
Interview: Chinese Student in America

Chinese students 'use their lives' to call for political change

The individual interviewed here is a Chinese graduate student in California, and a spokesman for one of the leading student political organizations of mainland China, Al Hua (Love of China). The student was interviewed by EIR correspondent Brian Lantz on May 23.

EIR: Mainland Chinese students have made freedom and human rights the centerpiece of their demands, quoting Abraham Lincoln and carrying a replica of the Statue of Liberty. How are great American leaders, such as Lincoln and George Washington, viewed by students in China today?

Student: To me and to most students in China, the United States system—both system of leaders and of organization—we regard this country as a model for nations all over the world. We think what is occurring in this country is the solution for China to better her old way, to be as great and strong and free as other countries. And this is also the dream of the Chinese people for the past 70 years, since 1919 and the May 4 Movement. In this country, some leaders made great contributions, to set up the system in this country today, and this is why the students admire the great leaders and use their slogans to encourage themselves and to push the leaders, to push the government in China to go the same way.

I think the bottom line of freedom is human rights. The issue of human rights is really valid in China in everything, everyday. I think there is almost no human dignity in China, just because you have no power. It does not matter how smart you are and how nice you are. So, without this bottom line, the other things cannot be satisfied. That is why students want freedom of speech. Students think that the preliminary steps are to call for freedom of speech, freedom of press, and freedom of assembly. As far as these are guaranteed, then other things can be solved, other violations of human rights can be monitored by the press and by the majority, and condemned by the people. The people can set up a kind of consensus that, "You can not do things this way." I think that is the students' motivation for the call for freedom.

EIR: What is the significance of the students' call for the

resignation of Premier Li Peng?

Student: I think this is a real blow to Deng Xiaoping. He is the one who really sanctions, who designs the fate of 1.1 billion people. So, this system, this regime must not be continued. Something must be done to get out of this. So, the call for Li Peng's resignation is the solution, because it is more easily accepted by senior and middle-level officials. This is also a smart way out of the crisis. If Li Peng does resign, it is a real loss to Deng. Li is just a puppet!

EIR: China is wracked by a deep economic crisis, including food shortages, tremendous unemployment, and inflation. What policies are viewed by the students as being necessary to resolve this situation?

Student: I think that the students' motivation is not economic. The economic situation in China is very bad now, and that is the motivation of most supporters, but the primary problem is political. For a long time, students saw that the system does not work very well, it does not function very well, they see no hope, no future. That is why they use their lives—they went on a hunger strike—they used their lives to call for change, to call for a change in the system. Because of the current system, the leaders who are in crucial positions just do not know economic law. They do things that do not follow economic law. That is why some of the good economic policies failed to be carried out, and some other policies did not work. So, I think to solve the economic problems, we must first solve the problem of the political system. Some crucial demands made by the students must be met, then comes the economic points.

EIR: The regime has maintained a policy of one child per family. What do students think regarding this policy of strict population limits?

Student: From a scientific viewpoint, one child per family is not a long-term strategy for the nation to develop. But now, there is no other choice. There are so many people and they need natural resources. If there is a way to get rid of this natural resource crisis, without limiting the birth rate, it is to

emigrate people to other countries. For example, if we emigrated 1 million people to the United States each year, the United States would have to reduce by one-half to one-third the energy they are consuming every day! I do not think the American people would accept that. There are no other choices. People in other countries will not do that either.

EIR: But there are tremendous unused and underutilized capabilities in the United States, Japan, in Germany and France which could be mobilized to produce energy and industrial capabilities for export. Isn't this the alternative to the sort of "limits to growth" policies historically tied to Malthus and British imperialism? Isn't overpopulation a symptom of the breakdown of the global economy, rather than the cause?

Student: Yes. In Taiwan, their population-density is higher than on the mainland. But the current regime, the Communist Party, is not qualified to solve the population problem the way it has been in Taiwan or Japan or other countries. So, it comes back to the political issue again. Yes, the Communist Party is responsible for this, absolutely, from the early fifties when a scholar pointed out that we should control our population, and we failed. On the other hand, the culture is also a factor which influences the population problem. Most parents just want their own children. They don't teach them, and the quality of the population becomes lowered. So, I think most of the intellectuals agree with population control, but they prefer that parents who are well educated have more children. I think this is a good measure to take, but currently, it is very doubtful for the Communist Party to take this measure, because that will absolutely leave out other people such as farmers and workers, which will then create more social chaos. I think the government does not want to do this.

But in the future, for long-term development, we must do this. Otherwise in the future not only will we not have enough, but we will have a less-educated people—like a mob! This is very dangerous. But with the current heads of the Communist Party, this will not be addressed. They don't know the natural law of population or natural law of natural resources, they do not know these laws at all. I think that at the beginning, they intended to get power and maintain power. They failed to bring a good economic system of benefit to everybody. They failed to bring a good population policy, a good education policy. Even sports, as well, what you call physical exercise. It is not good. Their policies are not good at all—everything which is not closely related to the power struggle. That is why people lose faith in the Communist Party. China has just one party. There is no partner to counterbalance what they do or will do. There is no opposing voice, which is very bad.

EIR: Do the students draw support from within the intellectuals? From among certain official circles? To put it another way, does their support come from the bottom or from the

top of the political system?

Student: It absolutely comes from the students and their supporters themselves. It is not the Cultural Revolution, motivated by a few higher officials who try to use the people to fight with other officials.

But people often see it this way, because the politics of China is not very healthy. Each time there is a student demonstration, even the Chinese themselves at the beginning do not often support the students because they think, "It is no use." Every time the country can go forward, it is "a power struggle."

Actually, in a true faction fight at a high level of government, the people who can win, can do so because they do what people want them to do. In the future, the development will be similar to that in Japan. In some countries, within one party they fight each other, but in Japan, there is some real competition, like the two parties in your country. But in China today, it has this tendency, but it is not yet very healthy. Officials need the people to push them to become healthier.

As I said earlier, when students see the system does not work well, there is no hope, no future. They use their life to fight for freedom, to fight for the kind of political system. But, their *supporters* are motivated by the inflation, economics, and this sort of thing. So, this time, it is a people's struggle not a power struggle. But, absolutely, each time the people's movement will be taken advantage of by a power struggle, so it will take some time to make things healthier.

Let me put it this way. Some people at a high level of the Communist Party would like to take advantage of People's Struggle, the people's movement. This is true. But in a healthy system, maybe this is also true, *but* the consequence is, that we fight on the correct side of the battle, we represent the people's demands. We represent the consensus by which the country can go forward to develop in a better way.

In China, you can see that, in the last two decades, there were several political campaigns; each time it was the conservative side that won. Of course, this is not healthy. But this time, both the party and the people know their own strength and power, and so, from now on, the Chinese system will enter a new era. People will take more of a role in the political system, but not the role as in a congressional election we have witnessed in this country. It will take some time to develop further.

EIR: How does Taiwan view the student movement?

Student: I don't know how Taiwan's government responds. I watched the television coverage that was broadcast in Taiwan. They didn't show so much of the student demonstrations. I guess they are cautious, because they do not want their students to do the same thing. But the Taiwanese in the United States are really supportive. Many students volunteered with donations, or were in demonstrations. I think that the Kuomintang may be viewing it in another way, not exactly as the Chinese people.