

## Webinar - **Security Threats from China** - May 26<sup>th</sup> 2020 - **Olivier CADIC**

Dear colleagues,  
distinguished guests,

First of all, I would like to extend my warmest thanks to Senator Robert Pittenger for inviting me.

As a Senator representing French citizens living abroad, the world is my constituency.

This has given me the opportunity to observe the rapid evolution of China's influence over the world.

In my presentation, I will touch on three different threats to global balance and security.

First, the expansion of Chinese international trade in a context of unfair competition. Second, the control of populations through technology. And third, its military.

The first of those major threats, the development of China's international trade, based on counterfeiting, forced labour and corruption, goes directly against our values.

First, **counterfeiting**.

We most often associate counterfeiting with cash and luxury items, but it can also have devastating effects in the pharmaceutical, automobile and electrical industries.

End of 2019, two containers of products supposedly manufactured by one of France's electrical equipment companies were seized in the port of Mombasa – counterfeits shipped from China.

The counterfeiting of electrical products causes fires that can have devastating consequences.

Next, **forced labour** is another weapon used to improve Chinese competitiveness.

The Chinese government has admitted to using a legal system that allowed it to keep sex workers and their clients in prison for up to two years.

There, they were forced to work, making toys and household objects. The government claims to have put an end to this system – only four months ago.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute – has identified twenty-seven factories across nine Chinese provinces that use Uyghur prisoners as a labour force.

Those factories are reportedly part of the supply chain of eighty-three well-known global brands.

China exploits a near-free Chinese labour force to build its 'Silk Roads'.

### **Finally, corruption.**

This corruption takes the form of extremely secretive Chinese loans to emerging countries.

They are delivered directly from China's state-owned banks to the governments in place, sometimes bypassing the receiving country's democratic institutions.

Such loans, which the Chinese call preferential, are secured against the income from a country's natural resources and are characterized by close links with political and commercial interests.

China has caused the debt of emerging countries to skyrocket, by using international financing techniques directly inspired by the colonizing nations of the nineteenth century.

China is freeing itself from the laws our companies must obey.

### **Having described this unfair competition that represents a direct threat to international trade, I now come to the second great threat: the control of populations.**

The Chinese Communist Party weaves its web both at home and abroad, using Huawei's 5G technology to assert its totalitarian ideology.

China champions a social model that relegates human rights to the background, claiming they are an obstacle to development.

The Chinese Communist government recently initiated a social credit system for its citizens in order to control the population.

Through its four hundred million cameras and its facial recognition software, a veritable eye in the sky keeps tabs on everything the local population does.

Obedience brings rewards.

The data thus collected, however, can also lead those who do not comply to reeducation camps.

Since 2017, **over a million Uyghurs** and members of other Turco-Muslim minorities have disappeared inside a vast network of 'reeducation camps' in the far western part of Xinjiang Province.

The regime is also trying to smother the Church through the digital monitoring, harassment and **arrest of Christians**.

Surveillance cameras have made their way into churches.

The Communist Party demands absolute subordination and closed over five thousand five hundred churches and other religious institutions last year.

'Illegal propagation of Christianity' is listed among the behaviours that must be punished.

Control is also a measure used abroad.

**I was in Djibouti** a year ago, where China opened its first overseas military base.

It has been steadily increasing its hold since.

In 2019, China gifted the country's security forces with 600 Huawei cameras, along with a facial recognition system.

It made Djibouti a life-size laboratory to demonstrate to foreign countries how powerful Huawei's 5G technology is when used to control a population.

A notion that appealed to Mauritius, where the home of the British ambassador is now surrounded by three Huawei cameras.

**Having discussed international trade and the control of populations, I will now address the third direct threat to our security: the military threat.**

The Chinese Communist Party wants its totalitarianism to triumph over the democratic model usually labelled as 'Western'.

To that end, President Xi Jinping wants to create a world-class military. He has initiated an arms race.

Over the last 12 months, the Chinese military has, among other things, unveiled its new DF-41 intercontinental ballistic missile (carrying multiple nuclear warheads), with a reported range sufficient to strike any part of the United States.

In December, the People's Navy's second aircraft carrier, the Shandong, was officially commissioned – the first one built entirely domestically.

A new, next-generation destroyer also entered service at the same time.

China is already a threat to the United States and to other Asian nations in terms of military equipment.

In conjunction with its military activities, **China is also leading a hybrid war** by implementing an extremely confrontational diplomacy—periodic attempts at creating clashes that we are sadly familiar with in France.

Last month, the embassy claimed that France had simply left people to die in our retirement homes.

Such fake news led to China's ambassador being summoned by our government.

The Covid-19 crisis has triggered a communication war.

China distils and releases untrue or incomplete information in order to claim victory against the pandemic and to demonstrate how indispensable it is in the global struggle against the virus, through the supply of medical and sanitary products.

Its goal is nothing short of discrediting democracies.

Last month, as part of my committee duties, my colleague Rachel Mazuir and I turned in a report to the Senate entitled 'Disinformation, Cyberattacks, and Malicious Cyber Activities: the Other Covid-19 War'.

In it, we call for our government to urgently establish a cyber reaction force, to fight against the disinformation and influence campaigns orchestrated by authoritarian or totalitarian states against democracies.

**I drew these conclusions after my visit to the UN six months ago**, where I witnessed this clash between two visions of the world.

Ours is based on the United Nations charter.

We share common standards and values that are predicated on the inalienable rights of individuals.

China's vision places their development ahead of individual rights and appeals to some emerging countries.

Today, China heads four of the fifteen specialized agencies of the United Nations.

Now more than ever, we need the United States to renew its involvement in these multilateral organisations alongside us.

Our collective effort succeeded in getting the Singaporean candidate elected to the head of the World Intellectual Property Organisation, defeating the Chinese candidate.

We need the United States to stay involved with the World Health Organisation and to apply pressure on China to restore Taiwan's WHO observer status.

Health security is as important as military security.

Similar to what we experienced during the Iron Curtain years, I foresee a future in which a technologically airtight free world will face off against a Communist world where men will be indoctrinated in a Chinese 'Newspeak' fit for a George Orwell novel.

I see several similarities between the Chinese Communist Party of the 21st century and Germany's Nazi Party in the 20th century.

Let us not renew the errors of the last century by allowing an ideology to expand that supports every tyrant on the planet and is driving democratic people toward global conflict.

Let us work together, through multilateral structures we built after the Second World War, to further the construction of peace.

A day will come when the Chinese people will tear down the cyber wall behind which they are imprisoned and topple the regime that oppresses them.

Wanting to be free means wanting for others to be free!

Thank you.

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