DISINFORMATION ON CHINA

By Stephen Chang

The following is an email by Stephen Chang to Prof. Steve Tsang, the director of the China Institute of University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies sent on 16th July 2020:

This email is written in a blunt and direct manner.

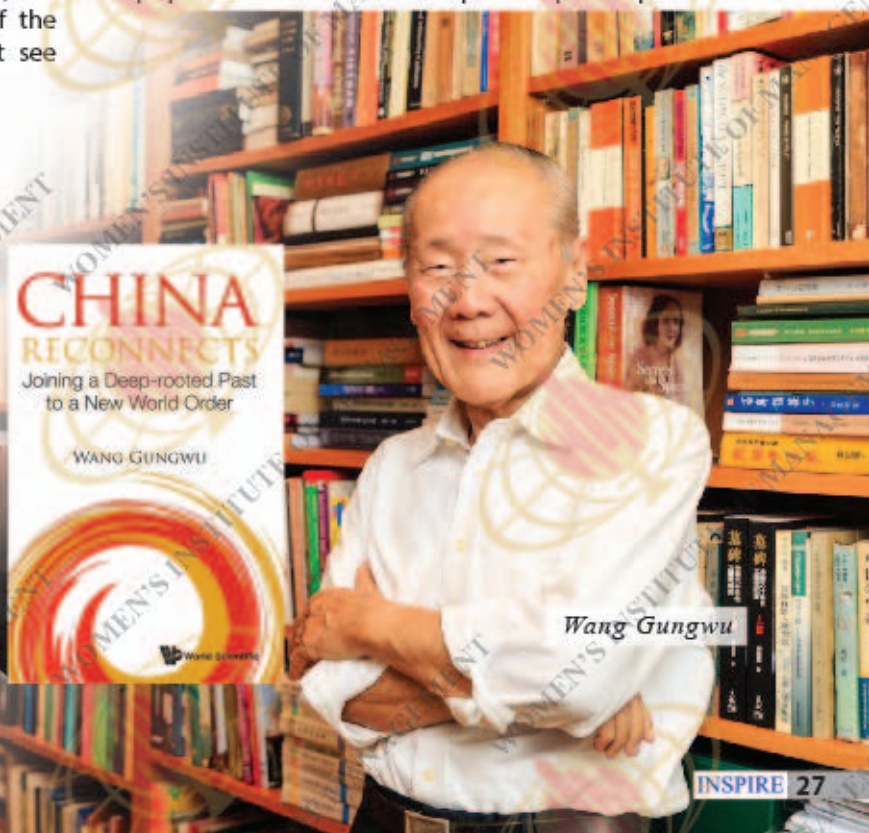
At the Zoom talk by Professor Wang Gungwu on the launch of his book "China Reconnects", your introductory comments were nakedly and totally opposite to Professor Wang's talk setting out the summary of his book. Prof. Wang's book was about China's connection with its history from the time of the Chin and Han dynasty on China's need for a strong, unified, centrally controlled China with the necessary military might and wealth to defend China against foreign invasion, subjugation and the break-up of China.

In your introduction to Prof. Wang's talk, you pedalled the need for Western liberal democracy in China. You praised Prof. Wang's book – obviously, you must have read the book, but you are blinded by your ideological straightjacket of the supremacy of Western liberal democracy and cannot see beyond your nose.

Your mind and thinking appears to have been totally subverted in its entirety by Professor Yoshihiro Francis Fukuyama, the political scientist community idiot of the 20th century, whose book "The End of History and the Last Man" (published in 1992) proclaimed that the end of the cold war following the dissolution of the Soviet Union was not the passing of a particular period of history but the end of history itself – the end point of mankind's ideological evolution and the universalisation of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human government. You like Fukuyama are highly acclaimed by the West as a great political scientist and historian, and the reason is obvious.

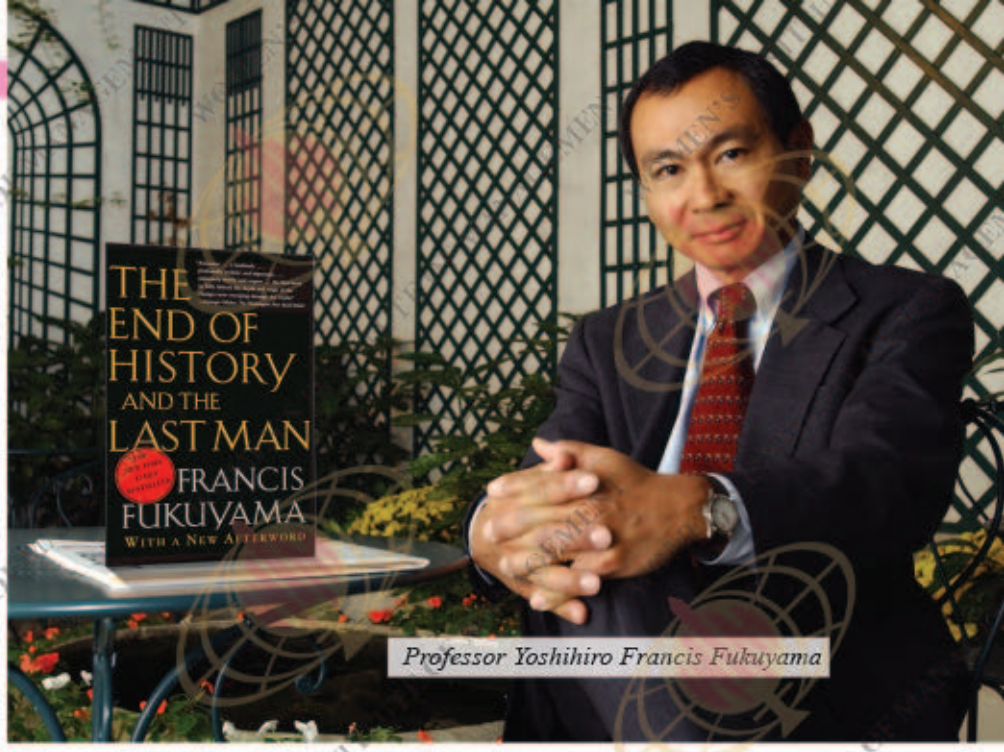
I was a mere business development consultant and chartered accountant, living and working in London since 1968. When I read a review of Fukuyama's book in 1992 I told my friends, especially those who were interested in political matters, that Fukuyama is a fool and has zero knowledge of China with no real understanding of history and the immensely broad and deep spectrum of economic and political philosophies.

Steve Tsang



Wang Gungwu

One of the main reasons I came to London (with no intention of settling in the UK but events resulted in me living in the UK) was to read books that were not available or permitted in Malaysia, the country of my birth. In my first 3 years in London, I read Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao (which were not available in Malaysia at that time), and since 1968 I have been following the developments in China very closely.



Professor Yoshihiro Francis Fukuyama

You, like Fukuyama, believe in the supremacy of Western liberal democracy and accordingly are myopic and blinkered in your world view, interpreting the world through the lens of Western liberal ideology and are incapable of seeing from any other point of view. Yet, you are the director of the China Institute at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

Your writings in British newspapers and talks and interviews on the BBC contribute to the disinformation about China and the poisoning of minds of the British people about China. I take the example of your article "China will punish Britain for defying its will. We (the British) need allies (the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the EU) to hold the line" published in "The Observer" newspaper on Sunday 12 July 2020. In your article, you defended the UK's banning of Huawei and UK's interference in Hong Kong under the Western interpretation of the Sino-British joint declaration. In your view, the UK's hostile policy against China is totally justifiable because China is not a liberal democratic society.

You wrote in your article: "Nor should we (the UK) abandon our (the UK) basic values as we engage with China. No amount of trade and investment can justify the abandonment of our (the UK) commitment to the rights and dignity of the individual, the rule of law and democratic principles".

Where are the rights and dignity of the Middle Eastern individuals and rule of law when the UK and Australia were the US's principal allies in the illegal invasion of Iraq, the destabilisation and destruction of the Middle East by the US' and UK's support of terrorists in Syria and Libya resulting in deaths of hundreds of thousands and millions of refugees?

The US, UK and Australia have closed their doors to refugees caused by their policies in the Middle East. Yet, they are "welcoming" Hong Kong BNO passport holders. In my view, the UK's offer of eventual British citizenship to Hong Kong BNO passport holders is to swell the ranks of people of Chinese ethnicity in the UK who share your world view. Such ethnic Chinese will be used by the UK, just as you are being used, to support and bolster the UK's anti-China policy to attempt to obstruct and disrupt China's progress.

You concluded your article as follows: "The reality remains that upholding our (the UK) values will result in the UK being punished by China, whose foreign policy aims to make the world safe for authoritarianism – a world in which the communist party's hold on power in China cannot be challenged. To face this reality, we (the West) must work with our (the UK) democratic allies to form a united front. Chinese threats to inflict economic pain on individual democracy become hollow if we all (the West) hold the same line and do not allow Beijing to divide and rule".

The UK is the master of divide and rule – look at the mess the UK left behind in most of its former colonies. The US's use of its authoritarian power and might has caused countless wars and violent regime changes (including democratically elected governments in Iran, Iraq, Indonesia and Chile just to name a few) of sovereign nations' governments that did not serve the US' neo-imperial objectives. Has "authoritarian" China invaded or subverted any nation to bring about regime change?

I am sure that there are quite a few China-bashers from people of Chinese ethnic background who will agree with you. But I, and very many people like me, 1.4 billion Chinese in China and millions upon millions of people from all over the world, including the West, wish China every success in contributing to a better world and for China to prevail.

Hong Kong BNO passport holder

It should also be noted that the Western establishments (e.g. the BBC) and people like you use the phrase "the world condemns China for this or for that" when it is only a minority of countries. Recently the main Western media was screaming that the WORLD condemns China's Hong Kong Security Law. The facts are that at the 44th session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) meeting on China's Security Law on Hong Kong, participated by 80 countries, 53 countries supported China and 27 countries were opposed.

The 27 countries consisted of Japan, 3 countries with diplomatic ties with Taiwan and the other 23 are Western countries – the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and 19 continental European countries! The US was not present as they left the UNHRC two years ago. Yet, the headlines in Western media consistently proclaim the world condemns China's Hong Kong Security Law.

The fundamental human rights are the rights not to starve, to have a roof over one's head, to have access to education, health care, a safe environment and peace. China's system of government primarily serves the fundamental human rights of its people. In less than 30 years it has lifted 800 million people out of poverty as defined and acknowledged by the World Bank and the UN. While the income disparity has grown, everyone in China has benefited and enjoyed great improvements in their quality of life never seen before in the history of China. Chinese people especially the young are optimistic about their future.

In the West, there is procedural democracy where people could cast their votes once every 4 or 5 years, and that is about all. The democratically elected government fundamentally serves the interest of the 1%, at best 5%, of the elite and the benefactors who bankroll the election of the government. In Western liberal democracies, lies are told to elect charlatans as leaders; obscene wealth is used to buy high public office.

The income gap has increased beyond imagination but the bottom 50% has at best stagnated and at worst standards of living have diminished. Non-whites, especially those who are black or brown, are killed daily, harassed and marginalised in spite of so-called democracy and human rights proclaimed as hallmarks of Western liberal democracy.

I am not against liberal democracy as it has its benefits if properly implemented and upheld. I am totally against the Western Establishments led by the US in their attempt to maintain and extend their hegemony by using their concept of liberal democracy to interfere in the affairs of sovereign nations to cause disruptions and destabilisation, and to create barriers to stifle sovereign nations' growth and progression.

The rise of the US, like that of the UK, is based on barbaric land and resource grabbing, violence, racism and genocide until the present time. Yet the US declaration of independence almost 250 years ago in 1776 proclaimed that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness". This still rings hollow today.

I am an internationalist – I am not pro-China because I am ethnic Chinese. I am pro-China because China is the only country that is developing – with a lot of pain, sufferings, hardship, set-backs as well as great achievements, progress and success – a social, economic and political model that meets the needs of its people. In stark contrast, the predatory neo-liberal unfettered free market led by the US has enriched a very tiny minority in every continent and many more in Western Europe and North America and in the process caused the deaths of millions and created misery, suffering and wars in the Middle East, Africa, the Americas and Asia.

China has come of age and will stand up to all bullies including the drug-pushing UK establishment that dumped opium on China when China was self-contained and did not see the need to trade with the UK, and the UK now bans trade with China because the UK was told not to trade with China by their special relation, the US; and you as a "China expert" cheer on the UK!

The UK establishment has provided you with a range of platforms at the expense of the British people to pedal your misinformation about China to poison the minds of the British people. This email, which will be circulated as a chain for others to circulate, is to expose your pedalling on behalf of the UK establishment.

Yours truly,
Stephen Chang

Stephen Chang was born in Malaysia and is a business consultant development consultant and chartered accountant living and working in London since 1968.

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