

Pompeo raises alarm on Xi's China

Written by Joseph Bosco
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US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo just dropped the other shoe in the White House's multidimensional response to the hydra-headed existential challenge from communist China. Yet his sweeping address at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum on Thursday was the most powerful yet — a virtual declaration of a new cold war and a call for global delegitimization of Chinese President Xi Jinping's (习近平) rule through what amounts to regime change.

Although he did not explicitly mention either a cold war or regime change — terms that send shudders through the foreign policy establishment — Pompeo made it clear that the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) ideology and worldview are incompatible with a peaceful civilized world.

China threatens nothing less than “a free 21st century,” he said.

“If the free world doesn't change communist China, communist China will surely change us,” Pompeo said. “Securing our freedoms from the Chinese Communist Party is the mission of our time.”

Pompeo clearly is leading US President Donald Trump's administration in its firm pushback against Beijing's mounting aggression toward the Chinese people and the Western world.

He described a multifaceted campaign he is orchestrating on behalf of the president.

US National Security Adviser “Robert O'Brien spoke about ideology. FBI Director [Christopher] Wray talked about espionage. [US] Attorney General [William] Barr spoke about economics,” Pompeo said.

In the all-of-government effort, the US departments of the Treasury, Commerce and Justice also are pursuing and prosecuting China's multiple contraventions of law and regulations.

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Contrary to the criticism from some quarters that the Trump administration has neglected China's human rights violations, Pompeo recounted his meetings in February with Uighurs and ethnic Kazakhs who escaped Xinjiang's concentration camps, Hong Kong's pro-democracy leaders and dissident freedom fighters, and Tiananmen Square survivors in June.

Although unmentioned, he also has delivered speeches and public statements calling attention to all of these human rights concerns and others.

The festering continuation and expansion of human rights abuses — he could have included the horrific crime of forced organ harvesting — exposes the CCP's false identity between itself and the Chinese people.

"The biggest lie ... they tell is that they speak for 1.4 billion people who are surveilled, oppressed and scared to speak out. Quite the contrary. The CCP fears the Chinese people's honest opinions more than any foe and ... losing their own grip on power... For too many decades, our leaders have ignored, downplayed the words of brave Chinese dissidents who warned us about the nature of the regime we're facing. and we can't ignore it any longer," Pompeo said.

Pompeo gave the most pertinent example of the cost of Beijing's perfidy: "Just think how much better off the world would be — not to mention the people inside of China — if we had been able to hear from the doctors in Wuhan and they'd been allowed to raise the alarm about the outbreak of a new and novel virus."

He said that there needs to be an effort, within China and from the outside world, to address the problem the CCP presents to the Chinese populace and the world.

"Changing the CCP's behavior cannot be the mission of the Chinese people alone. Free nations have to work to defend freedom," he said.

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He did not suggest a direct link between the two, against a common adversary, such as the external support provided to dissidents within the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, but if a fragmented approach does not succeed, that might be another matter to address.

Even for those outside China's direct control, defending freedom is "the furthest thing from easy," Pompeo said.

The biggest obstacle, he said, is that the lure of profit in China — a major cause of the predicament — would inhibit free nations from doing the responsible thing.

"We have a NATO ally of ours that hasn't stood up in the way that it needs to, with respect to Hong Kong, because they fear Beijing will restrict access to China's market," he said. "This is the kind of timidity that will lead to historic failure, and we can't repeat it."

In fact, just below the Wall Street Journal's lead story on Pompeo's speech was an article on Hong Kong enduring as a financial hub, suggesting that China is winning its bet that sanctions would be weak enough to vindicate its crackdown.

Pompeo issued a striking clarion call for the West to take a moral stand against the evils of Chinese communism.

"General Secretary Xi is not destined to tyrannize inside and outside of China forever, unless we allow it," he said.

His words might prove to be even more welcome within China's population and some elements of the regime.

After Pompeo's remarkably candid and historic speech, Xi and his colleagues have more reason to question the wisdom of the aggressive course they are pursuing.

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