“Just Say NO to the China Model!”

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China is ruled by surveillance. Not everything is monitored, but everyone is monitored.

Why? Because the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) is afraid of people, afraid of what people might think, say, and do to undermine their authoritarian control.

These are just 2 of the 8 cameras found in each of the classrooms in a Chinese university where we teach every summer.

Some cameras are for wide angle monitoring, some are for close-in to see people’s computer and cell phone screens and listen to private phone conversations.

Yes, that’s right, there are special cameras just for looking at and listening to people’s cell phones and computer screens.

WeChat is the all-encompassing chat app whose comprehensive nature and near monopoly in the country has made it one of the most powerful tools for Chinese government surveillance over its citizens.
When you are chatting with your friend on WeChat, the words you typed will get to the internet police before arriving to your friend’s phone. If the internet police didn’t like what you are saying to your friend, which is more often than you think, your message will be hijacked and never get to your friend. It has become a part of everyday life for all Chinese citizens now. When you ask your friend during a chat: "What do you think about what I just told you?", or "Why don’t you answer my question?", and your friend says: "When did you say something to me? I didn’t see anything." Or "What question? When did you ask me a question?" Then you know immediately that your messages were hijacked by the internet police. Normal! You and your friend would just type "hahaha" or "hehehe" with a funny emoji, and continue your lives as if nothing happened. If you continue to repeat what was deleted by the authorities, your WeChat account will be shut down for a week or two as a warning or shut down forever.

Tencent, the company that developed WeChat and other social media tools, is obliged to censor every single account and every word used. Guess what? The UN was planning to partner with Tencent, the world’s biggest surveillance software company, for its 75th anniversary.

Do the nearly 1.5 billion people have an alternative to hiding from surveillance? No, they don’t! Illegal channels such as VPN were used by some smart people attempting to climb over the Great Firewall of China on the internet, but no one can avoid all the surveillance cameras and its face recognition technology. Everybody’s cell phone doubles as a bug on their bodies and in their homes. I know some people took the sim cards out of their phones as a little safety procedure to protect themselves.

As we can all see and are living with now, most of the world is under government surveillance in the name of keeping people
safe from the emergency of COVID-19. Despite the fact that China is responsible for the outbreak of this pandemic, so many governments of the world are copying the China model in order to control the people, not the virus.

Friedrich Hayek once said, “‘Emergencies’ have always been the pretext on which the safeguards of individual liberty have been eroded.”

I don’t need to give you a list of what most of the governments in the world are doing today, expanding their powers over everyone’s lives. We are all struggling with them every day now.

Once you let the authorities dictate your life, like today’s lockdown, curfew, and forced face masks, there will be no limit to what they can and will do to you and to the economy of a country.
What are the consequences of being taken care of by the government in daily life? Are you better protected and provided for? Or is the opposite true?

I know the answer from my firsthand experience because I lived 26 years under the total care (control) of the Chinese communist government and I barely survived.

I was born in China, the origin of this pandemic and crisis, the country where no one can be the true owner of his or her own life. In China, the government is in all citizens’ bedrooms through the controlling of births with the one-child policy and to the issuing of special permits for some families to have a 2nd child.

According to BBC News, during the course of the one-child policy, the CCP prevented 400 million births and killed millions of baby girls were killed after birth.

*One Child Nation*, an Amazon Prime’s award-winning documentary, examines the personal toll levied by China’s 35-
year, one-child policy (1979-2015). It led to a number of sorrowful “No’s.” No brothers. No sisters. No cousins. No aunts. No uncles. No nieces. No nephews. And by the turn of the 21st century it came to mean No wives, as well, thanks to an insidious practice that will be described below. For a culture that once revered family and ancestry, the policy was a heavy blow. But the most persistent “No” has been “No freedom for you.” Should these things be determined by anyone else but individual human beings themselves?

According to BBC News, 400 million births were prevented and millions of baby girls were killed after birth in China during the course of the one-child policy. Compare this to the total number of people in the whole world who died because of the China virus —170,000 total!

The government is also in people’s everyday lives.

The Chinese government controls where people can live, what they should study and learn, what they can think and say, and people’s faith and religion.

I lived in China from the end of the 1950’s to the early 1980’s when China was under the total control of the communist government in every sector and in every aspect of individual life. There were no surveillance cameras nor face recognition technology then, but watchful eyes were everywhere. The CCP made everyone police each other, even snitching on family members, just like many governments around the world today tell citizens to report suspicious behavior or coughing to the authorities.

During that time, Mao’s government dictated what and how much people could eat, where they could live, who they could marry,
and whether couples could live together after marriage. If you happen to fall in love with someone from another city, then you would not be able to live together even after you got married. The government would grant you two visits per year, 30 days each time, so the couple could make a baby. The government assigned employment and set the same salary across the country for everyone in that job category.

The government planned the economy of the entire country because they insisted that they knew better than anyone about the needs of people and the best way for an individual to live, according to communist doctrine.

After the CCP took over in 1949, all “nonessential” factories and shops providing goods and services that were considered bad for people were shut down. All products that were allowed were limited in production to the bare minimum without any variety. Only a handful of colors and styles were allowed to be worn by all men and women throughout the entire country. All prices on all products in all stores were fixed by the central government.

All of these policies followed the claim that the government must provide fairness to everyone and must make sure that everyone is equal. And, today, the government claims to prevent people from getting sick.

Shortly after the CCP took power, the entire population of China became equally poor, all living in extreme poverty.

Mao's Great Leap Forward killed 45 million people in four years.

How many people may die of COVID-19 in the entire world?
The government told people that it was not fair if some people had more than others, so they decided that no one should have more than one pair of shoes. The Red Guards searched our house and confiscated all things they didn’t think we should have, such as jewelry or art, and they destroyed our photos, dishes, Western-style clothes, and burned all of my father’s nice shoes.

Today, under the pretense of preventing the spread of the Covid-19, governments of the world are determining which businesses, products, and jobs are essential or not. They ordered all nonessential businesses to close and forbade the selling of nonessential goods and products in some places. Just like the Chinese government used to do.
In Vermont, US Walmart was allowed to stay open, but they were prohibited from selling “non-essential” items such as seeds for planting.

In some stores that are still allowed to stay open, you are allowed to buy any kinds of sweets but NOT Easter sweets.
When I was little, potatoes were allowed but should be eaten in the Chinese way. Our family had to make Western-style potato salad in secret to avoid punishment. Illness and death became national issues.

In China today, the government is in total control of the treatments for COVID-19: how, who, and when people are treated. The sale and use of testing kits and protective gear is strictly monopolized and controlled by the government.

And the truth about the virus, the pandemic, and the death toll are all top national security concerns and State secrets. When family members are allowed pick up the remains of loved ones who died, how and where they can mourn their lost family members—all these decisions are now in government hands.

Throughout human history, there was diabetes, heart disease, cancer, flu, obesity, HIV, and many other health issues. More people have died this year in the world of diarrhea- mostly under 5 years old, 240,000 people, far more than of the coronavirus at 170,000 people. Death comes daily in a variety of ways. But these are all usually family tragedies, NOT national disasters.

As always, Statists create a narrative that is anti-human & non-natural. Illness and death are a part of life, and the State can’t stop that for us. The sad thing is that many people in the world are now asking for, or accepting, government intervention in our daily lives and forsaking their own sovereign rights and control over their own lives. Do they really believe that the government knows better than themselves about how to live healthy and safe, or how to live happily without being healthy and dying young?
In China when the Wuhan virus appeared, the CCP single-handedly changed this natural disaster into a human disaster in a matter of a few weeks. And most of the world followed suit.

China is controlling the World Health Organization despite their own horrible public health record. China is controlling the UN Peace Council despite their horrible human rights record in Hong Kong, Tibet, and Xinjiang with the brutal treatment of millions of Christians and Muslims.

Even after China’s fast economic growth, the government still interferes with philosophy, ideology, and beliefs. Everyone is supposed to have only one way of thinking—the Xi Jinping way. And Xi Jinping is determined to carry on Mao’s aggressive ambition to expand the CCP agenda and influence throughout the
world, exporting State Capitalism and a planned economy through his “One Belt, One Road Initiative.” Many countries of Africa have fallen victim to this ideological invasion.

The global pandemic forces us all to confront one inconvenient truth: by politicizing all aspects of life including people’s health, as the CCP has been doing for 71 years has endangered everyone in the world. The Chinese autocratic one-party rule system is much sicker than the corona virus. And it’s certainly bring more death than the pandemic.

The so-called “China Model” in economic is also definitely a threat to the developing countries of the world. The China Model is not true capitalism, not a true market economy. The Chinese style of economic development is not sustainable. It is a planned and manipulated quasi-market economy.

The 1st quarter this year, Chinese GDP is -6.8%, first time negative growth in 40 years.
In conclusion, I want to cry out to the world: It is time for the whole world to say “No!” to Chinese government and to the Chinese Communist Party. Stop letting China sabotage developing countries’ own economic development and progress.

Xu Zhangrun, a law professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing wrote on the Chinese social media WeChat entitled “Fighting the Epidemic: China Defeats COVID-19 in 2020”, and concluded:

"Xi has only one goal and one concern: to preserve the Communist Party in China and to preserve himself as its supreme leader. "

By the way, Now is the moment for developing countries to grab the opportunity and say “no” to Chinese products. Take manufacturing into your own hands. Replace China and become the factory of the world.