

The Retrospective Report

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A view of the Harvard University campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2020.
(Maddie Meyer/Getty Images)

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10 Days That Shook the World

By [Jeffrey A. Tucker](#)

The Epoch Times 2/10/2025

In 1917, U.S. journalist Jack Reed, a naive but talented communist ideologue with a blue-blood education, was in Russia to watch and cheer on a revolution. He was there in October when the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky held power—Czar Nicholas II had been overthrown—but refused to pull the nation out of the murderous World War I or otherwise reform.

The government was thus overthrown again, this time by the Bolsheviks, who ruled for 70 years thereafter. Reed chronicled the moment in his famous book “[Ten Days that Shook the World](#).” It set forth a narrative of these days that was then held as the accurate narrative for a century. It was a major reason why that generation of literate U.S. citizens, lacking access to other information sources, considered Vladimir Lenin to be a hero. Reed, by the way, later died and was buried in the Kremlin.

That book and the events it valorised has now been superseded by another 10 days that have shaken the world. Donald Trump took the oath of office to become U.S. president on Jan. 20, 2025, following a sweeping and decisive victory that the entire establishment fought ferociously.

I’m typing this 10 days later. It is clear to me and many others that nothing will ever be the same, not in the United States and not anywhere in the world that is watching the exciting events unfold. It’s nothing like we’ve ever seen, and far beyond anything we had expected or even been promised.

Whereas Reed’s 10 days were about the building of the Leviathan state, our own 10 days are about tearing it down and restoring freedom. Already what has been uncovered and stopped is for the ages, to the point that as I write, the United States has plugged a scandalous spending leakage at a rate of \$4 billion per day, thanks to the work of Trump’s Department of Government Efficiency.

That appears to be just the beginning. Agencies and funding sources are being shut down by the day and hour. The whole spending machine was shut down for a few days before a federal judge intervened. Even that did not stop the push to shut down the spigots: It took a second judge to intervene and finally restart it all. Even then, it was just the beginning.

What is popularly known as the “deep state” has never faced such disruption.

Hardly a minute goes by when we do not get news of various outrages operating in all agencies of government, spending that gives new meaning to the word “decadence.” It’s all been happening for many years, even decades, even as the U.S. middle class has been hollowed out, real incomes have declined, and economic opportunities for average people have thinned out to create culture-wide despair and ill health.

The excitement began minutes after the inauguration, when Elon Musk’s team, tasked by Trump to figure out what is going on with this empire of lies, unfurled a plan that had long been in the works but never announced. The team installed sofa beds on the fifth floor of the Office of Personnel Management and tossed out the chief of staff. The plan was to work 24/7 to get the job done, never leaving the offices. Yes, in the parlance of “The Godfather,” the team members literally “went to the mattresses.”

They gained access to the computer system and sent a memo to 2.3 million federal government employees. It invited all of them to resign immediately and get eight months of severance. They only needed to hit reply and type “resign.” The expectation going into this was that 10 percent would flee but that it could be more. We are still waiting for the numbers.

All the while, the Trump administration was issuing executive orders, more than 300 in these magical 10 days. It froze regulations. It froze spending. It issued a universal fatwa against all diversity, equity, and inclusion policies and abolished “affirmative action”—all while heralding the single principle of non-discrimination. It proclaimed that no government agency may ever again tell private media and social media accounts how to operate, either directly or indirectly through third-party

cut-outs. It banned the absurdities of the transgender movement and made adolescent mutilation illegal.

The orders were so sensible that they generated almost no resistance other than predictable sputtering. There were of course mutterings that Trump was behaving like an authoritarian. If so, it is an odd form of authoritarianism that uses power to take power away from government and give it back to the people. The driving motivation of all these efforts was to reboot the promise of 2016 to drain the swamp. This time the Trump administration was serious.

Following the takeover of the Office of Personnel Management, the truly great challenge was to get to the source of the largesse, the spigot spilling so much money that it was creating \$1 trillion in debt every 100 days. This has gotten worse decade after decade. It is the determination of DOGE to get to the bottom of it.

The team—which converted itself quickly into an official government office to evade that obvious criticism—headed to the Department of the Treasury and announced an audit of the entire government. In order to conduct that, it would need the logins to the system. The auditors had already figured out that the whole government was operating on auto pay, with billions flowing to enemy regimes and rackets of all sorts. Shutting that down had to be priority No. 1.

What they found was an acting head of the U.S. Treasury named David A. Lebryk, who turned out to be the highest-ranking person in the civil service. Lebryk had been promoted to that position on Jan. 20, but his former boss was the deputy secretary of the Treasury Department, a Nigerian émigré named Wally Adeyemo, who had at one time been head of the Obama Foundation. His resignation put Lebryk in the driver's seat of the world's biggest outgoing payroll system.

That's right, you cannot make this stuff up!

Lebryk absolutely refused to turn over the passwords. After what was said to be a shouting match, he resigned on the spot. Then Musk's crew took control of the passwords to the system that was sending out \$6 trillion on auto pay.

This action generated panicked headlines in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal claiming that the Trump administration had gotten hold of the control centre of government spending, strongly suggesting that nothing like this had ever happened before. For reasons that are unclear, regime media seemed shocked and alarmed that the Trump administration had broken into the “sanctum sanctorum.”

When regular people think about this, they start asking serious questions. Why is it not a normal thing for the new administration to be in control of the spending systems? Why is this such a shocking thing to have happened? Isn't auditing the books just what any new president would do?

Most likely, it is shocking simply because it has never happened. For all the world, this looks like a situation in which we are witnessing the very first actual transition of power in our lifetimes.

There will be more court challenges, claims, and counterclaims, but mainly we can look forward to an information flood of finding out precisely how our tax dollars have been used for many years, if not for decades. This is in many ways the ultimate nightmare of any entrenched bureaucracy that has been unburdened by accountability for a very long time.

Change is now here, and it appears that the Trump administration is not letting up. All the while, Trump's Cabinet picks have been facing a brutal grilling from senators. This time, however, we have the means to discover the hand in the glove. We have tools such as Open the Books, Open Secrets, and others to reveal precisely what industrial interests are behind these politicians. It appears as of this writing that public pressure is going to push all of Trump's picks through.

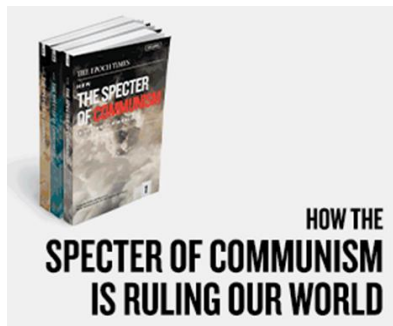
No one can say for sure how this story ends, but we are getting an intuition. The Trump administration, barring some unforeseen disaster, is well positioned to go down in history as the regime that saved the country from secret and systematic pillaging that has been going on without a check for years.

Is that an exaggeration? Sadly, it does not appear to be so based on what we are learning by the hour. These are the new 10 days that shook the world. The first time around, history was set on a path toward the disaster of communism and totalitarianism. This time, the revolution is being reversed—the people are really taking over from an elite class that has enjoyed unchecked rule in the Western world for all of living memory.

Views expressed in this article are opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

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The Persecution of Falun Gong is a Touchstone for the CCP's Human Rights Abuses

March 15, 2025 | By Zhang Tianyou

(Minghui.org) In its persecution of the Falun Gong meditation practice, the Chinese Communist Party has used its influence to persuade many foreign governments and media outlets to stay quiet for over two decades. When Western society criticizes the CCP's human rights violations in the Tiananmen Square Massacre, Tibet, and Xinjiang, the regime also protests but does not resort to the same level of backdoor measures to silence criticism.

Western media know that criticizing abuses in remote Tibet and Xinjiang is relatively “safe” and shows the media's support of human rights, said **Trevor Loudon**, a New Zealander columnist and expert on communist totalitarianism. The CCP is less concerned about those regions because they have little influence in much of China. But because Falun Gong is rooted in traditional Chinese culture, the impact of media attention would be huge. Western media outlets often avoid mentioning Falun Gong because they know it would infuriate the CCP.

To show its “international integration,” the CCP allowed some outlets, such as the Associated Press, New York Times, Washington Post, and Financial Times, to be viewed online in China as part of its “united front.” But these outlets' human rights reports on China—no matter how minor—worried the CCP, so the regime again blocked these sites in China.

Minghui.org, which directly reports on Falun Gong and the persecution in China, has always been tightly blocked in China and targeted by cyber-attacks. If Minghui.org was accessible by the general public in China, the Party's true nature would be exposed, and its downfall would be inevitable.

“Rule of Law” a Complete Farce

The CCP claims to rule the country by law, but the reality faced by Falun Gong practitioners in China is the complete opposite. In the past,

practitioners were often detained in forced labour camps—sometimes for years—without a trial. After China’s labour camp system was disbanded, the norm shifted to sentencing practitioners to prison, often with predetermined sentences.

To implement this nationwide, systematic persecution, former CCP leader Jiang Zemin established an extrajudicial organization—the 610 Office, named after the date of its founding on June 10, 1999. Penetrating all levels of the Chinese government, 610 Office agents often decide a practitioner’s prison term after his or her arrest—three, five, seven years, or even longer—and orally communicate the directive to the court. They chose this format because documents, emails, or other communication channels would leave a paper trail.

“Evidence” That Cannot Bear the Light of Day

In one example, Mr. Guan Chenglin, a 70-year-old resident of Faku County in Laoning Province, was arrested for distributing information about Falun Gong on July 30, 2024. When police presented evidence during a hearing at the Xinmin Court, Mr. Guan asked that the video be shown. But Judge Kong Xianglai and other court officials denied this request and refused cross-examination with various excuses.

Using evidence to determine guilt is a critical step in court decisions everywhere. This often requires a detailed examination and professional evaluation of the evidence before a conclusion or verdict is reached. But in communist China, officials often merely refer to random materials as “evidence” to frame practitioners.

This “evidence” usually consists of informational materials that practitioners distribute to the public. These booklets explain that no laws in China ban Falun Gong, and they also include traditional Chinese stories that advise people to follow traditional moral values. The judges know that such materials are not valid “evidence” for sentencing practitioners, so they block them from being shown.

Open Disregard for the Law

The forms and institutions of the CCP’s legal system create an illusion for people outside China, who might mistakenly think the CCP’s legal system echoes theirs. In practice, the regime’s political directives carry the day.

“Don’t talk about laws with me; we don’t care about laws,” said Liu, a Political and Legal Affairs Committee (PLAC) member from Xichang City, Sichuan Province.

“We just do not follow laws,” said Xi Shinong, a 610 Office agent from Chengdu City, Sichuan Province.

“Beating [practitioners] to death is counted as suicide... [Send the bodies] to cremation directly without checking identity,” said former CCP leader Jiang Zemin when he initiated the persecution of Falun Gong.

In such an environment, officials blatantly disregard the law when it comes to Falun Gong, claiming it’s a political issue or that they are merely following orders from higher officials.

A Test of Conscience

The persecution of Falun Gong cannot be justified from any angle. Whether they are from big cities, small towns, or rural villages, practitioners follow Falun Gong’s guiding principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance to improve their health and become better people. Despite the severe persecution over the past 26 years, they remain peaceful and simply want to exercise their basic human right to freely practice their belief.

But the CCP continues to persecute Falun Gong, and has even weaponised trade to silence overseas criticism. This makes the persecution of Falun Gong a touchstone—not only for the CCP but also for Western governments and media organizations. Whether each person can place humanity’s universal values above financial interests and political agendas reveals their loyalty to their conscience.

Harvard, Trains Members of Chinese Communist Paramilitary Organizations

[New Tang Dynasty Beijing Time April 29, 2025]

After the U.S. government announced sanctions against the Chinese Communist Party for the Uyghur genocide, Harvard University continued to quietly train members of the Chinese Communist Party's paramilitary organization, the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps.

In 2019, the Harvard

Harvard initially mentioned in a post that officials from the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps participated in the first training session. The content was removed after the Washington Free Beacon news raised questions about it.

In 2020, the Trump administration announced sanctions on the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, due to serious human rights violations, an organization affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party. A research organization named 'Strategy Risks', focused on China issues, disclosed in a recent report titled "Beijing exerts strong influence on multiple fields of Harvard University". Harvard tried to conceal it, but the information was published on the official National Healthcare Security Administration website, the Communist Party of China showed that in 2023 and 2024, the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps Medical Insurance Bureau appeared on Harvard University's training list.

Michael Sobolik, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, told the Washington Free Beacon that this shows Harvard is suspected of being involved in Beijing's atrocities against Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities.

Stephanie Simon, director of communications and strategic initiatives at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, blamed the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps' involvement in the training on the Chinese Communist Party. She published information on it, but it was deleted by the editor.

The Chinese Communist Party has long been accused of carrying out large-scale persecution against the Uyghurs, including arbitrary detention, forced sterilization, involuntary organ harvesting, and unethical medical experiments.

Harvard has been repeatedly questioned for accepting funding from Beijing and its Chinese Communist Party entities. Data from the U.S. Department of Education show that Harvard received nearly \$70 million in funding from the Chinese Communist Party from 2019 to 2022, more than any other country during the same period.

In 2014, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health accepted a \$350 million donation from the Morningside Foundation, which is controlled by the Chan family. The college is named after the late father of Hong Kong property tycoon Ronnie Chan. Ronnie Chan has close ties to the Chinese Communist Party, but Harvard said the donation was unsolicited, unrestricted and unexpected.

To date, Harvard has trained hundreds of Chinese government officials through its cooperation with the CCP, the most famous of whom is Li Yuanchao, member of the Political Bureau of the CCP and Vice President of the State. Harvard trained 188 senior officials from the National Healthcare Security Administration in 2022 alone.

Harvard's health partnership includes seven Chinese universities, six of which have been flagged as security risks by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute because of their ties to the People's Liberation Army. Among them, Sichuan, Xi'an Jiaotong and Tsinghua University are assisting the CCP in developing national defence technology, including nuclear programs.

Epoch Times Reporters Win Award for Outstanding Religious Coverage

(News Network, April 28, 2025)

The annual conference of the Council of Religious Communicators was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. At the conference, two reporters from The Epoch Times received the highest honours, the Wilbur Award and the Excellence Award. The work was commended for exposing the truth about the CCP's brutal persecution of Falun Gong and live organ harvesting. The panel said their series "excellent in communicating about faith and religion with fairness, professionalism, honesty and respect".

Eva Fu, a reporter for The Epoch Times in New York and Washington, has won the 2025 Wilbur Prize from the Council of Religious Communicators. Her investigative series, "Killing Believers for Organs: The Cruel Secret Beijing Doesn't Want Exposed," reveals the truth about the CCP's live organ harvesting from Chinese people, especially Falun Gong practitioners.

The Wilbur Award is the highest honour awarded by the Council of Religious Communicators. It is named after the late religious public relations pioneer Marvin Wilbur and has been presented annually since 1949.

Another Epoch Times reporter, Dan Berger, won the Excellence Award. His work describes American Jews who travelled to Israel to volunteer during the war and took action to support Israel.

The Awards for Excellence recognize outstanding work published in 2024 across print, online journalism, television and film.

(New Tang Dynasty)