

AND SO, YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW EVERYTHING, DID YOU?

These days, questions may be asked, in certain circles, as to what should be the correct political designation of the Government of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Is it Communistic Government, de jure?

Is it, perhaps, a Communistic Democracy (a contradiction in terms, in the Western world, but hardly a dichotomy in the PRC)?

Is it a benevolent '*monarchy*', de facto?

Recently, suggestions have been made to the effect that the Government of (old) China, when Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek was in charge, was very similar, in many respects, to the HKSAR Government of Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa.

The main reasons: Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek, before he fled China, with the People's Liberation Army, nipping at his heels, ruled the land with an iron hand. Those, close to the Generalissimo's sword, grew rich, while the peasants tilled the land; and, made the Generalissimo's faction grow richer and richer.

It was all very cozy, and very fair ... for the Generalissimo's faction.

Those who were determined to try to buck the system of Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek, tended to vanish from the scene, in quick order.

In 1947, and up to the latter part of 1948, China's Prime Minister may have been seen to be handling the minor matters of State, but when it came to dealing with matters of importance, such as negotiating with the Government of the United States of America, it was the Generalissimo and his wife, Madame Soong Mei Ling, who did all the talking, and the begging, for money and arms.

In short, therefore, the Government of China, under the Generalissimo, was a paternal dictatorship (the kindest nomenclature), or an authoritarian regime, ruled by the Order of the Gun ('*the most unkindest cut of all*').

When the late Chairman Mao Ze Dong beat off the forces of the Generalissimo -- all of whom had been armed to the teeth by the US Government -- time and time again, forcing his army to retreat to Taiwan, along with 2 million of his followers and shiploads of stolen Chinese gold and art treasures, things in China changed, completely.

In the early days of Comrade Chairman Mao, most of the people of the People's Republic of China were poor and, in this abject poverty, poverty tended to love poverty; and, those, who were not poor, were, to some extent, not loved by those, who had little to nothing.

It was, simply put: Misery loving company of its own kind.

As time went by, Comrade Chairman Mao discovered that it was all well and good to look poor -- like the rest of the people in the land that he ruled -- but there was no reason that he, and his good friends, should not eat well.

And so they all ate well, all wearing the same type of clothing (now, called Mao Jackets), and they all ate the best food that the Chinese workers could provide for them -- because they all had to keep up their strength in order to manage the most populous country in the world.

And, it stood to reason that the wealth of the PRC, its youth, from which body of men and women would come the future leaders, required to be well educated, as quickly as possible.

And who should first be well educated than the aspiring and talented youth of the Politburo chiefs – beginning with Comrade Chairman Mao and the fructus naturales of his third wife, Madame Jian Qing.

There followed a virtual avalanche of prodigy, protégé and protégée, all headed out of the PRC and the PRC's education system, and into schools in the US, the United Kingdom, and Europe.

The thirst for immediate knowledge, sufficient to fill vacant PRC Politburo seats of the decaying geriatrics, was a pressing issue, the world was told.

And the rich of the PRC grew richer -- while the remainder of the 1.30 billion human population remained, for the most part, very poor.

What Is Wealth ?

More often than not, wealth in the PRC is not the same coin as wealth, as it is recognised in the Western World, because, having a lot of gold in the PRC is not as important as having a lot of friends, who have the ability to bestow perquisites on friends – which allows the PRC elite to have Swiss bank accounts, and houses in Alberta, Canada, Los Angeles, California, New York City and Mexico City, etc.

And some people asked: What is the difference between the China, under the Generalissimo, and the PRC, under Comrade Chairman Mao Ze Dong?

And the answer was: We are all one under the Chairman.

And some people asked: What about today's Government?

And the answer was the same: We are all one under the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Today, the economy of the PRC ecosphere is a very different place from the 3.70 million square miles when it was ruled by the late Comrade Chairman Mao, or the late Generalissimo, but there are plaintive choruses, being heard over the mountains: Déjà vu to you ... and you ... and you ... and you, too.

The pressing problem that caught the world's attention, last year, with regard to the HKSAR Right of Abode Controversy, has resulted in Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa deciding, unilaterally, that the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress should make a determination about the matter in order to find a legal method of reversing the final and definitive decision of the HKSAR Court of Final Appeal.

It was decided, by the Chief Executive, that the HKSAR Court of Final Appeal was, clearly, wrong; and, that he, the Chief Executive, the great Pooh-Bah of the HKSAR, was, clearly, correct.

There can be no doubt that the intelligentsia of the Standing Committee will, always, come up with the correct answer – in the interests of the HKSAR.

The Legislative Council, that elite Council of men and women, having been denuded of those law-makers who, wrongly, maintained that the Rule of Law should be paramount and, therefore, refused to vote on the matter of asking the Standing Committee to assist in overturning the wrong decision of the Court of Final Appeal, voted unanimously – with 2, small exceptions – to support their Chief Executive: *'Ask the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress to help us to resolve this unsolvable problem, please!'*

The sensible decision, of his Legislative Council, was a great load, lifted off the shoulders of Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa, who had been wrestling with the problem those many months.

At the end of the day, therefore, the real seat of power of the HKSAR is, in truth, to be Beijing.

And it will, always, be so.

Since, it is there that the decisions of pith and moment may be made in complete assurance that such decisions are correct and final – in direct contrast to the wrong decisions of the HKSAR Court of Final Appeal.

Which means, of course, that decisions, determined in the HKSAR by petty politicians, or decisions, made in the petty HKSAR Courts, may not be correct and, therefore, may never be considered final.

Such weighty decisions shall, henceforth, be the responsibility of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress – that PRC appointed committee which assists in the running of the HKSAR and in the running of the Executive Council through its favourite son, the Great Pooh-Bah Tung Chee Hwa.

This is the type of government, which used to be popularly known as a monarchy.

This type of government has been practised, very successfully, in Singapore since August 9, 1965.

In the Singapore of today, as in the days when Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew was, officially, the head of government, when (geriatrician) Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew – as he is, now, described – decides that a controversial determination, made by minions of his government, is not in the best interests of his Republic, he has the absolute power to overturn that decision on the grounds that it is contrary to the interests of his Republic and, it follows, is not in the interests of his 2.90 million people.

(Such authoritarian determinations are, naturally, carried out through due process of Singapore law. Those who oppose his authority are, more often than not, sued, very quickly and very successfully, for libel)

So, the answer to the riddle as to what Government the people of the HKSAR enjoy, is, clearly, that of a benevolent monarchy, framed after the Government of the Republic of Singapore.

Now, the question is: What shall be the National Anthem of the HKSAR?

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