**The Case Against China**

**March 8, 2022**

This, from The Heritage Foundation…

**“The most persistent and consequential challenge that will confront the US for the next several decades is China.”**

**The problems, as seen through a traditional USA lens…**

Religious liberty suppression, especially for Christians, but spreads to most religions not approved by the Chinese Communist Party. Reference the Uyghur problem below.

Covid-19 – There is compelling evidence that the virus was purposefully manufactured in China at the Wuhan Lab, with complicity from the NIH.

Ongoing threats to Taiwan and Hong Kong, long-time friends of the USA, no doubt emboldened by Russia’s attack on Ukraine. **In an official statement on February 24 the Chinese President made it clear that they understand and support Russia’s attack on Ukraine.**

Forced labor in internment camps – e.g., the Uyghurs, mostly Muslim – and other human rights atrocities.

Cybertheft and targeted cyber warfare in the USA against the government and businesses.

Theft of intellectual USA properties and products for manufacturing in China and selling back to us, in competition with those who actually developed the product.

Environmental pollution and degradation far worse than the USA.

Employment by China of investments, diplomacy and propaganda for the purpose of promoting Chinese power and ideology interests over that of any other country, and specifically to the detriment to the USA.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: The problem is not Chinese Americans in business in the USA, but China-based companies beholden to the Chinese Communist Party buying up America.**

**Compounding the problem…**

Chinese companies beholden to the Chinese Communist Party are “buying up” American companies, thereby positioning to be able to control a portion of the USA economy:

**General Electric**, Appliance Division is now part of Haier, a Chinese Company. They bought it for $5.4 Billion in 2016.

 **AMC**, USA’s largest movie theater chain – bought by Dalian Wanda Group, a Chinese company.

 **Smithfield Foods** – bought by Shanghai International Holdings, a Chinese company.

 **Waldorf Astoria** – bought by Anabang Insurance Group, a Chinese company.

 **Strategic Hotels and Resorts**, including the Ritz-Carlton -bought by Anabang Insurance Group.

 **Motorola Mobility** (cell phones) – bought by Lenovo, a Chinese company.

 **Legendary Entertainment Group** – bought by Chongquin Casin Enterprise Corp.

 **Riot Games** (video games) – bought by Tencent for $400 million.

 **Ingram Micro** (IT technology distributor) – bought by HNA Group for $6 billion.

There are other American companies that have been bought and many more currently being studied by the Chinese**. One of the larger deals being studied now is purchase by a Chinese company of the Chicago Stock Exchange.** Some of these companies say they have no ties to the Chinese Government (Chinese Communist Party), but to believe that is, well, naïve.

**Compounding the problem,,,,in Texas…**

 The Governor’s Office, Economic Development and Tourism, is THE economic development clearing house and advisor for the entire State, and arguably one of the best at what they do in the USA. Local economic development entities, Designated Economic Development Offices, get leads electronically on a regular basis from The Governor’s Office. The Office does an excellent job of disseminating the leads on a statewide basis depending on parameters given by the company.

On a regular basis these “leads” are Chinese companies wanting to expand operations from China into The United States. Community economic development organizations, including those in other states, usually through their statewide effort, respond to the leads. The requests usually have similar types of requirements and needs – land, water, sewer, electricity, natural gas, number and type of employees, proximity to transportation, permitting assistance, and others.

One regular request included in most leads is for financial incentives in the form of free land, property tax abatement and cash for a variety of uses. There are local, State and Federal incentives in the mix, almost always.

So, Texas cities, and other cities throughout the US, are courting Chinese companies using public funds, free public land and public incentive programs as inducements, representing all levels of government. Included are Chapter 313 property value limitation incentives from public school districts in Texas. This incentive is usually one of the largest financial incentives available, especially for large capital investment projects.

The economic development motivation is simple: Chinese capital converts to increases in local taxable property values, new employment, local/state sales-taxable sales and sales-taxable purchases, and bragging rights for growth and the prosperity that comes with it. Cities, counties and economic development groups absolutely love to tout their successes, and have annual competitions between the entities to see which one garnered the most capital investment, most new employment, most innovative recruitment techniques, etc. Texas is a perennial winner in the State competition.

**Why the concern?**

My name is Robert M. Worley, Executive Director of the Emory Development Corporation, Emory, Texas, population 1,600. I started in the economic development profession in 1977. Most of the areas I have served, mostly in Texas, have had more than their fair share of success. So, I am fairly well-versed in the business of economic development and how to land a deal.

Cities and Counties I have served have landed industries/manufacturing, industrial support businesses, distribution, retail, housing and related infrastructure worth more than $60 billion over the past 4 decades. The largest single industrial project with which I was involved was a $16 billion plant in Brazoria County, Texas.

Even as small as Emory is we get leads from The Governor’s Office, including a regular flow of Chinese companies. The Governor’s Office recently started identifying country-of-origin of the inquiring company so that each city can add that to the mix of due diligence to determine whether or not to respond.

**One could, and perhaps SHOULD, ask “Should The Governor’s Office be acting as an agent and promoter of Chinese companies wanting to expand to the USA?” I think it would be good to respectfully ask the Governor to prayerfully consider the question, based on the fact that China is known for being an international bad actor. I made this request on February 22, 2022 and have heard nothing since.**

The Governor’s Office, Economic Development and Tourism, Executive Director, Adriana Cruz admitted that they have concern regarding Chinese companies, as they have the FBI investigate all Chinese companies that make inquiries to The Governor’s Office. The purpose of the FBI involvement is to try to determine if the company has ties to the Chinese Communist Party.

**The Emory Development Corporation, after much thought and deliberation, has decided not to recruit nor incentivize Chinese companies. It is not that complicated – the Chinese government is considered by many to be, in essence, our enemy.**

We choose not to invite the fox into the henhouse.

The “China problem” is related to products and money. The USA, along with much of the rest of the world, has become obsessed with prosperity, to the point that business can be done with anyone, even our enemies. I include myself in that obsession, regretfully so with regards to products made in China. We choose money and cheap stuff over too many truly meaningful things. The problem is especially evident in large, multi-national companies that focus almost exclusively on the quarterly dividend. One way to a good quarterly dividend is “Made in China.”

Thinking of the issue in terms of Christianity, consider Matthew 16:26 – “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” China is anti-God, anti-Christian, anti-American, and we are selling our soul to get to them. We are not, or should not be, that desperate for money.

China is a geo-political money issue and we are ignoring the problems such as slavery/forced labor, religious liberty, the environment, and all the other China problems. It is time to stand up as a country.

Respectfully,

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**Anonymous quote: “All it takes for evil to succeed is for good people to do nothing.”**