darkest crimes in the world. The “610 Office” instructs these places that, “No measure is too excessive against Falun Gong.” It pays them for every Falun Gong practitioner they “successfully transform,” and it protects the torturers with total impunity.

Emboldened by the total impunity and driven by financial rewards, the police and guards who run these places care only about how to inflict the maximum amount of pain to force Falun Gong practitioners to renounce their belief. The torture methods used are only limited by their decadent imaginations, and the amount of pain inflicted is limited only by victims’ deaths.

Due to the Chinese regime’s blockage of information, we do not know how many practitioners have been tortured to death in police custody. From over 3,144 confirmed cases, we see an almost unimaginable picture of tragedy: some died from their bodies being ripped apart by slowly pulling the limbs; some died after being locked in “water cages”

The torture methods used are only limited by torturers’ decadent imaginations, and the amount of pain inflicted is limited only by victims’ deaths.



Li Wanyun was tortured nearly to death in the Chaoyanggou Labor Camp. He died on August 3, 2006, at the age of 43.

and immersed in filthy water for months; some died from prolonged electric shocks on or in their genitals; some were frozen to death; some were burned alive. Victims have included the young, the old and the disabled. An eight-month-old infant was killed with his mother, a 75-year-old grandmother was murdered, and a disabled man with a hunched back was killed

when police forcibly “flattened out” his torso.

A United Nations Special Rapporteur wrote : “The cruelty and brutality of these alleged acts of torture defy description.”

These violations are so barbaric that a United Nations Special Rapporteur wrote in her 2004 annual report to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, “Reports describe harrowing scenes in which detainees, many of whom are followers of the Falun Gong movement, die as a result of severe ill-treatment, neglect or lack of medical attention. The cruelty and brutality of these alleged acts of torture defy description.”⁵

There are those who find the torture and killing so barbaric that they express doubt as to the validity of Falun Gong practitioners’ reports of brutality; some object to Falun Gong practitioners’ exposing the atrocities to the public. What they do not know is that the aim of the torture is to brutalize the victim to the brink of death so as to force him to choose between a physical death and a mental demise—the

It is a killing of one's mind.

...Tell lies to live, or tell the truth and die.

giving up of his will, his fundamental values, and his conscience. It is a killing of one's mind. The Chinese police have openly told Falun Gong practitioners: "We will make you beg for life while dying, and beg for death while living!" The only way out? To lie and say publicly that Falun Gong has done harm to them and to society, to say Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance is evil, and to thank and applaud the regime for saving them from Falun Gong. Tell lies to live, or tell the truth and die.



Ms. Wang Yunjie's breasts were shocked with two electric batons in the Masanjia forced labor camp for her not renouncing Falun Gong. Ms. Wang passed away in July 2006.

The Nature of the Persecution of Falun Gong

Some people think that Falun Gong practitioners are too stubborn. They wonder why they don't just pretend to give in and practice Falun Gong secretly at home.

In fact, that is the very option that the authorities "offer" to Falun Gong practitioners. In the same way the pagan rulers two thousand years ago offered the Christians a choice to conform before martyring them, the Chinese communist dictators want Falun Gong practitioners to "transform," to sign pledges to give up Falun Gong.

One Falun Gong practitioner wrote about her experiences in jail: "The guards ordered the convicts to force me to recite the 'rules for a convict.' I refused to do so, no matter how they beat me, because I am not a convict. They said I was a convict, the same as they were, or I would not be in jail. I told them, 'No, I am jailed because I insist on my conscience; I can

get out easily by renouncing Falun Gong, but none of you can.'"

This simple account depicts the persecution at its core: reversing right and wrong, coercing the innocent to profess their "guilt." Why are Falun Gong practitioners so unyielding to the coercion? Why are they so uncompromising in insisting on their conscience? If right and wrong can be compromised, why have right and wrong? If good can cave in to evil, what will values and principles be based on? Conscience, the innate knowing of goodness, is the very essence of humanity. Everything else, even our "inalienable rights," can be forcibly taken away. The alteration of our conscience, no matter how small, must be consented to from within. Conscience, thus, defines human nature, and the right to conscience is a human being's most fundamental right.

No crime, therefore, is worse than the crime against conscience. The Chinese regime's persecution of Falun Gong not only violates Falun Gong practitioners' right to conscience, but is also an assault aimed at the destruction of human nature.

If right and wrong can be compromised, why have right and wrong?

The Nature of the Chinese Communist Party's Rule

The destruction of human nature is the very essence of communist rule in China. The Chinese communist regime is the most vicious regime in history. Multiple studies and publications have indicated that at least 80 million lives have perished under its despotic rule. Some people doubt this number. In reality, it is only a conservative estimate. To illustrate the point, only a few of the Party's major atrocities are listed below.

In the very first year of communist rule, a movement of "persecution of counter-revolutionaries" began. The slogan was "every village should hear gunshots." Ten million people were executed in that persecution. The movement of "suppressing counter-revolutionary superstitious sects and secret societies" then followed, and two million people were killed. In the "land reform" and the "industry and commerce reform," several million landowners and business owners lost their lives; some were executed and some committed suicide. In Shanghai, the communist mayor Chen Yi even mocked those business owners who jumped off buildings as "paratroopers" and heartlessly joked, "How many have landed today?"

Many now know about Stalin's man-made famine in the Ukraine. The greatest man-made famine, however, happened in China between 1959 and 1961. A senior government official who was in charge of China's agriculture reform in the 1980s told this author in person that his staff had conducted an internal investigation of the famine. A conservative estimate put the number of people who starved to death at 48 million, and a more reasonable

At least 80 million lives have perished under the CCP's despotic rule.



During the Cultural Revolution: a group of persecuted party members being humiliated and criticized at a public denunciation gathering.

estimate put that number at 60 million. In the year 2005, a former governor of Sichuan Province, in his memoirs, quoted official data: 12.5 million people starved to death in Sichuan Province—one of China's two major grain production regions.

The Cultural Revolution of 1966–1976 threw the whole nation into hell. No official statistics of the death toll are available. In a Central Committee meeting in late 1978, then-CCP vice-chairman Ye Jianying said, "The Cultural Revolution killed 20 million people." Some have disputed the accuracy of that number, but the scale of the atrocity is clear. In Guangxi Province alone, in the summer of 1968, more than 100,000 "counter-revolutionaries" were cut open alive and their internal organs eaten as delicacies.

As shocking as these numbers are, it is far from enough to show the monstrosity of the CCP's rule. We can also look at it from several additional angles. The first is that the CCP's political persecutions have been so extensive that almost no family has

That is exactly the intended effect of the CCP's persecutions: coercing people to act against their conscience and assist in the CCP's evildoings.

been left untouched. All readers of this article can do a simple investigation of your own: ask anyone from mainland China who you know well whether he or she has a story of a family member or close friend who fell victim to one of the CCP's political persecutions. Of all mainland Chinese that this author has come to know, not a single family was "persecution-free."

The second is that the CCP's persecutions have been so widespread that almost no social group has been left untouched. "The landlords, the well-off, the counter-revolutionaries, the corrupt, and the intellectuals" marked all groups that owned material or intellectual property; they were the early targets of the CCP persecutions. All the cultivation or religious groups that maintain their own spiritual beliefs are perpetual targets of persecution by the atheist CCP. Farmers and workers are supposed to be the "social base" of the CCP's rule, but one only needs to look at the armies of farmers and workers who have lost their land and their employment to know their miseries. The Mongolians, the Tibetans, the Uighurs, and other minorities have suffered decades of genocide or culture-cide. Even the CCP's own highest officials are not safe from persecution; many of them were jailed and killed during the Cultural Revolution.

The third is how diabolic the means of persecution are. Lao Zi said, "If the people do not fear death, how will death be used to threaten them?" Death is what is most feared, right? The CCP's persecution is a hell worse than death. You are not afraid of death? What about the deaths of your father, mother, husband, wife, children, grandchildren,

and close friends? Why did so many people commit suicide during the Cultural Revolution? They did it to protect their families. They were more afraid of being forced to betray their loved ones than of losing their own lives!



During the Cultural Revolution, the red guards destroyed countless ancient temples and religious figures.

One may wonder, "Why all these atrocities? What is this cruelty for?"

The purpose is to terrorize people into "actively" acting against their conscience and submitting only to the dictates of the CCP. Consistently throughout its 50 years of rule and persecution, the CCP dictators have openly announced to the nation that only 5% of the people are targeted, and that the other 95% are safe. This brings out the very worst of human nature—clinging to the 95% side at any cost, even at the expense of friends and relatives, and closing one's eyes to the rights of the 5%. That 5%, of course, has been rotated so often that the whole nation has been repressed into submission. That is exactly the intended effect of the CCP's persecutions: coercing people to act against their conscience and assist the CCP's evildoings. The most unfortunate part of these crimes against conscience is that they are self-perpetuating: the longer they continue, the more people are hardened to act against their conscience.

Death is what is most feared, right? The CCP's persecution is a hell worse than death.

The Price of the CCP's "Stability"

Such an evil regime as the CCP has no legitimacy, and should have fallen long ago. The CCP itself admits that it "has tided over difficulty after difficulty and pulled through peril after peril." After the June 4 massacre in 1989, there was a consensus that the regime had to change or fall. However, the regime did not fall; it changed, but only for the worse. As the nation's problems become more serious, many people are convinced that it is only a matter of time before an incident will trigger a volcanic explosion that will bring down the regime. According to the CCP's own statistics, in the past two years, there were over 150,000 violent incidents of protest. The spark that will trigger the explosion, however, has not yet come.

Many have asked why the CCP can hold on. How is it that when society is so unstable, the CCP can maintain its rule?

At the most fundamental level, the destruction of human nature is the very reason for the CCP's stability. The lower morality slides, the less people care about morality and justice. Issues that would have caused uproars in the past now seem normal. As human nature dies, a bestial nature takes over. That is what has been happening through the whole history of CCP rule in China. One need look no further than the CCP's view of "human" rights: "the greatest of human rights is the right to survive." It is pure bestial logic—anything

goes as long as one survives. Unfortunately, such an argument has been widely accepted.

The stability of the CCP's rule is thus achieved at the highest cost—the destruction of human nature.

Some people argue that because China is so chaotic now, only the CCP has the power and structure to handle the chaos, and that the collapse of the regime will result in an even greater disaster for the nation. The CCP has amply exploited this last point and has repeatedly used "stability is the overriding priority" as the excuse for continuing its political persecutions, which in turn degrade the situation further. Some Western scholars and policymakers even believe this pretext and therefore tolerate the CCP's human rights violations.

The fact is, the CCP's political movements are the greatest disturbance to society and have caused the greatest disasters. Of the large number of the CCP's major political movements and persecutions, very few were to quell a resistance. Most of them were unilaterally launched by the CCP, and most had only victim groups to annihilate, but no resistance to quell. Of the few persecutions that were in response to certain petitions or protests, such as the 1976 Tiananmen movement and the 1989 student movement,



During the 1989 students' movement, the Chinese people showed the world their desire for freedom and democracy in China.

the CCP never took a conciliatory step, but only escalated the situation into violent persecution. The severity of these persecutions also far exceeded what quelling resistance would require, and instead served to maximize the horror, to break people's will and to coerce them into submission.

The whole history of the CCP's rule shows that the CCP thrives on social instability and chaos. The stability of the CCP's rule is achieved through social instability and atrocities that destroy human nature and ruin morality. That is why, when the CCP worries about its rule or proclaims the "overriding priority of stability," a political persecution is nearing. That was the case for the persecution of Falun Gong, the

1989 massacre, the Cultural Revolution, and for all the political persecutions in the history of the CCP. The fundamental reason is that, when the CCP's evil nature is beyond what morality can tolerate, it is time to lower morality through the use of terror and coercion. As the CCP's rule becomes more and more barbaric, morality correspondingly declines further and further. The stability of the CCP's rule is thus achieved at the highest cost—the destruction of human nature.

The CCP has not limited its attempt to destroy human nature to China only. While the CCP cannot coerce the world with terror as it does in China, it has discovered a different weapon.

Enticement and Engagement

At the same time that China was going through its worst destruction of morality and values after the Tiananmen massacre in 1989, a contest between morality and self-interest also played out on the world stage. Unfortunately, self-interest trumped morality.

Many people talk about great investment opportunities in China now. The opportunities were incomparably better 19 years ago, when the Chinese regime would have given anything in exchange for a thread of international recognition after the Tiananmen Square massacre. Why didn't most Western countries jump on that golden opportunity right away? The sense of values and principles was still strong at that time. Many can probably still remember the public outrage when the media exposed the secret visit to China by then-US National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft right after the 1989 massacre. Would we see the same outrage today? Most likely not. It is even doubtful whether the Tiananmen massacre would cause the same outrage today as it did 17 years ago.

What has changed? Some argue that the Chinese

regime has moved towards improving human rights in China. If that were the case, it would be easier to talk about human rights with the Chinese regime. The reality is just the opposite. For several years after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, when the US Congress and the Administration debated whether to link human rights to trade with China, the Chinese regime at least listened, and gave cosmetic gestures of releasing prisoners of conscience when Americans so demanded. Now, the tables have turned. The Chinese regime is in command—shut up about human rights or we will take our business elsewhere. This is not because the Chinese regime has become so all-powerful. The Chinese regime readily makes concessions to the West on economic issues. It is an open secret that each time a top Chinese official visits the US he carries a long "spending list." The Chinese media jokes about it as "dousing down the anger" of the US. Yet on human rights issues the Chinese regime

The engagement policy is a product of this decline in morality.

has become increasingly hard-line. The fundamental reason is the decline of moral standards, the gradual replacement of the judgment of right and wrong with the calculation of loss and gain.

The engagement policy is a product of this decline in morality. An engagement policy can work. President Reagan clearly engaged the USSR, and induced major changes in the USSR, but his engagement was based on principles and executed with discipline. The engagement policy with the CCP, on the other hand, focuses only on economic interest. This is particularly so after President Clinton de-linked human rights from trade. Many have argued that trade with China will lead to economic freedom, and will in the long run spur the growth of political freedom. If our policymakers and administrators remain true to the intended objectives, they can be achieved. However, that is not the case.

A Chinese economist, Prof. He Qinglian, has done many in-depth studies of the oligarchy and the lack of economic freedom in China, persuasively demonstrating that business engagement with China has not improved democracy, increased human rights, or generated a middle class in China.⁶ Prof. He's research is suppressed in China, and she has been exiled to the US.



A clothing production line in China, those clothes are for foreign export. A lot of yong workers are from country side.

Many have also argued that investment in China will help the Chinese people. If the investors remain true to their stated intention, it could also be achieved. That, however, has also not been the case. Another Chinese economist, Prof. Li Zhining, has done many detailed studies on China's economy and labor market, but his studies are also suppressed in China, and the authorities have blocked his website. Some key points of his studies are highlighted below.

According to Prof. Li, overstocked goods have been accumulating rapidly in China, from 1.33 trillion yuan in 1996 to 4 trillion in 2003. The amount of overstocked goods in 2003 is equivalent to 41% of China's GDP. In the West, if a similar ratio is above 2%, the economy will be considered to be in a recession. In other words, supply in China already far surpasses demand. What huge market can we talk about, then? Indeed, this "huge market" is exporting over 20% of its GDP. The corresponding average number in the West is around 7%.

Similarly, China's commercial building vacancy rate is over 30%, four times the corresponding number in the US. China's problem of bad loans is notorious. China is short of energy supplies. China lags behind in technological development, and the list goes on. In other words, China's economy is not healthy, not properly developed, and it is not the huge market that the CCP presents it to be.

There is, however, a huge labor market there. According to Prof. Li, while China's GDP has been growing by 10% annually for the past twenty-plus years, the ratio of salaries and wages to GDP has been decreasing, to the current 12%.⁷ That figure does not even take inflation into consideration. A similar measurement in the US is 75%. Considering that the US economy is much bigger than China's and China's labor force is much bigger than that in the US, one can imagine how cheap China's labor is. Many published articles have stated that China is a vast sweatshop.

Prof. Li focuses his studies on how government official corruption has been exploiting cheap labor. “It is because the pay is so low that there is so much room for corruption to run rampant,” he writes. The same can be applied to the West’s investment, and particularly to US investment. Therefore, the real opportunity of investment in China is the opportunity to “legally” and “cleanly” take advantage of cheap labor—and isn’t exploiting cheap labor slavery?

Some argue, “If it weren’t for the West’s investment, those workers wouldn’t even earn the low salaries they get now.” That is both presumptuous and morally wrong. The salaries in China are artificially suppressed at low levels by the very regime that is using this cheap labor to entice Western investments and at the same time entice Western acquiescence to its human rights abuses. If unions were allowed to form in China, would the workers’ pay be so low? If environmental groups were allowed to exist in China, would working conditions be so horrendous? It is the CCP that runs this modern slavery, but some Western investors are reaping the “profits” it generates.



These toy rabbits are products of the Beijing Mickey Toys Co. Ltd., but were actually made at the Xin'an Forced Labor Camp in Beijing. They were then exported to many countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, Denmark, Brazil, Hungary, Japan, and Southeast Asia.

The trade “deficit” is not a real trade deficit; rather, it is a premium for outsourcing to China’s slavery.

If we see through the nature of the investment opportunity in China under the CCP, some paradoxical economic data will start to make sense. Why do US businesses complain about the huge “trade deficit” with China but still go on importing goods? Because that “deficit” is not a real trade deficit; rather, it is a premium for outsourcing to China’s slavery. Why does China want to raise more foreign investments to increase its “internal need of expanding productivity” when China’s supply already greatly exceeds its need? It is simply to maintain the phantom of the “huge market.” Why not increase the pay of the labor force and so increase the real internal need? That defeats the very purpose of slavery.

How is it possible, some may wonder, that the US can allow itself to engage in slavery in China when, in the US, Americans several generations ago fought one of the country’s bloodiest wars to abolish slavery? It is because moral standards have declined. If Abraham Lincoln had not been so dedicated to the founding principles of the US, and had not demanded abolition—if he had instead carried on an engagement policy with the South using the excuse that a better economy would lead to greater freedom for the slaves—the North could have shared some of the profits from slavery while keeping its hands clean; the North could even have defended its actions, claiming that it always had the intention of improving slaves’ rights in the South. That would be equivalent to today’s China policy.

Many people in the US, including policymakers, have criticized the engagement policy for its failure; proponents of the engagement policy are also frustrated by its ineffectiveness. Why doesn’t the policy work? Because it is morally wrong. Again, it comes down to human conscience. When values and principles have weakened, what was immoral in Lincoln’s time has become acceptable today.

Ignoring and Assisting Human Rights Violations

The Western governments' self-serving engagement policy opened a floodgate for multinational corporations in China to operate in ways that are irresponsible, unethical, and illegal in their own countries. Ethan Gutmann's *Losing the New China* details a whole array of accounts in this regard. These multinational companies have lowered themselves to the point of being a part of the corruption of morality in China.

Worse yet, some of them also help with or take part in the CCP's human rights abuses. The examples of Cisco, Yahoo, Microsoft, Google, and Motorola collaborating with the Chinese regime to limit Internet freedom are widely known. Volkswagen and Mary Kay even forced their Chinese employees to sign pledges not to participate in or support Falun Gong activities.

When questioned about their outrageous complicity in human rights abuses, their standard defense is "We must conform to China's laws." It is impossible that the executives of these multinational companies do not know that the rights they help the CCP to violate are guaranteed by China's constitution and by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is impossible that they do not know that their actions are immoral and illegal according to higher laws, but they choose profit over their conscience and hide behind the CCP's "laws."

With these multinational companies conforming to the corrupt practices in China and helping the CCP to trample on human rights, neither of the two strategic goals of the engagement policy with China—namely,

the fostering of democracy in China and the transformation of China's corruption-laden business conduct to meet international standards—has even remotely materialized. Rather, it has turned into a downward moral spiral in which the multinational companies help the CCP to maintain its modern slavery and share the profits of that slavery.

If these multinational companies were to engage in similar conduct in their own countries, they would undoubtedly be prosecuted, and they would stand no chance of escaping. Even committing similar conduct in other countries would surely bring about severe consequences. Only when they commit this conduct in China are they left unscathed, because their own governments are also vying for economic favors from China, while ignoring human rights violations. Earlier this year, the US Congress held a hearing on Cisco, Yahoo, Microsoft, and Google's collaboration with the CCP to infringe on Internet freedom in China. These companies shrewdly asked for guidance on their conduct in China. They certainly know the nature of their conduct, but they got away easily because they know the US government does not have an answer to their shrewd request.

At the same time of economic enticement, the Chinese regime craftily proposed the so-called "bilateral human rights dialogue." The Western governments were only too happy to take the bait. It was a win-win solution for governments. The Chinese regime gained much-needed legitimacy, transforming from a human rights abuser to an equal partner at the human rights roundtable. The Chinese regime is also tacitly assured of reduced



In August 2003, under pressure from Chinese authorities, Mary Kay Inc. began forcing sales associates in China to either sign a statement renouncing their belief in Falun Gong or be fired.

public condemnation from the free world, and can mask its deliberate violations as areas to improve and indefinitely drag out its deeds. For the Western governments, the closed-door dialogues help them to avoid public pressure and the associated moral burden. The “dialogue,” however, is a lose-lose situation for China’s human rights, for human rights NGOs, and for the victims of China’s abuse. China’s human rights condition continues to deteriorate, and human rights NGOs are effectively denied channels to intervene, because the proceedings of these dialogues are not made public and therefore no accountability or benchmarks can be addressed.

After the Chinese regime pulled off the “dialogue” trick, several other regimes followed suit, and “human rights dialogue” became fashionable for a few years. Those dialogues with other regimes, however, were short-lived. Apparently, only the Chinese regime can afford to “fund” and continue to enjoy the benefits of these “dialogues,” and only the Chinese regime is wealthy enough for the Western governments to be willing to go through the motions of “dialogue.”

To justify the engagement policy and convenient human rights dialogues, many government officials selectively and willingly subscribe to the CCP’s make-believe news, such as village elections, the inclusion of human rights in the constitution, the drafting of more laws, etc. They wishfully interpret these cosmetic changes and believe that the CCP has moved towards the rule of law, democracy, and respect for human rights. This façade persists even while the brutal persecution of Falun Gong goes on. There have been times when the free world has remained silent towards other oppressive regimes. The Chinese regime, however, is the only one to have enjoyed praise from the free world while escalating its abuses. Again, it shows that, when conscience becomes corrupt, what was immoral becomes justifiable, and what was condemnable becomes commendable.

Once the dikes of morality are broken, the flood of moral decline will find ways to run downhill.

When conscience becomes corrupt, what was condemnable becomes commendable.



Falun Gong practitioners in Vienna, Austria, hold a public event to inform people about the real human rights situation in China. Practitioners reenact the extraction of organs from live practitioners in China.

Worse than their multinational companies, some authorities in democratic countries collaborate with the Chinese regime to infringe on the rights of their own citizens. In Canberra, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer took the trouble to sign a certificate every month for four years to restrict Falun Gong practitioners from staging a peaceful protest in front of the Chinese embassy. The mayor of Vancouver is seeking a similar restriction to stifle Falun Gong practitioners’ protest at the Chinese consulate there. In Germany, France, Iceland, and a few other countries, there have been cases of local police forces being pressured into arbitrary and wrongful detention of Falun Gong practitioners who were merely exercising their basic rights of peaceful demonstration.

What are human rights? What are freedoms of belief and expression? What are fundamental values and principles? What separates democracy from dictatorship? What is the bottom line? With the impact of economic enticement from the Chinese regime, what was once priceless is becoming worthless.

The decline in morality is egregiously evident in the silence of world governments and the media towards the shocking news of organ extraction from living Falun Gong practitioners in a clandestine concentration camp in a place called Sujiatun. Two witnesses first disclosed the news in early March 2006. One of the witnesses is the ex-wife of a neurosurgeon who had taken part in extracting corneas from living Falun Gong practitioners. It is difficult to think of the struggle she had to go through and the pressure she has had to bear for making this disclosure. She gave very detailed testimony, and stated that her motivation for making the disclosure was to save lives, because thousands of Falun Gong practitioners were still incarcerated in the underground complex behind a hospital and were in danger of being murdered for their organs. This shocking news did not get much attention from any government in the free world.

...West have directly or indirectly helped the CCP to prolong its human rights abuses and despotic rule of China. .

The US State Department went as far as to issue a statement on April 14, 2006, just days before China's ruler Hu Jintao's visit to the US, claiming that it "has found no evidence to support claims by the Falun Gong group that Falun Gong practitioners have been killed and their organs harvested in concentration camps." The US State Department knew very well that the two witnesses are not Falun Gong practitioners, and even met with them, yet it mischaracterized the disclosure as "claims by the Falun Gong group" to water down the allegation. The US State Department drew its conclusion of "no evidence" from the report of its staff from the US embassy and consulate in China after Chinese officials took them on two guided tours of the hospital. Then they urged China itself to probe the claim. The whole show, apparently intended to please the visiting Chinese ruler, would have been comical if the issue involved were not so serious and so fundamental to humanity. One only needs to think whether the US government would

The CCP's financial enticement has gradually eroded Western morality...

urge Saddam Hussein to probe the allegation of weapons of mass destruction to see the hypocrisy of the statement.

When a government that is considered the leader of the free world can casually brush aside serious allegations about the murder of fellow human beings and the extraction of their body parts for sale, when it does not even think twice about how cruel that is to the two witnesses and how it is a second murder to those Falun Gong practitioners murdered by the Sujiatun organ camp, one can only wonder how low human morality can decline and what values can be left for humanity.

The few snapshots above are by no means a comprehensive account of democratic countries' policy changes towards China. However, they are enough to outline how the CCP's financial enticement has gradually eroded Western morality, the values of human rights and democracy, and eventually their conscience, and how this erosion has led to hypocritical policies such as the engagement policy and "human rights dialogue." The resulting political acquiescence, the financial transfusion, and the technology transfers from the West have directly or indirectly helped the CCP to prolong its human rights abuses and despotic rule of China. Just like in China, the CCP's gain comes at the gravest price—the destruction of human conscience.

This is not to say that there are no concerned people in the free world; there are, and there are many. Many people have devoted tireless efforts to China's human rights. Many people have criticized the hypocrisy of the engagement policy and the futile "human rights dialogues." Many people have also refused to give in to the CCP's enticement. It is just that their voices are not yet enough to match the combined resources of governments and businesses, and not enough to stop the downward spiral of moral decay.

The New Anti-Humanity Ringleader

...as long as human conscience is not revived, there will be no defense from the onslaught of human greed and the CCP's global war on conscience.

The financial and technology transfusions from the West are not only bolstering the CCP's ability to control China, but are also enabling the CCP's investment and support of other human rights abusers. Politically, the Chinese regime has protected those oppressive regimes in the United Nations and other international forums, and has stymied international efforts to levy sanctions against these regimes. Financially, the Chinese regime bolsters those regimes that the West bars their companies from doing business with. Technologically, the Chinese regime has helped those regimes to establish communication and Internet control. The regimes supported by the Chinese regime, in return, allow the Chinese regime access to those countries' natural resources, and protect the Chinese regime in the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Many have noticed the Chinese regime's collaboration with those oppressive regimes. Reporters Without Borders has criticized the Chinese regime that "exports its repressive expertise." Amnesty International called China the "world's most irresponsible arms exporter as arms from China have sustained conflicts and human rights abuses." The CCP has become the new anti-humanity ringleader.

Having an anti-humanity ringleader is not new. We saw it in Nazi Germany, and we saw it in the former USSR. The weapons that these ringleaders



used to threaten humanity were different. Hitler and Stalin used weapons of physical destruction to conquer and plunder the world. The CCP shares the same violent root as the Soviet communists, and never hesitates to use force against the Chinese people. On the world stage, however, not only does it not threaten to take; it promises to give. The only thing the CCP wants in return is people's conscience, their looking away from the CCP's evildoing. That, as it turns out, is much more difficult to stand up to. President Roosevelt dared to call the Nazis the axis of power, president Reagan dared to call the USSR the evil empire, but now only the smaller regimes—namely Iran, Iraq, and North Korea—have been called the axis of evil. Why? Does the CCP have a weapon more frightful than Hitler's tanks and Stalin's nuclear bombs? Unfortunately, it does. The weapon the CCP uses is human greed, the insatiable want for more. No matter what advanced defense system humanity can develop, as long as human conscience is not revived, there will be no defense from the onslaught of human greed and the CCP's global war on conscience.

Does the CCP have a weapon more frightful than Hitler's tanks and Stalin's nuclear bombs? Unfortunately, it does. The weapon the CCP uses is human greed, the insatiable want for more.

Humanity's Last Stand

Sixteen years have passed since Falun Gong was introduced to the public. Nine years have passed since the CCP launched its violent persecution of Falun Gong. In those sixteen years, humanity has experienced unprecedented moral decline as the result of the CCP's ruthless crimes against conscience. Humanity has also witnessed how reviving and upholding conscience is the only defense against moral destruction.

Many have asked why the CCP persecutes Falun Gong. A few so-called China experts have formulated and propagated a most misleading and harmful rationale. Citing “numerous” religious rebellions “throughout Chinese history,” they suggest that the persecution is the reaction of the regime

Falun Gong's positive impact on the revival of morality became the very reason for the CCP's persecution.

feeling threatened by the “sudden appearance” of Falun Gong.

There were, in fact, not numerous religious uprisings in China's history; there were no more than a handful. One of the uprisings quoted by these experts, namely the “Boxer rebellion,” was neither religious nor a rebellion; on the contrary, it was a massive martial arts group encouraged and used by rulers of the Qing Dynasty to expel foreigners.

The three bona fide religious uprisings—the Yellow Turban, the White Lotus, and the Taiping Rebellion—were all surprise attacks. In fact, fearing that its plan had been compromised, the Yellow Turban moved up its date of sudden attack.

This secrecy or surprise factor is completely lacking in the case of Falun Gong. From the very beginning, the official China Qigong Research Association sponsored Mr. Li's teaching of Falun Gong. Not only did the China Qigong Research Association organize and publicize all of the 54 ten-day lecture series that Mr. Li gave from 1992 to 1994, but in 1992 it also endorsed Falun Gong as an affiliated qigong school.

Had those experts done some independent studies, they might have discovered that the so-called “sudden appearance” was a lie the CCP used to justify its persecution of Falun Gong. Jiang Zemin stated falsely in his letter of April 25, 1999, that he and the Party had not paid attention to Falun Gong. Had the experts examined Jiang's letters and speeches more



Awards given to Mr. Li Hongzhi and Falun Gong at the 1992 and 1993 Oriental Health Expos in Beijing.

Top left: Certificate of Honor to Mr. Li Hongzhi for Outstanding Contribution at the 1992 Oriental Health Expo;

Top right: Award for New Science Advancement to Mr. Li Hongzhi at the 1993 Oriental Health Expo;

Center: “Gold Award,” presented to Mr. Li Hongzhi at the 1993 Oriental Health Expo;

Bottom left: Certificate of Honor to Mr. Li Hongzhi for Outstanding Contribution at the 1993 Oriental Health Expo;

Bottom right: Award of “Most Acclaimed Qigong Master,” awarded to Mr. Li Hongzhi at the 1993 Oriental Health Expo.



carefully, they would have noticed that the CCP had tried to control Falun Gong for a long time, and they could have avoided the CCP taking advantage of their lack of knowledge.

“This man has committed no crime; owning a gem is his crime.”

These experts should also know a Chinese expression: “This man has committed no crime; owning a gem is his crime.” Falun Gong is apolitical. It is a teaching of cultivation practice. Falun Gong practitioners are not interested in secular gains, let alone politics. What Falun Gong practitioners aspire to is to cultivate to be a good person, to be better than a good person, to be the best they can be, and eventually enlighten to higher realms. In the process, their exemplary morality has spurred the revival of morality in China and has helped stabilize society. This is good for any country and any society. Had the Chinese regime cared to accept the positive impact of Falun Gong on society, it would have found it was even good for the Chinese regime’s

governance. The CCP, however, was unable to change its nature, and Falun Gong’s positive impact on the revival of morality became the very reason for the CCP’s persecution.

The reason why the CCP persecutes Falun Gong is also the reason why the CCP cannot succeed in persecuting Falun Gong practitioners. People who understand the true meaning of life will not give up being good people. Falun Gong practitioners are ordinary people from all walks of life; they are also extraordinary because they made a commitment to follow the principle of Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance, to cultivate their inner selves and improve their mental and moral quality. This inevitably leads to individual integrity, courage, and benevolence. People thus enlightened will not submit to evil and will not surrender their conscience.

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Like a beacon of conscience, Falun Gong practitioners' peaceful perseverance has inspired more and more people to reclaim and stand up for their own conscience. As a result, fundamental changes are happening in people's hearts.

On November 19, 2004, *The Epoch Times* newspaper published the "Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party." This series of articles for the first time systematically exposed the origin, the history, and the nature of the Communist Party, particularly the CCP's despotic history of violence and lies. The "Nine Commentaries" has spread quickly in China. After reading the "Nine Commentaries" many were shocked by how they had been deceived by the CCP for so long. They felt so deeply ashamed of being affiliated with the CCP that they started to renounce their membership in the CCP and in other CCP-sponsored organizations.

Those who have lived in China under CCP rule and those who have experiences associated with the mafia will understand what it means to quit the CCP. Some people have been arrested and even killed for quitting the Party. The awakening of conscience, however, cannot be stopped. As of May 2008, over 36 million people had contacted

The Epoch Times to declare their resignation from the CCP and its affiliated organizations. Many prominent Chinese intellectuals and human rights activists have commended this as a great renaissance of the human spirit.

Changes in people's hearts are not easy to discern. It is far easier to think of the epic struggle in China as another same old story of one race against another, one class of people against another, or even one religious faith against another. It is not. It is human evil against good in its purest form. It is far easier to look the other way and treat it as some other people's problem, or no problem at all. However, when the very essence of humanity is under attack, when "looking away" is unwittingly part of the attack, can anyone be exempt?

Edmond Burke is attributed with saying, "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

When the essence of human goodness is being attacked, how good are the good men who do nothing?

Notes:

1. http://www.usnews.com/usnews/news/articles/990222/archive_000322_2.htm: "Falun Gong and other types of qi gong can save each person 1,000 yuan in annual medical fees. If 100 million people are practicing it, that's 100 billion yuan saved per year in medical fees," says one official who is involved in the nationwide reviewing process. Citing an internal memo, he adds, "Premier Zhu Rongji is very happy about that. The country could use the money right now."
2. For a more detailed review of the chronology of Falun Gong, please see "Falun Gong: 1992 – 2005," on pp 9-27, in the July 2005 issue of ChinaScope.
3. See, for example, "The Resurgence of Organized Crime in China," Chinascope, June 2006 (www.chinascope.org)
4. Li Hongzhi. "Some Thoughts of Mine." July 22, 1999. (<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/1999/6/3/20106.html>)
5. United Nations' reports on the persecution of Falun Gong. (<http://www.falunhr.org/index.php?option=content&task=category&id=111§ionid=8&Itemid=>
6. He Qinglian. "The New Myth in China: China's Rising Middle Class Will Speed Up Democratization." Chinascope, February 2006. pp. 47-51
7. For example, see http://english.people.com.cn/200509/20/eng20050920_209665.html: "Since the 1970s, the proportion of people's salaries to GDP has been falling year after year. 16 of the past 23 years saw lower ratio than the previous figure. The figure at the end of the 1990s was five percentage points lower than in the 1980s and salaries were seriously deviant from the value of workforce, said Li Zhining, research fellow with the Economics Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences."

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when “looking away” is unwittingly part of the attack,
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November 2006

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Photo on the back cover: On November 20, 2001, in an unprecedented appeal for the rights of the Chinese people, 36 Falun Gong practitioners from 12 countries raised a banner reading “Truth Compassion Tolerance” and sat in meditation in Tiananmen Square. They were arrested immediately, beaten and deported.

Falun Gong, Humanity's Last Stand

