

The Retrospective Report

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Cheng Kai

Former Senior Party Media Official (Cheng Kai)

Obedient to my Conscience, with no regrets after 30 years of exile

An Interview with Cheng Kai in 2021, (Epoch Times)

As the editor-in-chief of the Hainan Daily in China. After the Tiananmen Square crackdown in June 4th 1989. He was removed from his position in the Party and exiled to the United States.

Moderator: Mr Cheng, what happened in Beijing's students 30 years ago? Then afterwards, why did you leave China?

Cheng Kai, The students in the Square, who went on a hunger strike, didn't want to bring down the Communist Party or Deng Xiaoping. They only wanted to fight the official's corruption.

I did not report any news at first about the student's demonstration. Then I felt, if I continue like that, I would be violating my conscience, so eventually, I reported some details of what happened in Beijing.

In May, Li Peng [Deputy prime minister], waved his fists vigorously, condemning the students, and imposed martial law. Zhao Ziyang [prime minister] was deposed. We took photos of Zhao Ziyang in Tiananmen Square holding a loudspeaker speaking to students, as well as a photo of him before he visited Hainan, and we put it in the Hainan Daily newspaper an article titled "Hello Ziyang", which was a challenge to "Hello Deng Xiaoping". The paper had made a serious mistake in the guidance of public opinion".

A friend told me you must leave China, or you could die. With the help of my friends in Hong Kong I was rescued and ended up in the United States. I didn't plan to live in the United States for long, I wanted to go back to China, but the situation became increasingly worse, so I couldn't go back at all. Even now the possibility of going back is extremely unlikely, unless the Communist Party collapses.

In the past 30 years, I have never stopped fighting for China's democracy movement, and have always been engaged in media work. In my articles I always called for democracy to ensure China's future, and highlighted the CCP regime's increasing fascism.

I am confident that, if I had continued to mix in that Party's circle, and not make mistakes, then I would have naturally been promoted to the deputy ministerial level. But there are corrupt officials all around you, if you want to do right, you will end up in prison, as corrupt officials are "the best officials" in China.

Not everyone in the CCP cadres is bad when they start. If someone gave me 300,000 yuan, I could refuse, if someone give me 3 million yuan I can resist. But what about 30 million yuan? Not necessarily. All People have a good side, but they also have a dark side in them. And officials would be constantly facing girls surrounding you, with all kinds of allure. There are

officials who have two, three wives who have these problems, right? So I feel like I was spiritually liberated when I left that place.

In 1989, on June Fourth in Beijing, there was a tragedy for China and the students who were slaughtered, and for me personally. I left China and started a new life, I can live without shame. When I die, I can look back on my life, and leave this world with peace of mind.

President of "People's Daily": The Reports are all fake

Moderator: I also know that before you took charge of the Hainan Daily, in 1985 to 1987 you were the chief reporter of the People's Daily in Shenzhen city. We know Mr Hu Jiwei, the former president of the People's Daily, who once said that the publication date of the People's Daily is true, everything else is false, what do you think of this sentence?

Cheng Kai: This is real, I don't know exactly when Mr Hu Jiwei said this, but this "People's Daily" was made up from the Jinchaji Daily and other newspapers published around the northwest slope at that time, later those newspapers merged to become the "People's Daily," which has since become the official paper of the CCP Central Committee.

"People's Daily" has never done anything good since its inception, even before it included the "Jinchaji Daily". At the time of the Kuomintang with Communist War, they advocated for the Communist Party's seizure of power. After 1949, right from the suppression of counter-revolution, to the so-called public-private partnership, to the transformation of socialist industry and commerce, to the anti-three, anti-five, and anti-rightist movements all the way to the Cultural Revolution, it continued to crackdown the June 4th.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work at that time when Mr Hu was in charge, he was leading after the Cultural Revolution and advocacy the "Practice Only Criterion for Truth" in order to correct unjust, false and wrongly decided cases. Mr Hu Jiwei said is right, that except for the date, or the weather forecast, none of the news stories

are true. CCP also has to hide from the disastrous weather, the right may not be all true. But in the 80's era, the People's Daily was in sync with the good era of the whole of China.

Moderator: You have also said that the reporters of the People's Daily are not only the mouthpieces of the CCP Central Committee, but are also their eyes and ears. Could you tell us what's about? And Mr Hu Jiwei wanted to make a press law for China?

Cheng Kai: The reporters of the central media, mainly those from "Xinhua News" Agency, more than half of their reporters are responsible for writing internal references. Some reporters who work in the local area, have not had a manuscript for a long time, but they are not idle, their half of their job is to write internal references. This is not an abnormal phenomenon, for a journalist in China, they are the eyes, ears of the central government.

But I felt that Hu Jiwei was a great journalist in China, and that when he was in the "People's Daily", he had very famous words, "people's nature is higher than the party spirit", that is, when the interests of the party conflict with the interests of the people, as a media, or a party newspaper, we must stand on side of the people not the party. He has had a great influence on my life.

This was already vigorously advocated when he was running a newspaper at that time. When Mr Hu Jiwei went to Shenzhen in 1984 and '85, he had already left the People's Daily to become deputy director of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for science, education and culture. Because China does not have a press law, he wants to enact a law for China to ensure that the freedom of speech, freedom of reporting by the media the journalists would not be suppressed, he wants to make such a legislation.

I know Hu Jiwei, who went to Shenzhen in 1985 to investigate the press legislation, and he was going to invite some media colleagues from Hong Kong to come to Shenzhen for the meeting. I was working at the

"Yangcheng Evening News" at that time. Our editor-in-chief called me and said, Mr Hu Jiwei coming to Shenzhen, and you're going to host him." At that time, I was the stationmaster, there was an office, a car, a small canteen, so I accompanied him everywhere every day, I told him my understanding the ins and outs of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, he appreciated it very much, at that time I was very young, he finally said, then you go to the "People's Daily" to work. That is how I ended up working at the "People's Daily".

Hu Jiwei made a very great impact, so I followed his thinking, I accepted it all, and also made my own attempts to promulgate his philosophy- of course, I failed in the end. By the end of the 80s, Hu Jiwei had also failed, but I think it is also a tragic for Chinese media people.

We used the Kuomintang's press freedom of speech to destroy the Kuomintang.

Hu Jiwei's efforts to enact the "Press Law" failed. He had the article and I've seen this draft, he's told me about it, why did it fail? When an article has been drafted, it is submitted to the National People's Congress for discussion and adoption, if passed, it will be a very good event in China.

The Press Law guarantees freedom of expression in the media and freedom of expression in interviews by journalists. However, when he went to Chen Yun, [one of the revolutionary leader of CCP] Chen Yun said that "in the Kuomintang era, our Communist Party used the Kuomintang's press law, press freedom of speech to defeat to destroy the Kuomintang."

At that time in the 1940's Xinhua Daily was criticizing Chiang Kai-shek [Kuomintang] every day, as well as Yan'an's "Liberation Daily"[Yan' an,- CCP's birth place] these papers stated they "took advantage of the freedom of the press, given us by the Kuomintang and we used it freedom to defeated the Kuomintang. So we will not give freedom to the press and let them target us." Therefore, Chen Yun's sentence completely negated the draft press law that Mr Hu Jiwei had hard work

attempted to put into place. There has been no press law in China from 1949 until now. There are many laws in China, and there are many harsh laws, but there is no press law. The name of China's newspaper is call Party. It's really sad for Chinese media people.

"Stop forcing us to tell lies".

Then during the 89 Democracy Movement, there was a short period of press freedom. The most prominent, the "Hainan Daily" broke free from so-called party control and published some remarks. The "People's Daily" also had many senior reporters went on the street, they were military correspondent of the Yan'an era. They have been accompanied the Red's army during the war between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party, and all of them have a very deep root relationship with the Communist Party.

However, although these people are members of the Communist Party and have served the Communist Party all their lives, many of them are also intellectuals, still they have some measure of consciences in their hearts. When it came to the democracy movement in '89, they couldn't help it, and they marched on the streets - some of these people were 7 or 8 levels, and this reporter could have be the secretary of the provincial party committee in the local area, but they were older reporters.

I remember at that time, our friends told me that the president of the People's Daily stood at the gate to stop these people. "Don't go out, if you want to go out, you step on me first. Then the senior reporters said, "You get out of here", pushed him away, and everyone marched to the street. They put up a slogan, "Stop forcing us to tell lies", This is a voice that has been suppressed by media people for decades, during the 89 democracy movement and shouted out at that time, that is, the "People's Daily" took the lead, and since then, media people in Beijing have also taken to the streets, creating a very spectacular wave of protests, the purpose of which is "stop forcing us to tell lies".

Of course, this lie is becoming more outrageous, and extreme, since after the 89 Democracy Movement was suppressed, China entered the darkest era in its history, and the moral, spirit of the entire nation degenerated beyond measure, the nation has become violent, shameless, and hooliganism has prevailed.

The current "People's Daily" can't be called a newspaper, it is purely a document of the Central Committee of the CCP it has no reader appeal ability, a kind of propaganda. I would say that there are good People, the mainstream Chinese are not good people, and are becoming evil, and I don't know who will be able to save our nation in the future.

Moderator: Thank you very much Mr. Cheng Kai for sharing your rich experience with us, thank you.

A recently news reported, Mr Cheng Kai passed away suddenly in January this year 2025. His friends all miss him, and are grateful to him for his contribution to the development Chinese democracy.

The Kuomintang (KMT) is a Chinese political party that ruled mainland China from 1927 to 1949 prior to its relocation to Taiwan as a result of the Chinese Civil War. The name of the party translates directly as "National People's Party of China" or "Chinese National Party" and was historically referred to as the Chinese Nationalists. The party was initially founded on 23 August 1912, by Sun Yat-sen but dissolved in November 1913. It reformed on October 10, 1919, again led by Sun Yat-sen, and became the ruling party in China. After Sun's death, the party was dominated from 1927 to 1975 by Chiang Kai-shek. After the KMT lost the civil war with the Chinese Communist Party in 1949, the party retreated to Taiwan and remains a major political party of the Republic of China based in Taiwan.

For more Information Kuomintang of China, please go to below website :

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Kuomintang

Chapter Thirteen: The Media – The Specter’s Mouthpiece

From the beginning, the Communists have viewed the media as tools for brainwashing. The 1847 document “Rules of the Communist League,” which Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels helped write, asked members to have “revolutionary energy and zeal in propaganda...



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