

Analysis Report: 11 Years After Hong Kong's Handover

- Mainland China has in a high-profile manner intervened in Hong Kong affairs at the different levels, which hindered democratic advancement.
- The HKSAR government has rationalized mainland China's intervention in Hong Kong affairs, which hastened a qualitative change in the "one country, two systems" formula.
- Positive economic prospects have helped stabilized Hong Kong's political situation.
- The Hong Kong economy has become heavily reliant on mainland China, and the impacts brought about by changes in mainland China's economy and policy have increased.
- Press and speech freedoms and the rights to visit hometowns have been undermined, which aroused concern.
- The international community has affirmed the sound investment climate in Hong Kong, but has been concerned over the timetable and roadmap of the direct elections.
- The interaction between Hong Kong and mainland China has become more frequent, and the integration of the immigrant population has become an issue.
- The HKSAR government has proposed measures to strengthen Taiwan-Hong Kong relations, while the crux lies in the accompanying measures and the continuity.
- There have been 178 controversial cases that test China's pledge to keep Hong Kong "unchanged for 50 years."

I Overall Review and Analysis

This year marks the 11th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover, and the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union have continued to publish several reports to show their concerns over the situation in Hong Kong. Although related reports indicated that the Hong Kong situation has developed smoothly, they were also concerned over the delay in the direct elections, worsening of the media "self-censorship," and the overriding status of the interpretation of the Basic Law by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC). The international

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community has urged China to take corrective measures as soon as possible.

Each year, the MAC publishes analysis report on the Hong Kong situation. After some 500,000 people rallied on July 1, 2003 to protest the then impending enactment of the National Security Bill, mainland China became alarmed over its inability to control the Hong Kong situation. As a result, mainland China adjusted its Hong Kong policy and started to intervene in Hong Kong affairs in a high-profile manner, which resulted in a qualitative change in the “one country, two systems” formula.

In its political reform consultative report in July 2007, the HKSAR government made it clear that the authority of the HKSAR was granted by the mainland Chinese Central Government and that the HKSAR government did not have any residual power. The statement attempted to provide a rational explanation for China’s intervention into Hong Kong affairs. During the past year, the NPC Standing Committee rejected direct elections in 2012, which had been widely supported by the Hong Kong residents. China’s representative office in Hong Kong also intervened in the different levels of Hong Kong elections in a high-profile manner and prevented pro-democracy individuals from exercising their rights to visit their hometowns on the Mainland. These attempts were aimed at forcing pro-democracy individuals to comply with Beijing and HKSAR policies. The far-reaching Chinese intervention into Hong Kong affairs raised concern from legislators that the “high degree of autonomy” in Hong Kong had been undermined. As a result, the Legislative Council put forward a motion to urge China to refrain from intervening in HKSAR affairs, which, in accordance with the Basic Law, are to be handled by the HKSAR government on its own, so as to ensure the realization of “one country, two systems,” “Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong,” and “high degree of autonomy.”

On the economic front, due to a global economic rebound and China’s intentional announcement of preferential economic measures, the Hong Kong economy performed well starting from 2003, which alleviated some of the dissatisfaction caused by political issues. The Hong Kong economy, however, continued to face many challenges. In addition to the challenges stemming from the need to increase the quality of the workforce and to transform the economy, as well as to deal with the risk of being marginalized, Hong Kong is facing long-term issues such as an aging population, increased divide between the rich and the poor, and air pollution. The challenges that Hong Kong has started to face in recent years include increasing pressure from inflation, competition from the Macao tourism industry, and the lessening of Hong Kong’s intermediary role due to the implementation of cross-strait direct flights.

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Although civilian economic and trade exchanges between Taiwan and Hong Kong have been frequent since the handover, official interaction remains restricted. It is expected that the situation may change after the recent presidential election in Taiwan. The HKSAR Constitution and Mainland Affairs Bureau has proposed related measures regarding budget increase, the invitation of more Taiwanese personnel to visit Hong Kong, and setting up of a Taiwan representative office for the semi-official Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC). The Taiwan government welcomes efforts from the HKSAR government to improve relations, and hopes that the HKSAR government can set up an official office in Taiwan to handle affairs of Hong Kong residents in Taiwan and to facilitate Taiwan-Hong Kong relations.

The Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) has used China's pledge of "Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong with a high degree of autonomy" as an indicator to make a long-term assessment of the implementation of mainland China's "one country, two systems" formula in Hong Kong. Based on publicly available information, the MAC has found 178 controversial cases involving mainland China's violation of the "one country, two systems" formula (please refer to Appendix). This shows that there exist contradictories in the implementation of the "one country, two systems" formula, which left much room for improvement.

The following is a review and analysis of the general situation and developments in Hong Kong since its handover 11 years ago (from July 2007 to June 2008):

1. The HKSAR government has rationalized mainland China's intervention in Hong Kong affairs, which hastened a qualitative change in the "one country, two systems" formula.

On June 6, 2007, NPC Standing Committee Chairman Wu Bangguo forcefully stated that the authority of the special administrative regions is granted by the mainland Chinese Central Government, and the HKSAR has as much authority as the Central Government allows; Wu said that the HKSAR does not have any residual power. Although Wu's statements aroused disputes among the Hong Kong people, the HKSAR government nevertheless echoed Wu's statements.

In its consultative report published on July 11, 2007 about political reform that included the direct elections for the Chief Executive and members of the Legislative Council, the HKSAR government said that the high degree of autonomy enjoyed by the HKSAR was granted by the National People's Congress through the Basic Law, that the authority of the HKSAR is granted by the mainland Chinese Central Government, and that HKSAR does not have any residual power. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress decided on Dec. 29 that elections of the

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Chief Executive and Legislative Council in 2012 shall not be implemented by the method of universal suffrage, but the election of the Chief Executive may be implemented by the method of universal suffrage in 2017. Direct election for the Legislative Council will be held in 2020 at the soonest. Pro-democracy factions in Hong Kong jointly issued a statement to voice their strong protest. The statement pointed out that the Standing Committee rejected universal suffrage in 2012, which ran counter to mainstream public opinion in Hong Kong. Since the decision of the Standing Committee did not provide details on the election roadmap and timetable, pro-democracy factions were worried that universal suffrage would not be realized even 20 years after the handover. The pro-democracy factions carried out hunger strike and street rallies to protest Beijing's utter disregard for public opinion (Hong Kong Economic Journal, 2008.1.14; Sing Tao Daily, Metro Daily, 2007.12.24).

Mainland China's intervention into Hong Kong affairs was also evident in elections at all levels. The Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR (LOCPC) publicly campaigned for specific candidates in a high-profile manner and mobilized personnel to assist in election campaigns. Not only did the pro-democracy forces criticize the move, but pro-Beijing candidates also protested. As a result, Liao Hui, director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office under the State Council, had to step forward and clarify that such actions by individual LOCPC personnel did not represent the position of the Beijing Government (Apple Daily, 2008.5.9).

With increased Beijing intervention, the Hong Kong people started to worry that Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy had ceased to exist. In 2006, pro-democracy legislator Emily Lau Wai-hing put forward a motion at the Legislative Council to urge the mainland Chinese Central Government to refrain from intervening in HKSAR affairs (Ming Pao, 2006.12.21). On June 11, 2008, Martin Lee Chu-ming, another pro-democracy legislator, put forward a motion at the Legislative Council to urge the realization of "one country, two systems." Lee urged the mainland Chinese Central Government to strictly require central government agencies (including the LOCPC) and local governments to refrain from intervening in HKSAR affairs, which, in accordance with the Basic Law, are to be handled by the HKSAR government on its own, so as to ensure the realization of "one country, two systems," "rule of Hong Kong by the people of Hong Kong," and a "high degree of autonomy" (Press release by the Hong Kong SAR government, 2008.6.10).

2. Economic prospects remain good but several challenges exist.

The sluggish global economic climate and economic transformation in Hong Kong resulted in negative economic growth after the handover. Unemployment rate reached close to eight percent,

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and the confidence of the Hong Kong people about their economic future started to waver. After 2003, due to a global economic rebound and mainland China's intentional announcement of preferential economic measures, the Hong Kong economy started to rebound. Economic growth in 2004 exceeded eight percent, and the economy has continued its strong performance since. Despite the slowdown, Hong Kong's economic growth in 2007 reached 6.4 percent as compared to the previous two years. Unemployment rate was down to four percent, and the increase in commodity prices was moderate. In addition, due to increased financial surplus, the HKSAR government announced in March 2008 several tax refund, tax reduction, and subsidy measures, all of which were supported by all sectors in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's economic performance is closely related with China's economic development. Prior to the handover, the Hong Kong manufacturing industry had started to relocate to the Mainland, which transformed Hong Kong into an economy focused on the service sector. After the handover, the HKSAR government started to proactively seek integration between Hong Kong and mainland China. In addition to formulating measures to implement China's Eleventh Five-Year Planning for the Construction of Rural Market System, the HKSAR government in 2007 also planned to further cooperation with Shenzhen. For its part, mainland China has continued to formulate preferential measures toward Hong Kong at a time when the Hong Kong economy was sluggish, including the signing of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) and allowing personal tours to Hong Kong. Mainland China also entered into the CEPA Supplement Agreement with Hong Kong in 2007. Other cross-border infrastructure projects such as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and Guangzhou-Shenzhen- Hong Kong Express Rail Link also achieved significant breakthrough. Although increased integration of the two economies has benefited Hong Kong's economic development, the adverse impacts resulting from heavy reliance on China cannot be ignored.

The media has in the past raised concerns that over reliance of the Hong Kong economy on mainland China could cause Hong Kong to lose its international features, undermine its competitiveness, and affect Hong Kong's autonomy. Several events since last year have shown that due to such over reliance, impacts brought about by changes in mainland China's economy and policy were inevitable. For instance, it was expected that the implementation of relevant labor laws and regulations in mainland China and heavy snowfall early this year would lead to forced closure of many Hong Kong-invested businesses in the Pearl River Delta. Mainland China in 2007 announced its "direct train scheme" to allow Mainland residents to invest in the Hong Kong stock market. But mainland China subsequently halted the scheme, which led to large fluctuations in the Hong Kong stock market.

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The HKSAR government is confident about the medium to long-term prospect of Hong Kong's economy, saying that the Hong Kong economy is expected to grow by an average of 4.5 percent annually in the next four years. However, Hong Kong's future economic development will continue to face many challenges. In addition to the challenges stemming from the need to increase the quality of the workforce and to transform the economy, as well as to deal with the risk of being marginalized, Hong Kong is facing long-term issues such as an aging population, increased divide between the rich and the poor, and air pollution. The challenges that Hong Kong has started to face in recent years include increasing pressure from inflation, competition from the Macao tourism industry, and the lessening of Hong Kong's intermediary role due to the implementation of cross-strait direct flights.

3. Press and speech freedoms and the rights to visit hometowns have been undermined, which aroused concern.

During the past year, the Hong Kong media were able to publish criticisms against China and the HKSAR government. People could launch street rallies to protest against actions of mainland China and the HKSAR government, and Falun Gong was able to carry out its activities. Beneath all these, however, substantive changes were taking place. In its 2007 report on freedom of speech published in July 2007, the Hong Kong Journalists Association said that although freedom of the press exists in Hong Kong, it has regressed as compared to 10 years ago. The report said that over the past 10 years, the media were faced with three major issues, namely, self-censorship, the HKSAR government, and the Beijing authorities' manipulation of the media. In addition, those media that were not pro-Beijing were boycotted. The report said that in a survey conducted in early 2007 by the Hong Kong Journalists Association, 58.4 percent of the respondent-reporters believed that freedom of the press became restricted after the handover.

Mainland China also refused to allow Hong Kong residents to exercise their right to visit their hometowns in an attempt to force pro-democracy individuals to comply with Beijing and HKSAR government policies. This has become an issue of focus. During the CPPCC conference in March, 2008, Elizabeth Liza Wang, a CPPCC member of Hong Kong, put forward a motion to urge the issuance of hometown visit permits to pro-democracy legislators who had not received hometown visit permits, so as to promote their better understanding of mainland China's development. Despite support from 52 percent of the Hong Kong residents (Ming Pao, 2008.3.16), the motion did not generate any response from the relevant government agencies (Apple Daily, 2008.3.15). In May, pro-democracy legislator Emily Lau Wai-hing put forward a motion entitled "The Olympic Games,

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human rights, and the right to visit hometown” to urge the mainland Chinese government to implement the commitments that mainland China made when it applied to host the upcoming Olympics. Lau requested improvements in human rights issues, release of imprisoned dissidents, and assistance to individuals who had been refused to return hometowns to obtain hometown visit permits. The motion was boycotted by pro-mainland China legislators and thus denied (Sing Tao Daily, 2008.5.2).

In addition, the Hong Kong SAR government tightened entry regulations at China’s request, which also resulted in international concern that human rights in Hong Kong would be undermined. China will host the 2008 Olympic Games. To ensure a smooth Olympic torch relay, the HKSAR government disallowed several foreigners to enter into Hong Kong based on a list given by the Beijing authorities (Ming Pao, 2008.4.28). The incident caused consulates from Denmark, France, the U.K., and Canada to urgently meet with the HKSAR Secretary for Security Ambrose Lee Siu-kwong to request the HKSAR government to explain its entry policy. The consulates were concerned that Hong Kong’s free entry and exit policy had been affected (Ming Pao, 2008.5.7). Together with seven other international media organizations, the Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA) proceeded to LOCPC in Hong Kong on May 3, World Press Freedom Day, to hand over an open letter condemning the HKSAR government for refusing to allow some individuals to enter Hong Kong. The HKJA said that the international community was concerned that such action had undermined press freedom and democracy in Hong Kong (Hong Kong Daily News, 2008.5.4).

4. The international community has continued to invest in Hong Kong but has been concerned over the timetable and roadmap of the direct elections.

The international community has affirmed the sound investment climate in Hong Kong. In its published index of economic freedom, the Heritage Foundation has ranked Hong Kong number one for 14 years running. Time magazine even coined the word “Nylonkong” to describe New York City, London, and Hong Kong as examples of success in globalization.

The international community was also concerned about the Hong Kong political climate, in particular the timetable and roadmap of the direct elections, which had impacted the economic performance of Hong Kong. The U.K., the United States, and the European Union were disappointed that Hong Kong would be unable to hold direct elections in 2012. In its 2007 *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*, the U.S. Department of State said that the Hong Kong government generally respected the human rights of its citizens, although core issues remained. For instance, Hong Kong residents could not elect their own government through direct elections, thus

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their power to change their government was limited. The report said that although the NPC Standing Committee had indicated that the Chief Executive could be elected by universal suffrage in 2017, it had previously rejected universal suffrage for the 2007 Chief Executive and 2008 Legislative Council elections, which was promised in the Basic Law. For this reason, members of the pro-democracy camp in Hong Kong have continued to advocate universal suffrage in 2012. The European Commission stressed that what it supports is remarkable progress rather than the progressive realization of universal suffrage. On the other hand, The Economist published a commentary entitled *Democracy Denied*, which criticized Beijing government's blocking of the direct election of the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council. The article pointed out that democracy in Hong Kong was nominal only, and that "Beijing is loth to let democracy take root in the SAR lest it sets a precedent elsewhere in China." (Apple Daily, 2008.1.7)

5. The interaction between Hong Kong and mainland China has become more frequent, and the integration of the immigrant population has become a concern.

As a result of the more frequent interaction between Hong Kong and mainland China, issues resulting from the integration of the population have become a concern. From 1982 to 2007, there were more than 1.06 million mainland Chinese nationals who used single-entry travel permits to enter Hong Kong and take up permanent residency; the number accounted for 15.2 percent of the total Hong Kong population by the end of 2007. With the low birth rate in Hong Kong, these "new immigrants" have become a major source of population increase in Hong Kong, and their impact on Hong Kong's social, economic, and political aspects has been an issue of concern. (New immigrants, as referred to by the Hong Kong media, are those who used single-entry travel permits to enter Hong Kong and take up permanent residency.) After pro-mainland China candidates won a landslide victory in the District Council election in 2007, the Department of Geography of the University of Hong Kong analyzed the demographics and number of votes received in each geographical constituency. Analysis showed that in the four areas where growth of the new immigrant population was highest, the votes received by members of the pro-democracy camp were significantly fewer than the votes received in the previous election. It was thus concluded that if the new immigrants maximized their right to vote, there would be significant impact on election results. The media were concerned that the pro-mainland China political parties had an advantage when competing for votes from the new immigrants because of their abundant resources, and support for the pro-democracy candidates would dwindle in the future. Prof. Nelson W. S. Chow of the University of Hong Kong believes that the new immigrants who entered Hong Kong using single-entry travel permits would further the divide between the rich and the poor in Hong Kong, mainly because they belonged to the

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less educated and low income group; they would create two different worlds in Hong Kong. Some media were also concerned that the divide between the rich and the poor would lead to conflict between social classes, which could disrupt social harmony.

6. Civilian exchanges between Taiwan and Hong Kong have remained active, and official interactions are expected to improve.

In 2007, total trade between Taiwan and Hong Kong exceeded US\$39.8 billion, making them each other's fourth-largest trade partners. Cross-strait trade via Hong Kong exceeded US\$24.1 billion. Statistics from the Hong Kong government show that in 2007, there were 28 Taiwanese-invested enterprises that had set up regional headquarters in Hong Kong, and another 155 had set up regional offices in Hong Kong. The most important Taiwanese-invested enterprises in Hong Kong were in the financial sector, and 16 Taiwanese-invested banks established branches in Hong Kong to provide financial services to Taiwanese businessmen on the Mainland. At least 50 Taiwanese-invested enterprises were listed in the Hong Kong stock exchange. Yet only a number of Taiwanese-invested enterprises took advantage of the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement between Hong Kong and mainland China. Currently, only Taiwanese-invested CD-R disk manufacturer – Data Strong Technology – has applied for zero tariff under CEPA. In the service sector, Fubon Financial Holding Company Limited purchased International Bank of Asia Limited in 2003, which was another concrete example of a Taiwanese-invested enterprise taking advantage of the benefits of CEPA.

In the area of personnel exchanges, it is estimated that there are about 40,000 Taiwan nationals who either reside in Hong Kong permanently or for long periods. On the other hand, there were more than 37,000 Hong Kong and Macao residents who were granted permanent residency in Taiwan from 1986 until the end of last year. The number of Hong Kong tourists to Taiwan has increased yearly since the 1997 handover, averaging about 300,000 person-trips in recent years. The number of Taiwan tourists to Hong Kong has also increase over the years, exceeding three million person-trips last year. As a result, the number of Taiwan tourists is the second largest among incoming visitors to Hong Kong.

Hong Kong residents are also interested in experiencing first hand Taiwan's democracy, diverse social development, and economic opening-up and progress. During Taiwan's legislative election in January 2008 and presidential election in March, close to 500 people from more than 20 Hong Kong groups arrived to observe the election process. The groups, which included representatives from the Hong Kong political circle and academia, journalists, and university

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students, visited candidates' headquarters, observed campaign rallies, and attended symposiums that analyzed the election situation. The activities enabled them to gain a better understanding of the democratic election process and diverse society in Taiwan. The group members were impressed by Taiwan's achievements in democracy..

The HKSAR government has designated the Constitution and Mainland Affairs Bureau to be in charge of Taiwan and Hong Kong affairs since 2002. In his report to the Legislative Council in March 2008, Stephen S.L. Lam, secretary of the Constitution and Mainland Affairs Bureau, proposed measures to increase exchanges between Taiwan and Hong Kong, including increasing the budget for Taiwan-Hong Kong activities from HKD 200,000 to HKD1.5 million, inviting more Taiwanese personnel to visit Hong Kong, and setting up of a Taiwan representative office for the semi-official Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

The announcement by the HKSAR government was supported by all sectors in Hong Kong. In particular, after the new government in Taiwan started to promote the resumption of cross-strait talks, the Hong Kong media were concerned that Hong Kong would become marginalized following the opening of cross-strait "three links." As a result, there has been increased call from the Hong Kong media urging the HKSAR government to take preventive measures. The Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB), the largest pro-Beijing party in Hong Kong, not only organized its first visit to Taiwan, but also put forward a motion at the Legislative Council calling for improved Taiwan-Hong Kong relations.

We expect with joint efforts from the governments and people of both Taiwan and Hong Kong, there will be increased official and civilian interaction between Taiwan and Hong Kong.

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II Appendix

Controversial Incidents since Hong Kong's Handover to China Eleven Years Ago

Post-1997 Hong Kong Unchanged for 50 years? Freedom? Human Rights? Rule of Law?

Controversial Incidents Following Hong Kong's Handover to China

(2007.7-2008.6) Total cases: 3

No.	Time	Event	Source
176	2007.10.2 - 2008.6.10	<p>China intervenes into the Legislative Council election in Hong Kong.</p> <p>■ <u>Active mobilization by the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong SAR in election campaigns:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Intervention in the 2007 Legislative Council by-election in Hong Kong island: Li Gang, deputy director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong SAR (LOCPC), confirmed that Regina Ip Lau Suk-yea had sought advice from the LOCPC before she announced her candidacy, and by doing so, Li indicated Beijing's support for Ip. The media also reported high degree of mobilization from Beijing to assist in Ip's campaign. In Hong Kong, the LOCPC coordinated with and requested pro-mainland Chinese legislators to lend street billboards to increase Ip's exposure and public visibility prior to the election.2. Intervention into the 2008 Legislative Council election: The LOCPC also intervened in the 2008 Legislative Council election, which will be held in September. The media reported that Lin	<p>Ta Kung Pao, 2007.10.3; Apple Daily, 2007.12.3</p> <p>Hong Kong Economic Journal, 2008.5.26; Apple Daily, 2008.5.9</p>

No.	Time	Event	Source
		<p>Wu, head of the LOCPC Kowloon Office, publicly campaigned for the independent pro-mainland China candidate Priscilla Leung Mei-fun, which led to protests from other pro-mainland China candidates. As a result, Liao Hui, director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office under the State Council, had to assure the other pro-mainland China candidates that Lin's action did not represent the position of the mainland Chinese Central Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="464 853 1082 1014">■ <u>Denial from the LOCPC:</u> The LOCPC denied the public allegations of participating in election campaigning, but did not give any explanations or statements. <li data-bbox="464 1039 1082 1998">■ <u>Legislators demand the LOCPC to stop intervention:</u> On June 11, Legislator Martin Lee Chu-ming of the Democratic Party of Hong Kong put forward a motion at the Legislative Council to urge the realization of "one country, two systems." In the motion, Lee said that "the Legislative Council urges the mainland Chinese Central Government to abide by the Basic Law and strictly require central government agencies (including the LOCPC) and local governments to refrain from intervening in HKSAR affairs, which, in accordance with the Basic Law, are to be handled by the HKSAR government on its own. This would ensure the realization of 'one country, two systems,' 'rule of Hong Kong by the Hong Kong people,' and a 'high degree of autonomy.'" During the Legislative Council meeting, Lee pointed out that Lu Ping, director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office under the State Council, once said in 1996 that there would not be any "emperor" to meddle in Hong 	<p>Ming Pao, 2008.5.9</p> <p>Press release by the Hong Kong SAR government, 2008.6.10; Ming Pao, Ta Kung Pao, Hong Kong Economic Journal, 2008.6.12</p>

No.	Time	Event	Source
		<p>Kong affairs. However, the LOCPC has intervened in Hong Kong affairs in all respects, and even the election candidates proactively sought support from the LOCPC and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office. Despite all these, Lee said, the HKSAR government has chosen to ignore the intervention from central government agencies. Lee said he was worried that continued intervention from the LOCPC would hinder democratic development in Hong Kong.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="470 813 1082 1305">■ <u>The HKSAR government said that no one manipulated the election</u>: Stephen S.L. Lam, Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, said that no one was able to manipulate elections in Hong Kong. Lam stressed that the Hong Kong economy has continued to develop under the “one country, two systems” formula and the Basic Law, and that direct elections would be forthcoming. Lam proceeded to urge legislators not to put forward similar motions in the future. <li data-bbox="470 1335 1082 1832">■ <u>Legislators criticize that democratic development in Hong Kong was 20 years behind schedule</u>: Pro-democracy legislators argued that in addition to the LOCPC’s frequent intervention into different levels of elections, the mainland Chinese Central Government first rejected direct elections in 2008 and then rejected dual universal suffrage for the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council in 2012. As a result, democratic development in Hong Kong was 20 years behind schedule. 	<p>Press release by the Hong Kong SAR government, 2008.6.11</p> <p>Sing Tao Daily, 2008.6.12</p>
177	2007.12.29	<p><u>The NPC Standing Committee restricted the timetable and roadmap of the direct elections, which undermined the high degree of autonomy to be enjoyed by Hong Kong.</u></p>	

No.	Time	Event	Source
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="470 309 1075 1010"> <p>■ <u>The NPC Standing Committee rejected universal suffrage for the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council in 2012.</u> During its 31st session, the NPC Standing Committee passed a resolution on issues relating to the methods for selecting the Chief Executive and for forming the Legislative Council of the HKSAR and on issues relating to universal suffrage. According to the resolution, the election of the Chief Executive and the legislators in the year 2012 shall not be implemented by the method of universal suffrage, but election of the Chief Executive in the year 2017 may be by universal suffrage. Direct election for the Legislative Council will be in 2020 at the soonest.</p> <li data-bbox="470 1039 1075 1989"> <p>■ <u>Hong Kong people criticized action that runs counter to public opinion:</u> Pro-democracy factions in Hong Kong jointly issued a statement to voice their strong protest. The statement pointed out that the Standing Committee rejected dual universal suffrage in 2012, which ran counter to mainstream public opinion in Hong Kong, and that for the 2012 election, the ratio between members selected by functional constituencies and members selected by geographical constituencies through direct elections shall remain unchanged, which went against the principle of gradual and orderly progress. Since the decision of the Standing Committee did not provide details on the election process, pro-democracy factions were also concerned that direct elections would not be realized even 20 years after the handover. The pro-democracy factions carried out hunger strike and street rallies to protest Beijing's utter disregard for public opinion.</p> 	<p data-bbox="1088 309 1369 383">Hong Kong Economic Journal, 2007.12.30</p> <p data-bbox="1088 1039 1369 1196">Hong Kong Economic Journal, 2008.1.14; Sing Tao Daily, Metro Daily, 2007.12.24</p>

No.	Time	Event	Source
178	2008.3.	<p><u>Mainland China encroached the rights of the Hong Kong people to visit their hometowns in China.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="470 450 1075 987">■ <u>Issuance of hometown visit permits to members of the pro-democracy camp was refused and the issued permits confiscated:</u> After the June 4 incident in 1989, mainland China refused to issue hometown visit permits to individuals who demanded justice in the incident, and also confiscated hometown visit permits of such individuals. It was an attempt to force members of the pro-democracy camp to comply with Beijing and HKSAR government policies. One-time permits were granted only when Beijing wants to project an image of harmony. <li data-bbox="470 1010 1075 1630">■ <u>Member of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) urges the issuance of hometown visit permits:</u> During a CPPCC conference in March, 2008, Elizabeth Liza Wang, a CPPCC member of Hong Kong, put forward a motion to urge the issuance of hometown visit permits to pro-democracy legislators who had not received hometown visit permits, so as to promote their better understanding of mainland China’s development. Despite support from 52 percent of the Hong Kong residents, the motion did not generate any response from the relevant government agencies. <li data-bbox="470 1653 1075 1986">■ <u>Legislators request the implementation of the commitments made for the Olympics:</u> In May, pro-democracy legislator Emily Lau Wai-hing put forward a motion to urge the Chinese government to implement the commitments that mainland China made when it applied to host the upcoming Olympics. Lau requested improvements in 	<p>Ming Pao, 2008.3.16; Apple Daily, 2008.3.15</p> <p>Sing Tao Daily, 2008.5.2</p>

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No.	Time	Event	Source
		human rights issues, release of imprisoned dissidents, and assistance to individuals who had been refused to return hometowns to obtain hometown visit permits. The motion was boycotted by pro-mainland China legislators and thus vetoed.	