

Analysis Report: 23 Years After Hong Kong's Handover

Mainland Affairs Council

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- **CCP interference in Hong Kong's autonomy under pretext of "stopping riots" seriously impacts "one country, two systems"**
- **Economic indicators in Hong Kong weaken to historic lows**
- **CCP intervention undermines Hong Kong's media and educational autonomy and judicial independence**
- **International community reassesses Hong Kong's special treatment and business environment**
- **CCP strongly promotes integration of Hong Kong with the Mainland as contradictions between the two sides worsen**
- **Taiwan offers assistance and care and closely assesses measures in response to developments in Hong Kong**

I. Overall Review and Analysis

Hong Kong was handed over to mainland China in 1997. Premised on Hong Kong maintaining its free economic system and autonomous status, the government of the Republic of China (ROC) positions Hong Kong as a "special area," unique from the Mainland area, in order to maintain consistency and continuity in its Hong Kong policy and the various direct interactions between the people of Taiwan and Hong Kong. The government therefore annually reports on the overall developments in Hong Kong and the status of Taiwan-Hong Kong

relations. This is the 23st in a series of such regular reports, covering an observation period from July 2019 to early July 2020

Overall, the autonomy and basic rights of the people in Hong Kong has been increasingly eroded by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The CCP's "bottom-line mindset" drew a political, economic, and social "red line" has undermined the open and pluralistic thinking, free market spirit, and awareness of rule of law pervasive in Hong Kong. Despite the circumstances, people of Hong Kong have continued to courageously defend their rights and won international recognition and support. The government of the Republic of China (ROC) pledges to closely observe developments in Hong Kong, conjure up contingency measures, and respond in due course. Moreover, the government will continue to provide necessary assistance to the people of Hong Kong.

In the past year, the momentum of earlier protests against the "extradition (to China) bill" continued. In particular, Hong Kong has seen different scales of street protests, a high turn-out rate for the District Council elections, broader international collaborations, the emerging "Yellow Economic Circle," and widespread labor union protests, which constitute the most widely participated social movements. The strong activism has evoked serious clashes between the police and the people. Meanwhile, differing views over the protests have fueled antagonism and schisms among political parties and community groups, and even within families. During this time, there have even been rumors of potential suppression, curfews, and martial law imposed by the Hong Kong Garrison of the CCP's People's Liberation Army (PLA). These unrests have caused a sense of anxiety and insecurity in Hong Kong's society.

The CCP's relentless curtailment and oppression of Hong Kong's autonomy has made Hong Kong an international issue. The United Kingdom (UK), United States (US), and European Union (EU) have repeatedly voiced concern over the freedom and rights of Hongkongers and condemned the CCP for violating its international commitments to "a high degree of autonomy and Hong Kong governed by Hongkongers." On the one hand, the US government has not only

passed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act and Hong Kong Autonomy Act, among other related bills and motions, but announced plans to cancel special treatment for Hong Kong and impose sanctions against CCP officials who pressure Hong Kong's autonomy. On the other hand, the UK government stated that it would relax residency restrictions for Hong Kong holders of British National (Overseas) passports. The European Parliament also approved an "emergency exit" motion that urges EU countries to receive Hongkongers in case of deteriorating situations. CCP's control over Hong Kong has cost it the title as the freest economy and raised international doubts over Hong Kong's investment and business environment. Taiwan repeatedly called on the CCP to not respond to international concerns with the knee-jerk claim of interference in its internal affairs; rather, the CCP should abide by its international commitments and respect the basic rights of the people of Hong Kong in order to maintain the status of Hong Kong as an international financial center.

Protests against the "extradition (to China) bill" may have weakened amidst the COVID-19 epidemic, but the CCP has not paused actions to strengthen its governance team and control of Hong Kong. Such actions have realized in the form of the replacement of top officials at the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council (HKMAO) and Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the "Liaison Office"), the announcement that the Liaison Office is not subject to the Basic Law, the promotion of the Central Coordination Group for Hong Kong and Macao Affairs to leading group status, and the forced enactment of the Hong Kong National Security Law this May. As details of the Hong Kong National Security Law come to light, questions and dispute have risen over the CCP's plans to establish an Office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), and designate a national security adviser to sit as a backstage ruler on the Hong Kong government's Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the HKSAR. Concerns mainly target the future division of tasks between national security agencies and the Liaison Office, as well

as the extradition of people of Hong Kong who break the law to mainland China for trial.

The government of the Republic of China (ROC) continues to closely watch developments in Hong Kong and provide necessary assistance for Taiwanese and Hongkongers. For example, when clashes erupted between the police and people at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU) against the “extradition (to China) bill” last November, related ROC government units helped 680 Taiwan students at CUHK and other schools in Hong Kong return safely to Taiwan between November 11 and 14. Meanwhile, Following the arrest of some Taiwanese high school students during the confrontation at HKPU, personnel from Taiwan's overseas office accompanied families to visit the detained students and provide legal assistance to secure their release.

In response to the CCP's attempt to change the status in Hong Kong by forcing through the Hong Kong National Security Law, the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC), by instruction of the president and premier, planned a Humanitarian Aid Project for Hong Kong Citizens and established the Taiwan-Hong Kong Office for Exchanges and Services (officially operational from July 1, 2020) to provide consulting services and assistance to people from Hong Kong coming to Taiwan for study, employment, investment, entrepreneurship, immigration, residency, and business relocation. The office will also pragmatically handle and review matters related to support and care for Hongkongers subject to national security, in accordance with existing laws and regulations, and through public-private partnerships. Moreover, Taiwan hopes that the Hong Kong Legislative Council election to be held in September this year will be conducted in a fair, free, and peaceful manner, so the people of Hong Kong can fully express their views and vision for the further development of Hong Kong.

The following presents an analysis of developments on the 23rd anniversary of Hong Kong's handover (July 2019 to June 2020):

1. CCP interference in Hong Kong's autonomy under pretext of "stopping riots" seriously impacts "one country, two systems"

The annual rally to mark the handover anniversary on July 1, 2019, attracted a record turnout due to accumulated dissatisfaction from earlier protests against the "extradition (to China) bill." However, the splintered off events, known as the storming of the Legislative Council, marked a break from Hong Kong's peaceful demonstrations against the said bill as protests intensified. The protests became more heated after the Hong Kong government failed to respond positively to the protesters' demands. The public's views on the pros and cons of the protests grew more polarized as the situation in Hong Kong descended into vicious spiral of violence.

The peaceful and radical protesters in the Hong Kong protests shared a brotherhood unity and both embraced the strategy of "resist like water," namely being highly flexible in their tactics. For instance, some protests unfolded in the traditional form of assemblies, parades, sit-ins, road blocks, Lennon Walls, and work, shop, and school strikes. In the meantime, more advanced approaches were also emerging in the likes of paralyzing transportation facilities such as airport and MTR, forming the "Yellow Economic Circle", and initiating small-scale, scattered or flash protests that demonstrated the diversification and comprehensiveness of the protest actions and momentum. In response to the backlash, the Hong Kong government finally announced on September 4 that it would withdraw the draft revisions to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance. However, it made a cold response to the other protest demands and even sought to deter protests with the "anti-mask law" drawn from the Emergency Regulations Ordinance.

Public opinion surveys showed a steady fall in the popularity of the chief executive and principal officials to new lows. These officials nearly lost their governing authority and depended increasingly on police repression that was met by more violence. Police used a variety of crowd dispersing weapons, water

cannons, and live ammunition against the protesters, injuring some. Strong-arm control and mass arrests became a daily scene in the media. According to police information, from June 9 last year to May 31 this year, the police fired 16,000 tear gas canisters, arrested 8,986 people, and prosecuted 1,754 people, 612 for rioting. Minors under the age of 18 accounted for 1,609 of the arrests, or 17.9% of the total. The numbers of people arrested and prosecuted were the highest on record since the handover.

Hong Kong also experienced several incidents that shocked the public and altered the city's political structure and relations between the police and people. These included the Yuen Long white shirt attacks against protesters on July 21 last year, police attacks against city residents at Prince Edward Station on August 31, and a police blockade at CUHK and HKPU in mid-November. These incidents caused a humanitarian crisis and controversy that not only destroyed the image and credibility of the police, but also heightened international attention to the situation in Hong Kong.

Protesters also expanded their target from the Hong Kong government to the CCP offices in Hong Kong, Chinese banks, Xinhua News Agency, and the offices of pro-establishment camp and their members. They also defaced CCP national emblems and flags. However, the CCP never considered responding to the demands of the Hong Kong people. Instead, it intensified implementation of full governance rights and high profile intervention in Hong Kong's internal autonomous affairs under the pretext of "stopping the riots," resulting in 12 controversies that further undermined the legitimacy of "one country, two systems" (see Annex I). One of these incidents was the Liaison Office claiming that it was not bound by the Basic Law and could exercise supervisory authority over major issues related to Hong Kong. Another incident saw the Hong Kong National Security Law asserting that the Office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR and related national authorities can exercise jurisdiction over national security cases in Hong Kong in "specific situations" . All of these moves will have a structural influence on the meaning of

"one country, two systems" as they rationalize public intervention in Hong Kong's autonomous affairs by the CCP offices in Hong Kong, legitimize law enforcement by CCP national security units in Hong Kong, and threaten the freedom, rule of law, and other core values on which Hong Kong's success is built. According to a poll announced by the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute (HKPORI) on June 19, 2020, about 50% of the respondents felt Hong Kong has shifted from "one country, two systems" to "one country, one system."

In the face of intense repression by the CCP and Hong Kong government, the people of Hong Kong voted to elect candidates opposing the extradition (to China) bill to 86% of the seats in the District Council elections last November. The result highlighted the insistence of the people of Hong Kong on freedom, human rights, and the rule of law. It was also universally applauded in the international community.

Moreover, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hong Kong government has continued to arrest well known pan-democrats, including Martin Lee, Margaret Ng, and Jimmy Lai, as well as protesters opposing the "extradition (to China) bill." Although they were released on bail, the public denounced the mass arrests, saying they have a chilling effect and intent to deter the people of Hong Kong from continuing to protest. Commentators have also described the Legislative Council election in September this year as a referendum by the people of Hong Kong on the Hong Kong National Security Law and CCP governance policy.

2. Economic indicators in Hong Kong weaken to historic lows

Hong Kong's economy weakened significantly in the first half of 2019. In the third quarter, the economy shrank at an annual pace of 1.2% due to global economic slowdown and US-China trade friction. This was the first such year over year (YoY) decline since the Great Recession of 2009. In the first quarter of 2020, the GDP fell by 8.9%, marking the worst quarter since the 1960s. The Hong Kong

government has forecast that Hong Kong's economy will grow in real terms in the range of negative 1.5% to positive 0.5% this year.

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council issued a report on June 16, 2020, forecasting that Hong Kong's exports would contract by 10% this year, down from an originally projected fall of 2%, to a 10-year low. On February 26, 2020, the Hong Kong government announced a decline in tax revenues in its new annual budget, citing the combination of periphery economy, protests against the “extradition (to China) bill”, and the COVID-19 pandemic as the main factor. It predicted a record high budget deficit of HK\$139.1 billion next year, surpassing the international standard of deficits at 3% of gross domestic product (GDP).

Deteriorating economic conditions also steadily weakened the labor market. Economic activity in Hong Kong was hit hard by the growing COVID-19 pandemic in the early 2020. According to data announced by the Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department on June 16, 2020, Hong Kong's unemployment rate rose to a 15-year high of 5.9%, while the underemployment rate spiked to 3.5%, a 17-year high.

In the face of a recession in the second half of 2019, the Hong Kong government has introduced four rounds of stimulus measures totaling more than HK\$33 billion for companies and individuals since August 2019. In 2020, the government established a NT\$30 billion pandemic prevention fund in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and introduced a number of relief measures. The results of the above measures remain to be seen.

International rating agencies continued to issue warnings over Hong Kong's high dependency on and close links to mainland China's economy, concerns that have led to numerous downgrading of the city's rating(see Controversies 3 and 11 in Annex I). In addition, Hong Kong's financial secretary presented a draft budget to the Legislative Council stating that the city's economic development will be further complicated by the US-China relations on top of a weak global economy . The US responded to the CCP's drafting of the Hong Kong National Security Law

with plans on canceling Hong Kong's special treatment due to its loss of a high degree of autonomy.

Although the US has not yet announced specific measures for the cancellation of Hong Kong's special treatment, the CCP and Hong Kong government subsequently reiterated that Hong Kong's status as a separate customs territories is not granted unilaterally by individual countries but is determined by the World Trade Organization. They also claimed to be adequately prepared for any economic sanctions that the US may adopt and are ready to retaliate at any time. The US-China face-off has raised international concern over Hong Kong's economic development. The world is also closely watching the impact on Hong Kong's position as an international financial center.

3. CCP intervention undermines Hong Kong's media and educational autonomy and judicial independence

The Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA) released its 2019 Annual Report on Freedom of Expression on July 7, 2019. The report noted that the "red line" warning given by Xi Jinping during his visit to Hong Kong in 2017 (the people of Hong Kong shall not cross the central government's bottom line, including endangering national sovereignty and security, challenging the authority of the central government and Basic Law, and using Hong Kong to infiltrate and sabotage mainland China) has brought about profound damages to Hongkongers' freedom of press and expression. Over the past year, the "red line" has constantly appeared in media, education, judiciary, and other fields in Hong Kong.

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has traditionally followed the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) model of independent and autonomous action. However, over the past year, the station has come under sustained criticism by CCP officials and the official media. For example, RTHK was asked to strictly punish a reporter for violating the "one-China principle" as he asked about Taiwan's membership during an interview with a senior advisor of the World Health Organization (WHO). Similarly, some Hong Kong and Taiwan news commentary

programs were forced off the air as a result of satirizing the CCP, Hong Kong government, and police handling of protests against the “extradition (to China) bill.”

The CCP has further extended its confrontation with the US to Hong Kong's media sector. On March 17, 2020, the CCP announced that US reporters of the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, and other institutions had 10 days to turn in their press cards and were prohibited from reporting in mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macao. In response to the incident, Hong Kong Legislative Council members indicated that the Basic Law endows the Hong Kong government with the right of immigration control and therefore the authority to issue work visas for foreign reporters. The fact that Beijing prohibited foreign media reporters from conducting interviews in place of the government had clearly overstepped Hong Kong's jurisdiction. The Council members equated the move to a public announcement that "one country, two systems" is dead. This is bound to impact Hong Kong's position as an international financial center (see Controversy 9 in Annex I).

Hong Kong ranked the 80th in the Reporters Without Borders' 2020 World Press Freedom Index, seven spots lower than in 2019, placing Hong Kong in the category of "problematic situation." On June 18, 2020, the HKJA issued an investigative report on journalist opinions towards the CCP's Hong Kong National Security Law. The report found that 98% of the association members oppose the law. More than 90% of the respondents were concerned about their personal safety; 87% felt the law would seriously affect freedom of press; 98% feared that self-censorship would worsen after the law is enacted; and 79% said that the law would dampen media reporting of sensitive issues, such as Hong Kong independence, Taiwan independence, and Xinjiang. Hong Kong public opinion generally worried that the space for media independence and autonomy in Hong Kong would shrink.

CCP officials and official media have also criticized education in Hong Kong. In particular, Xinhua News Agency, the Global Times, and other official media channels blamed the chaos in Hong Kong on deficiencies in the national education

of the city's youth and the lack of patriotic awareness among teachers. They pressed the Hong Kong government to immediately make improvements. During the police blockade of CUHK and HKPU, and even the resulting humanitarian crisis, CCP institutions and official media vigorously criticized “extradition (to China) bill” external forces for instigating student activism for the “extradition (to China) bill” instead of considering the students' demands and solutions. Moreover, the CCP Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Office of the Commissioner in Hong Kong and official media subsequently attacked the inappropriate history questions on the Diploma of Secondary Education (DSE) examination. The Hong Kong government was forced to remove the questions and punish personnel involved in the examination affairs. In conjunction with removal of the questions, the Hong Kong government notified schools that teachers and students may not declare positions on political issues. It also recently mandated that teacher training must include 30 hours of classes on "national and international education development" and "teacher roles, values, and ethics." The decision on the Hong Kong National Security Law announced by the Standing Committee of the CCP National People's Congress (NPC) on May 22 also required Hong Kong's chief executive to report regularly on progress in promoting national security education.

The CCP's unreasonable intervention in education in Hong Kong has had adverse effects. In a survey announced by the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union on June 16, 2020, nearly 60% of the interviewed teachers said they would avoid participating in legal assemblies or parades to avoid trouble and 91.8% said they had a negative outlook for the development of education in Hong Kong.

Public opinion in Hong Kong indicated that the comments and direction by the CCP's offices in Hong Kong and official media regarding education in Hong Kong violate Article 22 of the Basic Law prohibiting central government agencies from interfering in affairs that Hong Kong administers independently, as well as Article 137 of the same law granting educational institutions in Hong Kong autonomy and academic freedom. Additionally, concerns rise along with the CCP's infiltration of university administrations and teachers, directions for primary and

secondary school teachers and teaching materials, and Hong Kong education units' compliance over whether educational autonomy and academic freedom in Hong Kong can continue (see Controversy 8 in Annex I).

The CCP has also drawn a "red line" on Hong Kong's judicial independence. In a Reuters interview on April 14, 2020, three anonymous senior judges in Hong Kong - said that judicial independence is under attack by the CCP. They also worried that Beijing would erode Hong Kong's judicial authority through obscure means, such as intervention in judicial candidates and frequent legal interpretations, to promote its political agenda. These concerns have materialized recently. On November 18, 2019, Hong Kong's High Court ruled that the government's institution of regulations under the Emergency Regulations Ordinance upon situations endangering public security is inconsistent with the Basic Law; similarly, the "anti-mask law" exceeds reasonable limits on fundamental rights and is deemed unconstitutional. The Hong Kong court's move unambiguously highlighted its judicial independence. However, the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, HKMAO, and Liaison Office strongly criticized the ruling, claiming that only the NPC Standing Committee can decide if Hong Kong laws comply with the Basic Law. Following this line of thought, Hong Kong's High Court of Appeal ruled on April 9, 2020, that the Hong Kong government did not violate the constitution. Amidst the opposing results, Hong Kong's legal community and public opinion criticized the latter ruling as CCP's intervention in Hong Kong's judicial independence (see Controversy 6 in Annex I).

On June 20, the NPC Standing Committee stated that the draft of Hong Kong National Security Law stipulates that the Hong Kong chief executive may designate judges to hear national security cases, further raising concerns over the undermining of Hong Kong's judicial independence and power of final adjudication (see Controversy 12 in Annex I).

4. International community reassesses Hong Kong's special treatment and business environment

In recent years, the CCP has unilaterally reinterpreted the "one country, two systems" and tightened down on Hong Kong. The resulting rapid changes in Hong Kong have caused the world to reassess the city's special treatment distinct from mainland China. They have also deeply shaken Hong Kong's status as an international financial center, as well as international investor confidence in the city.

The protests against the "extradition (to China) bill" have met with a steady stream of statements from the international community. They have also prompted the US to approve the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act and PROTECT Hong Kong Act. The US has also sanctioned official mechanisms in the Mainland and Hong Kong that undermine Hong Kong's autonomy and is weighing adjustments in exports of crowd surveillance and violence suppression equipment to Hong Kong.

The CCP's unilateral imposition of the Hong Kong National Security Law rekindled international criticism over the CCP's violation of international pledges of a "high degree of autonomy and Hong Kong governed by the people of Hong Kong." The US Secretary of State announced that Hong Kong is no longer able to maintain a high degree of autonomy. President Trump said he is looking at eliminating Hong Kong's special treatment, reviewing extradition and export of high-tech products comprehensively, suspending preferential tariffs, updating travel alerts to inform US citizens that they could be monitored in Hong Kong, and sanctioning Mainland and Hong Kong officials who undermine Hong Kong's autonomy. On June 17, the US Department of Justice further stated that, based on national security concerns, it has recommended that the Federal Communications Commission deny a plan to connect the US and Hong Kong through a trans-Pacific underwater communications cable. It also recommended a cable linkage to Taiwan and the Philippines instead. In addition, the US House of Representatives passed the Hong Kong Autonomy Act on June 25 that authorizes

the US government for financial and other sanctions against CCP officials and companies who undermine Hong Kong's autonomy.

The British prime minister announced that the UK would extend the residence period for British National (Overseas) passport holders. Meanwhile, the European Parliament overwhelmingly passed with 565 votes a motion to safeguard Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy. The motion opposes the CCP's enactment of the Hong Kong National Security Law and urges EU countries to provide an "emergency exit" mechanism for the oppressed people of Hong Kong.

The CCP's unilateral actions towards "one country, two systems" in Hong Kong and coercion of HSBC, Standard Chartered, and other companies to express support for the Hong Kong National Security Law have also evoked international concern over Hong Kong's business environment. Specifically, the International Monetary Fund reduced its forecast for Hong Kong's economic growth rate to 0.3% in its 2019 Fall World Economic Outlook released on October 15, 2019, marking the lowest pace among the Four Asian Tigers. The Heritage Foundation revealed Hong Kong's loss of 25-year position as the world's freest economy in its survey released in March this year. The report noted that political and social unrest have weakened Hong Kong's business reputation and heightened security issues. Moreover, the British think tank Z/Yen showed Hong Kong's ranking fall from third place to sixth place amidst increasing Hong Kong-Mainland integration in its Global Financial Centres Index released on March 26, 2020. Lastly, the International Institute for Management Development in Lausanne, Switzerland, witnessed Hong Kong's global standing falling from second to fifth place in its 2020 World Competitiveness Ranking.

The International Chamber of Commerce–Hong Kong issued an opinion paper on the Hong Kong National Security Law on June 22, 2020. The paper called the CCP's approach shocking. It criticized the law for its ambiguity and for causing fear and loss of confidence among foreign investors. The American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong surveyed its members during the protests against the "extradition (to China) bill." The survey found that nearly 60% of its members are

considering leaving Hong Kong. About 60% of the members also stated that the CCP's Hong Kong National Security Law will harm their business operations in Hong Kong, while 48% of members expressed pessimism over the medium- and long-term business environment in Hong Kong.

Upon international concerns about developments in Hong Kong, the CCP responded invariably by claiming intervention in its internal affairs. It has also proposed countermeasures to the US Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, and refused port visits to Hong Kong by US warships, prevented an American journalist from entering Hong Kong for newsgathering, named the US National Endowment for Democracy for funding Hong Kong's "color revolution," and denied international people concerned about Hong Kong to enter the city. However, this has also incurred criticism and concern over CCP curtailment of the space for freedom under "one country, two systems" and the impact on Hong Kong's position as an international financial center (see Controversies 4, 7, and 9 in Annex I).

5. CCP strongly promotes integration of Hong Kong with the Mainland as contradictions between the two sides worsen

On November 14, as protests against the "extradition (to China) bill" in Hong Kong raged, Xi Jinping proposed the "three severities," "three firm supports," and "three unwavering determinations" highlighting the "bottom-line mindset" of developing national sovereignty, safety, and interests as the main principle of China's Hong Kong policy. The Mainland also continued to promote a policy of economic benefits to integrate Hong Kong, as well as foster an image of joint efforts between the Mainland and Hong Kong to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and alleviate public discontent in Hong Kong.

The CCP held the third session of the Central Leading Group for Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area on November 6, 2019, in Beijing. Sixteen measures beneficial to Hong Kong were proposed, including measures to facilitate home purchasing by Hong Kong

residents in the Greater Bay Area, explore the establishment of cross-border financial management mechanisms, support industrial cooperation and development, and facilitate daily life. The meeting attempted to advance integration to resist rising separatism in Hong Kong and divert Hongkongers' political dissatisfaction with the economy and livelihood issues. However, substantial results will be difficult to achieve in the short term.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced closure of customs operations between Hong Kong and mainland China in early 2020. However, the CCP and the Hong Kong government jointly sought to create an atmosphere of both sides working together towards a common goal by providing livelihood supplies and relief. They sought thereby to eliminate rising opposition and animosity in the Mainland and Hong Kong due to protests over the "extradition (to China) bill" and the pandemic. Such measures included an announcement by Guangdong Province that "Hong Kong and Macao would not be locked down and supplies would be guaranteed," the shipment of 17 million masks to Hong Kong arranged by the HKMAO, an RMB¥1 billion donation to the Mainland through the Liaison Office by various sectors of Hong Kong, and the call of the Liaison Office director for Mainland enterprises to ensure normal market supply of food and daily necessities and fully support the epidemic prevention work of the Hong Kong government.

However, the CCP has not relaxed its control over Hong Kong. At the start of this year, it successively replaced the director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs and Liaison Office in HKSAR. It also assigned the directors of the HKMAO to serve as deputy directors of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council to clarify affiliation. In addition, the CCP Office of the Central Coordination Group for Hong Kong and Macao Affairs was upgraded to a leading group to strengthen control over Hong Kong. Moreover, Reuters reported that, during a meeting in Shenzhen, the CCP State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council demanded more than 100 state-owned enterprises to strengthen investment in Hong Kong, not only as shareholders, but also to obtain company control and decision-making power to

assist in quelling social instability and chaos in Hong Kong. However, academics worried that such politically motivated investment would harm Hong Kong's free economic system and dampen foreign interest in investing in Hong Kong (see Controversy 3 in Annex I).

In addition to intervening in Hong Kong's economy, the CCP has attracted widespread concern over its use of the role of the PLA Hong Kong Garrison. In the early period after Hong Kong's handover, the CCP instructed the garrison to maintain a low profile to overcome the Hong Kong public's image of PLA brutality during the Tiananmen Square incident. The garrison carried out troop rotations late at night and had been highly rated in public surveys over the years. However, on July 24, November 28, and December 26, amidst the protests against the extradition to China bill, the CCP Ministry of National Defense, citing the Garrison Law, implied that the PLA could intervene to maintain order at the request of the Hong Kong government. On July 31, PLA Hong Kong Garrison Commander Chen Daoxiang emphasized that extreme violence would not be tolerated. Moreover, the CCP released a high-profile video showing the PLA Hong Kong Garrison conducting intensive drills with suppression of unrest in Hong Kong as one of the training objectives. The video became a focus of concern in Hong Kong and abroad, raising questions over whether the PLA would enter the city in a "Hong Kong version of the Tiananmen Square Incident." The PLA's desire to play an active role in "stopping the riots" is a source of deep concern and unease among the people of Hong Kong (see Controversies 2 and 5 in Annex I).

According to the results of a public opinion survey announced by the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute on June 16, 2020, the people of Hong Kong rated their identification as "Hongkongers" at 8.6, the highest point since last year. They also rated their identification as "Chinese" at 5.7, the lowest point since August 1997. In a survey conducted at the end of May by the Centre for Communication and Public Opinion Survey at CUHK, 52.3% of the respondents agreed that Hong Kong has responsibility for behavior and activities that endanger national security (20.2% disagreed). However, 63% worried that the Hong Kong

National Security Law would infringe the rights and freedoms of Hong Kong's citizens (27% disagreed); 64% believed the law would undermine the status of Hong Kong as an international financial center (11% believed it would strengthen this position and 21% believed it would have no effect); 64% believed the law would undermine "one country, two systems" (8.7% believed it would strengthen "one country, two systems" and 24% believed it would have no effect); and 64% believed that the Hong Kong National Security Law would intensify the movement against the "extradition (to China) bill" (20% believed it would help to stop the movement and 12% believed it would have no effect).

6. Taiwan offers assistance and care and closely assesses measures in response to developments in Hong Kong

The flow of people and economic and trade exchanges between Taiwan and Hong Kong cooled last year under the multiple impact of developments in Hong Kong, the COVID-19 pandemic, international environment, and other factors. In 2019, trade between Taiwan and Hong Kong totaled US\$41.395 billion, down 3.7% from the year before. Taiwanese investment in Hong Kong amounted to around US\$460 million, while Hong Kong investment in Taiwan amounted to about US\$650 million. Taiwan and Hong Kong were each others' third and fourth largest trading partners, respectively.

In 2019, the number of regular round-trip passenger flights between Taiwan and Hong Kong fell by about 5% to 39,750. The total number of passengers exceeded 8.1 million, about 5% lower YoY. About 1.54 million Taiwanese people visited Hong Kong and about 1.6 million Hongkongers visited Taiwan. A total of 10,677 students from Hong Kong and Macao studied at universities in Taiwan. Hong Kong students numbered 6,824, accounting for the second largest share among overseas Chinese and Hong Kong and Macao students.

According to May 2020 statistics from the National Immigration Agency, Ministry of the Interior, a total of 5,858 Hong Kong people obtained Taiwan

residence permits in 2019, more than the 4,148 figure in 2018 and a record high. The number of Hongkongers residing in Taiwan increased YoY in the first three months of 2020. The Investment Commission under the Ministry of Economic Affairs stated on November 6, 2019, that applications for investment-based immigration to Taiwan from Hong Kong nearly doubled over the same period in 2018. Public opinion analysis attributed the increase in applications by Hongkongers for permanent residency and investment-based immigration in Taiwan to turmoil in Hong Kong in recent years.

The situation in Hong Kong has also impacted the safety of Taiwanese people there. During the Hong Kong protests against the “extradition (to China) bill” in mid-November last year, police blockaded CUHK and HKPU. Between November 11 and 14, related government units helped 680 Taiwan students at CUHK and other schools in Hong Kong to return safely to Taiwan. Following the arrest of some Taiwanese high school students during the confrontation at HKPU, personnel from Taiwan's overseas office accompanied families to visit the detained students and provide legal assistance to secure their release.

Official interaction between Taiwan and Hong Kong continued to slow last year due to the impact of cross-Strait relations, the Hong Kong Government's closed and conservative mindset, and other factors. The Hong Kong Government's reservation is reflected in its delay of work visa approval for the director of Taiwan's representative office in Hong Kong, and its unilateral postponement of a joint meeting and secretary-general working meeting between the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (ECCC) and Hong Kong–Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council (ECCPC). The official interaction between the two sides is currently being maintained through working level communication between the ECCC and ECCPC as well as representative offices on each other's side. In order to maintain the ROC government's consistent policy position of facilitating direct contact between the people of Taiwan and Hong Kong and guaranteeing the people's exchange rights and interests, the government will continue to promote related work on the existing foundation.

Democracy, freedom, human rights, and the rule of law are universal values jointly pursued by the people of Taiwan and Hong Kong. The ruling and opposition parties in Taiwan closely watch and support the demand of the Hong Kong public for democracy. In response to developments in Hong Kong resulting from the CCP's insistence on promoting the Hong Kong National Security Law, the MAC, by instruction of the president and premier, planned a Humanitarian Aid Project for Hong Kong Citizens. It also established the Taiwan-Hong Kong Office for Exchanges and Services (officially operational from July 1) to provide consulting services and assistance to Hongkongers coming to Taiwan for study, employment, investment, entrepreneurship, immigration, residency, and business relocation. The office will also pragmatically handle and review matters related to support and care for Hong Kong people subject to national security, in accordance with existing laws and regulations and through public-private partnerships. In addition, the government pledges to closely review changes in Hong Kong's situation and respond in a timely manner to safeguard Taiwan's national security and the people's interests.

II. Appendix

Controversial Events in 23 Years since Hong Kong's Handover

Twelve controversial cases happened from July 2019 to June 2020 (249 cumulative incidents from July 1997 to early June 2020).

No.	Date	Event	Source
1.	<p data-bbox="375 743 506 772">2019.7.26</p> <p data-bbox="375 1226 506 1255">2019.7.30</p> <p data-bbox="375 1402 506 1432">2019.7.30</p>	<p data-bbox="581 625 1253 655">CCP police force Hongkongers to stop marching</p> <p data-bbox="581 684 1253 1113"><u>Hong Kong residents are interrogated by CCP border officers due to cell phone photos of the protests against the "extradition (to China) bill"</u>: Several Hong Kong people were stopped by police at a customs checkpoint in Lo Wu for wearing black. When the police inspected their cell phones and found photos of them at protests against the "extradition (to China) bill", they were sent to the Public Security Bureau for interrogation. They were detained for six hours into the early morning hours. They were only allowed to leave after writing letters of apology and pledging they would no longer demonstrate.</p> <p data-bbox="581 1142 1253 1276"><u>CCP personnel refuse to explain</u>: Lo Wu border inspection personnel said they have authority to demand inspection of suspected mobile phones but did not confirm the above-mentioned details.</p> <p data-bbox="581 1306 1253 1608"><u>Legislative Council member criticizes trampling of "one country, two systems"</u>: Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council Panel on Security James To stated that such behavior tramples "one country, two systems." Events that occur in Hong Kong should be handled by Hong Kong's judicial system. Mainland Chinese police demanding that Hongkongers pledge to give up their freedom to demonstrate in Hong Kong is a very serious matter.</p>	<p data-bbox="1279 684 1438 714">Stand News</p> <p data-bbox="1279 743 1409 772">2019.7.31</p> <p data-bbox="1279 1163 1406 1192">Ming Pao</p> <p data-bbox="1279 1222 1393 1251">2019.8.1</p> <p data-bbox="1279 1348 1406 1377">Ming Pao</p> <p data-bbox="1279 1407 1393 1436">2019.8.1</p>

2.	2019.8.1	<p>PLA Hong Kong Garrison movements in Hong Kong draw concern</p> <p><u>People's Liberation Army (PLA) Hong Kong Garrison practice repression Hong Kong</u>: During an activity for the 92nd anniversary of the PLA, PLA Hong Kong Garrison Commander Chen Daoxiang strongly condemned recent protests against the "extradition (to China) bill." He said the protests seriously cross the bottom line of "one country, two systems" and absolutely would not be tolerated. On the same day, the PLA Hong Kong Garrison released a Cantonese promotional video in which the garrison warned protesters: "All consequences are at your own risk."</p>	<p>Hong Kong 01 2019.8.1</p>
	2019.8.13	<p><u>US calls for calm and cooperation</u>: US President Donald Trump said that he had intelligence that mainland China is mobilizing troops to the border of Hong Kong. He called for everyone to remain calm and maintain security. The following day, he stressed that if China wants to reach a trade agreement with the US, it must humanely resolve the problem in cooperation with Hong Kong.</p>	<p>Apple Daily (HK) 2019.8.14</p>
	2019.8.29	<p><u>PLA Hong Kong Garrison makes a high-profile announcement of troop rotation</u>: In a departure from past practice of reporting PLA Hong Kong Garrison troop rotations after the fact, Xinhua News Agency reported the garrison's troop rotation in progress in the early morning of July 29. China Central Television (CCTV) also published related images. Visiting Professor Willy Lam of the Centre for China Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong indicated that the CCP deliberately announced the news to warn Hong Kong people protesting against the "extradition (to China) bill."</p>	<p>Radio Taiwan International 2019.8.30</p>
	2019.11.23	<p><u>PLA Hong Kong Garrison conducts riot control drill</u>: Reuters reported that the PLA Hong Kong Garrison conducted drills wearing anti-riot gear at the PLA barracks near Hong Kong Polytechnic University.</p>	<p>Stand News 2019.11.28</p>
	2019.11.28	<p><u>Ministry of National Defense claims that the PLA Hong Kong Garrison can carry out riot control missions at any time</u>: CCP Ministry of National Defense spokesman Ren Guoqiang responded to questions at a press conference on whether the PLA Hong Kong Garrison would take measures to stop the riots in Hong Kong. He said that the garrison stands ready to obey the commands of the CCP</p>	<p>Sing Tao Daily 2019.11.28</p>

	<p>2019.12.24</p> <p>2019.12.30</p>	<p>Central Committee and Central Military Commission. The garrison is determined, confident, and able to fulfill the missions mandated under the Basic Law and Garrison Law.</p> <p><u>PLA Hong Kong Garrison actions send a message to Hong Kong:</u> the PLA Hong Kong Garrison announced on December 24 and 29 that it was conducting combat training in the South China Sea and making a joint training video with the armed forces. The mainland's CCTV reported that the exercises would be extensive, involve numerous troops, and cover training content closer to actual combat situations</p> <p><u>PLA Hong Kong Garrison actions send a signal to Hong Kong:</u> The media reported that the PLA Hong Kong Garrison rarely conducts consecutive drills with high profile publicity. These actions mean to send a warning to Hong Kong.</p>	<p>Hong Kong 01</p> <p>2019.12.30</p> <p>China Times</p> <p>2019.12.30</p>
3.	2019.9.13	<p>CCP instructs state-owned enterprise to intervene in Hong Kong's economy</p> <p><u>State-owned enterprises asked to take control:</u> Reuters reported that CCP State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council held a meeting in Shenzhen during which it demanded that more than 100 state-owned enterprises strengthen investment in Hong Kong. The companies were asked to not only acquire shares, but also to take control of company operations and decision-making powers to help quell recent social instability in Hong Kong.</p> <p><u>Hong Kong government admits to joining meeting:</u> Hong Kong Government Financial Secretary Paul Chan admitted that he met with representatives of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission and state-owned enterprises. However, he emphasized that he did not discuss the issue of state-owned enterprise leadership in Hong Kong.</p> <p><u>Academic worries that excessive control will harm Hong Kong's economy:</u> Economist Andy Cheuk-Chiu Kwan said that the CCP's excessive controls over company operations and management would harm Hong Kong's economic system, stifle</p>	<p>Radio France</p> <p>2019.9.13</p> <p>Ming Pao</p> <p>2019.9.14</p> <p>Ming Pao</p> <p>2019.9.14</p>

		foreign investment in Hong Kong, and not be good for Hong Kong.	
4.	2019.9.26	<p>US academic denied entry into Hong Kong after testifying at Congressional hearing</p> <p><u>First US academic to be denied entry:</u> Dan Garrett, a US academic and author of "Counter-hegemonic Resistance in China's Hong Kong: Visualizing Protest in the City," tweeted that, after arriving in Hong Kong, he was denied entry by the authorities for "unspecified immigration reasons." He said this was the first time he has faced such treatment in 20 years of visiting and living in Hong Kong. He believed that the Hong Kong government denied him entry from "political motivations."</p> <p><u>Hong Kong political parties claim relation to academic's testimony at a Congressional hearing:</u> A Demosistō spokesperson believed that move was clearly related to Dan Garrett's appearance before the Congressional Executive Commission on China (CECC) alongside Hong Kong activists, including Joshua Wong and Denise Ho, in support of Hongkongers' opposition to the amendment of the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance.</p> <p><u>Hong Kong Government refuses to comment on the case:</u> A spokesperson for the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) said that when Dan Garrett boarded his flight back to the US, his passport was flagged. The Hong Kong Immigration Department responded to inquiries stating that it does not comment on individual cases. It said that each immigration case is handled according to the law and established immigration policy. Entry is approved or denied based on consideration of individual cases.</p>	<p>Radio Taiwan International, Ming Pao 2019.9.28</p> <p>Ming Pao 2019.9.28</p> <p>Hong Kong 01 2020.9.28</p>
5.	2019.11.16	<p>PLA Hong Kong Garrison violation of Garrison Law raises dispute</p> <p>■ <u>Garrison sweeps streets uninvited:</u> The media reported that PLA soldiers in Hong Kong cleared streets of bricks, fencing, and other barricades erected by demonstrators against the "extradition (to China) bill." A reporter on site asked if anyone authorized the removal of roadblocks. No answer was given.</p>	<p>Central News Agency (CNA) 2019.11.16</p>

	2019.11.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <u>Councilors issue joint statement questioning violation of the Garrison Law</u>: Pan-democratic Legislative Council members issued a joint statement demanding that the Hong Kong government explain whether it had asked the central government for the garrison's assistance according to the Garrison Law. If not, the garrison had violated Article 14 of the Basic Law and Garrison Law. They declared and suspected that the CCP was attempting to gradually rationalize the PLA's actions in Hong Kong and achieve the effect of "boiling frog effect." ■ <u>CCP state-controlled media claims that the garrison can act at discretion</u>: People's Daily subsidiary Global Times quoted an "authoritative expert" as saying that the troops of the PLA Hong Kong Garrison can leave their barracks with approval from their unit and need not seek permission from a higher level. The public should not read too much into this. ■ <u>Hong Kong government says it did not make a request</u>: Hong Kong Government Secretary for Security John Lee stated in response to questions from Legislative Council members that the PLA Hong Kong Garrison was invited to participate in a charity event. It did not involve Article 14 of the Basic Law, nor did it involve the HKSAR government's request for the PLA Hong Kong Garrison's assistance in disaster relief. ■ <u>US congressmen express concern over the escalation of the CCP's military force against Hong Kong</u>: US Senator Josh Hawley said that the presence of the PLA on the streets of Hong Kong does not bode well and questioned whether "Beijing is ready to escalate the situation further." US Senator Rick Scott described the move as another disturbing escalation by the CCP and a "potential clue" about subsequent developments. He also called on Beijing to carefully consider its next step because the world is watching. 	<p>Radio France 2019.11.16</p> <p>Global Times 2019.11.16</p> <p>Hong Kong Economic Times 2019.11.18</p> <p>China Times 2019.11.17</p>
6.	2019.11.18	<p>CCP infringes Hong Kong's judicial independence</p> <p><u>Hong Kong court rules that the Hong Kong government's "anti-mask law" citing the Emergency Regulations Ordinance violates the</u></p>	Ming Pao

	<p>2019.11.19</p>	<p><u>Basic Law:</u> Hong Kong's High Court ruled unconstitutional the legislative process of the Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation ("anti-mask law"), in which the chief executive and Executive Council cited powers granted under the Emergency Regulations Ordinance to draft regulations when public safety is endangered.</p> <p><u>NPC Standing Committee claims that Hong Kong court has no power to rule on constitutionality:</u> Zang Tiewei, spokesperson for the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, said that only the NPC Standing Committee can judge and decide whether the laws of the HKSAR comply with the Basic Law of Hong Kong. No other authority has the right to make judgments and decisions.</p> <p><u>HKMAO indicate that the Hong Kong courts and the Hong Kong government should jointly bear responsibility for stopping the violence and chaos:</u> Spokesperson for the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office Yang Guang said that the judgment of the High Court of Hong Kong flagrantly challenges the authority of the NPC Standing Committee and the governing power granted to the chief executive by law. He hoped that the Hong Kong government and the judiciary would share responsibility for stopping the violence and chaos and restoring order.</p> <p><u>Hong Kong's legal circles issue statement against infringement of Hong Kong's judicial independence:</u> The Hong Kong Bar Association issued a statement emphasizing that any suggestion that the courts in Hong Kong cannot conduct constitutional review circumscribes the exercise of judicial power by the courts which they have always enjoyed is contrary to the Basic Law. It also undermines the high degree of autonomy granted to the HKSAR under the Basic Law. University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law Professor Johannes Chan believed that any statement by the Legislative Affairs Commission on a case under court proceedings would create a public impression that the court is under pressure. This violates Hong Kong's judicial independence and is "not ideal."</p> <p><u>Court of Final Appeal finds no violation of the Basic Law:</u> In an appeal by the Hong Kong government, the Court of Final Appeal ruled that it</p>	<p>2019.11.19</p> <p>Stand News</p> <p>2019.11.19</p> <p>Xinhua News Agency</p> <p>2019.11.19</p> <p>Bar Association Press Release</p> <p>2019.11.19, Ming Pao</p> <p>2019.11.20</p> <p>Sing Tao Daily</p> <p>2020.4.9</p>
	<p>2020.4.9</p>		

	2020.4.13	was not unconstitutional for the Department of Justice to draft the anti-mask law based on the Emergency Regulations Ordinance.	Sing Pao Daily News 2020.4.15
	2020.4.15	<p><u>Public opinion criticizes the CCP for interfering in judicial independence:</u> The HKMAO indicated that the ruling by the Court of Final Appeal allows the HKSAR government to "effectively govern and stop the violence and chaos." Hong Kong's legal circle believed that statements by the HKMAO and Liaison Office amount to pressure during the judicial process of the anti-mask law and impact Hong Kong's judicial independence.</p> <p><u>Legal circles worry over the survival of judicial independence:</u> Reuters interviewed several senior Hong Kong judges who believed that the Chinese authorities are the gravest threat to the rule of law in Hong Kong since 1997. Three of the most senior judges expressed concern over the fight for the survival of judicial independence, a pillar of freedom in Hong Kong. Reuters also interviewed dozens of judges, lawyers, and diplomats in Hong Kong who believed that Beijing is attacking Hong Kong's judicial system on multiple fronts. Some judges and lawyers noted signs that Beijing is trying to limit the power of Hong Kong courts to hear constitutional matters.</p>	Apple Daily (HK) 2020.4.15
7.	2020.1.12	<p><u>Members of US human rights organizations denied entry</u></p> <p><u>Presenter of report on human rights in Mainland China denied entry:</u> Kenneth Roth, executive director of US human rights organization Human Rights Watch, planned to hold a press conference in Hong Kong and present a report on human rights issues in China but was denied entry. Immigration personnel did not specify the reason for the refusal of entry. Human Rights Watch issued a statement saying that Roth had visited Hong Kong many times and this was the first time he has been denied entry. This reflects Beijing's tightening of freedom in Hong Kong under "one country, two systems."</p>	Ming Pao 2020.1.13
	2020.1.13	<p><u>Mainland China admits to deliberate sanctions:</u> Mainland Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesman Geng Shuang stated at a regular press conference that it is China's sovereign right to decide who shall be granted entry and who shall be denied it. He pointed out that the NGOs concerned have, by various means, incited violence and inflamed</p>	Stand News 2020.1.13

		<p>separatist activities for "Hong Kong independence." They bear major responsibility for the current chaos in Hong Kong. Sanctions on these organizations are therefore fully justified as they should pay the price for what they've done.</p> <p><u>Academics claim that Beijing is using the incident to warn the international community:</u> CUHK Chair Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Vice-chairman of the Chinese Association of Hong Kong and Macau Studies Lau Siu Kai described the incident as a sanction by Beijing against the US for passage of the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act. After the US passed the act last year, mainland China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced sanctions against five NGOs, including Human Rights Watch. Professor Lau indicated that China is using this to warn foreign organizations and the Hong Kong opposition.</p>	<p>Hong Kong 01 2020.1.14</p>
8.	<p>2019.8.29</p> <p>2020.2.28</p> <p>2020.5.14</p>	<p><u>CCP intervenes in Hong Kong education</u></p> <p><u>Official media blames education for chaos:</u> Xinhua News Agency published an article stating that the chaos in Hong Kong is the consequence of deficient national education among youth in Hong Kong. The article criticized the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union and its member teachers for using general education courses to "brainwash" young people. It demanded that the Hong Kong government strictly review teaching materials and enhance teachers' national ideology. The Global Times published an editorial in the same tone.</p> <p><u>Higher education circles mourn a dark year for academic freedom:</u> Hong Kong's Progressive Scholars Group stated that "2019 was a dark year for academic freedom in Hong Kong" in its 2019 Hong Kong Academic Freedom Report. The report noted that mainland China has used indirect and covert influence mechanisms to gradually infiltrate and strengthen its authoritarian control of higher education under the original packaging of "one country, two systems" and "semi-democratic autonomous government."</p> <p><u>CCP officials and official media denounce deeply poisoned education in Hong Kong:</u> In a May 14 Facebook post, the Office of the</p>	<p>Xinhuanet, Global Times 2019.8.29</p> <p>Stand News 2020.2.28</p>

	2020.5.19	<p>Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR criticized a history question related to China-Japan relations in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (DSE) exam, saying that the question was inappropriate. The post cited a comment by the chief executive that education in Hong Kong cannot become "chicken coop without a flap"(out of control). In a May 15 editorial, Xinhua News Agency noted that Hong Kong has not yet established a new education system compatible with "one country, two systems." The SAR government must make up its mind to set things right. On May 16, the People's Daily published an editorial entitled "Hong Kong's education system needs ridding of poison." It criticized "absurd" exam questions that show Hong Kong's education circles "deeply poisoned." The China Media Group released a documentary entitled, "Another Hong Kong," which criticized the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union for inciting students to protest against the "extradition (to China) bill."</p> <p><u>Hong Kong education circles worry over harm to educational autonomy:</u> Michael Wong Wai-yu, honorary executive secretary and former chairman of the Hong Kong Association of the Heads of Secondary Schools expressed concern that space for academic discussion in future work on exam questions would narrow. Sheng Kung Hui Tang Shiu Kin Secondary School Principal Tai Tak-ching believed that "political feelings override professionalism and political thinking exceeds professional thinking" in this matter and clearly involves political interference. Legislative Council Member for the Education Constituency Ip Kin-yuen believed that Hong Kong's education system is under systematic attack by mainland China.</p>	<p>Ming Pao, Sing Pao Daily News 2020.5.20</p> <p>Hong Kong Citizen News 2020.5.20</p>
9.	2020.3.17 2020.3.18	<p>CCP interferes with press freedom in Hong Kong</p> <p><u>CCP expels foreign journalists and bans them from working in Hong Kong and Macao:</u> The CCP Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that US reporters for the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, and other institutions must return their press cards within 10 days. It also banned the journalists from reporting in mainland China, including Hong Kong and Macao.</p> <p><u>Councilors worry over undermining of "one country, two systems":</u> Legislative Council</p>	<p>Ta Kung Pao 2020.3.18</p>

		<p>Member Eddie Chu Hoi-dick said that the Hong Kong government has the right of immigration control and issuance of work visas for foreign journalists under the Basic Law. Beijing clearly overstepped its jurisdiction in prohibiting foreign reporters from conducting interviews on behalf of the Hong Kong government. Councilor Claudia Mo criticized the central government for an order that entirely fails to avoid suspicion, equating it to a public declaration that "one country, two systems" is dead. Councilor James To noted that Beijing was dragging Hong Kong down with this approach, which could influence Hong Kong's position as an international financial center. He also questioned whether the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the right to ban foreign reporters from working in Hong Kong. Civic Party leader Alvin Yeung questioned whether Beijing's approach crossed the bottom line of "one country, two systems."</p> <p><u>Journalist association worries over harm to freedom of the press:</u> The Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents' Club and Hong Kong Journalists Association stated that work visas for foreign correspondents in Hong Kong are independently approved by the Hong Kong Immigration Department. Any change to this system would seriously erode "one country, two systems."</p> <p><u>The CCP claims this is a diplomatic affair:</u> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesman Geng Shuang noted that banning journalists from working in Hong Kong and Macao is within the Beijing's foreign affairs authority. The Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC in the HKSAR noted that these measures are within diplomatic authority in accordance with the "one country, two systems" principle and the Basic Law.</p> <p><u>Hong Kong government does not response on standards for diplomatic affairs:</u> The Hong Kong Government stated that Hong Kong enjoys freedom of the press and that the Immigration Department deals with situations according to Hong Kong laws and immigration policies. It did not respond to reporter questions on how the ban is enforced and how journalist work could become a diplomatic affair.</p>	<p>Apple Daily (HK), Ming Pao 2020.3.19</p> <p>Sing Pao Daily News 2020.3.19,</p> <p>Wen Wei Po 2020.3.19</p> <p>Hong Kong Economic Journal 2020.3.19</p>
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10.	<p>2020.4.13</p> <p>2020.4.14</p> <p>2020.4.17</p> <p>2020.4.18</p>	<p><u>CCP unilaterally claims it is not bound by the Basic Law</u></p> <p><u>CCP comments on Hong Kong's autonomous affairs:</u> The CCP's HKMAO and Liaison Office separately issued statements over stalling of the election of the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Hong Kong Legislative Council House Committee. They criticized the chairperson and some council members, saying their behavior amounted to "scorched-earth politics" and a breach of their oath to office that could be considered misconduct in public office.</p> <p><u>Public opinion criticizes the CCP for violating the Basic Law:</u> Pan-democracy Legislative Council members stated at a press conference that comments by the HKMAO and Liaison Office on Hong Kong's internal affairs violate Article 22 of the Basic Law and trample "one country, two systems." The Hong Kong Bar Association issued a statement urging the HKMAO and Liaison Office to "show restraint."</p> <p><u>Liaison Office claims it is not bound by Article 22:</u> A Liaison Office spokesperson said that the HKMAO and Liaison Office are not agencies of the central government as referred to in Article 22 of the Basic Law. They have the right to represent the central government in exercising supervisory authority and make solemn representations on major issues related to Hong Kong.</p> <p><u>Hong Kong government revises law to match the CCP's tone:</u> The Hong Kong government issued three consecutive press releases within a six-hour period that amended its position statement on the</p>	<p>Wen Wei Po 2020.4.14</p> <p>Ming Pao 2020.4.15</p> <p>Hong Kong 01 2020.4.17</p> <p>Sing Pao Daily News, Ming Pao</p>

	2020.4.19	<p>Liaison Office. The first article originally stated that the "Liaison Office is one of three institutions established by the Central Government according to Paragraph 2, Article 22 of the Basic Law." It was ultimately amended to state that the Liaison Office is not an "institution established in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Basic Law by the Central Government according to Article 22."</p>	2020.4.19
	2020.4.19	<p><u>Pan-democratic legislators criticize the CCP for distorting the Basic Law</u>: Twenty-two pan-democratic Legislative Council members issued a joint statement criticizing the Liaison Office for distorting the Basic Law to rationalize its authority to intervene in Hong Kong's internal affairs. They said that the Hong Kong government "blindly echoes the Liaison Office's position of calling black white."</p>	msn news 2020.4.20
	2020.5.1	<p><u>Hong Kong government calls foreign claims of intervention by the HKMAO and Liaison Office unfounded</u>: The Hong Kong government reiterated that anyone describing legitimate remarks by the HKMAO and Liaison Office as intervention merely show their ignorance of Hong Kong's constitutional order and the relationship between the SAR and central governments.</p>	Hong Kong Government Press Release 2020.5.1
11.	2020.5.2	<p><u>CCP interferes in Hongkongers' consumer behavior</u></p> <p><u>CCP alleges that the "Yellow Economic Circle" is "scorched-earth politics"</u>: A Liaison Office spokesperson indicated that opposition politicians "fishing for more seats" in the Legislative Council election have hyped up a "Yellow Economic Circle" that disregards the free market and creates artificial rifts in society. It is an unscrupulous nuisance that harms innocent merchants and seeks to politically kidnap the economy with "scorched-earth politics."</p>	Liaison Office Press Release 2020.5.2
	2020.5.5	<p><u>Public opinion calls out Liaison Office for violating the Basic Law</u>: Legislative Council members Wu Chi-wai and Tanya Chan and academic Benny Tai Yiu-ting stated that the Liaison Office's intervention in consumer behavior in Hong Kong violates the Basic Law.</p> <p><u>Hongkongers take action to support the "Yellow Economic Circle"</u>: The media reported that more than 400,000 people shopped at "Yellow Economic Circle" stores, generating more than HK\$100 million</p>	Sing Pao Daily News 2020.5.3 CNA 2020.5.5

		in sales over the Labor Day holiday from April 30 to May 3.	
12.	2020.5.28	<p>CCP undermines Hong Kong's autonomy and legislative authority</p> <p><u>CCP enacts the Hong Kong National Security Law:</u> The NPC approved the Decision of the National People's Congress on Establishing and Completing the HKSAR's Legal System and Implementation Mechanisms for the Preservation of National Security on May 28. The decision authorizes the NPC Standing Committee to draft concrete legal and implementation mechanisms.</p> <p><u>Pan-democrats denounce death sentence for "one country, two systems":</u> Convener of the pro-democracy camp Tanya Chan said that the law is a death penalty for "one country, two systems" and is "one country, one system" in disguise. She also noted that multinational companies have recently stated they are closely watching and concerned over the harm to Hong Kong's reputation as an international city and encroachment on democracy, freedom, and human rights in Hong Kong.</p>	<p>Xinhua News Agency 2020.5.28</p> <p>Ming Pao 2020.5.28</p>
	2020.5.29	<p><u>International concern over developments in Hong Kong:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The US, UK, Australia, and Canada issued a joint statement saying that the law could undermine "one country, two systems," increase the likelihood of prosecution for political crimes in Hong Kong, and exacerbate social divisions. 2. The US president announced that mainland China has turned Hong Kong into "one country, one system." The US will therefore revoke Hong Kong's special treatment as a separate customs territory and impose sanctions against Mainland and Hong Kong officials who stifle freedom in Hong Kong. 	<p>CNA 2020.5.29</p> <p>Ming Pao 2020.5.29</p>
	2020.6.3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The British prime minister announced that the UK would extend the residence period of Hongkongers holding British National (Overseas) passports, improving their immigrant rights. 4. The EU foreign minister stressed that the Hong Kong National Security Law would 	<p>Stand News 2020.6.3,</p>

	2020.6.10	undermine "one country, two systems" and a high degree of autonomy. Beijing must mitigate the situation and honor its basic, legally stipulated commitments to the international community.	Hong Kong 01 2020.6.10
	2020.6.16	5. More than 86 NGOs issued a joint letter to NPC Standing Committee Chairman Li Zhanshu stating that the proposed Hong Kong National Security Law is a devastating blow against human rights and should be abandoned.	Stand News 2020.6.17
	2020.6.17	6. G7 foreign ministers issued a joint statement saying that mainland China's decision to introduce the Hong Kong National Security Law is inconsistent with pledges made under Hong Kong's Basic Law and the Sino-British Joint Declaration. The law will seriously harm the "one country, two systems" principle and Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy. It also undermines a system that has enabled Hong Kong to prosper over the years. The letter demanded that mainland China reconsider the related decision.	Hong Kong 01 2020.6.18
	2020.6.20	7. The European Parliament approved a motion condemning the CCP for drafting the Hong Kong National Security Law. It suggested that EU members provide an "emergency exit" to receive people of Hong Kong amidst deteriorating conditions in Hong Kong.	Hong Kong Citizen News 2020.6.20
	2020.6.22	8. The presidents of the European Commission and European Council held a video summit with Xi Jinping and Li Keqiang. After the meeting, they said that if mainland China enacts the National Security Act in Hong Kong it could have "very negative" consequences.	United Daily News 2020.6.23