

**KINGS AND PRINCES WILL BE TYRANTS FROM POLICY,  
WHEN SUBJECTS ARE REBELS FROM PRINCIPLE**

Since the assumption of sovereignty by the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) of the former British Colony of Hongkong, now known as the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC, and the beginning of the *'reign'* of Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa over the territory, there have been pronounced, dramatic and very noticeable changes in the colour and attitude of the population of the territory.

And, in the place of the former vibrancy, the former eagerness, the former inquisitiveness, the former *je ne sais quoi*, and the former fire of the majority of the population, there have come the Marches of the Discontented, the largest of all such Marches, being those on July 1 of both of the past 2 years, marking the anniversary of the day of the handover of Colonial Hongkong to the PRC Government.

No longer does one note the rise (and, sometimes, the fall) in the HKSAR of exceptional individuals in business, in the arts, in science, and in academia.

What one notes, instead, is tergiversation, abounding.

What one notes, instead, is the rise of the number of philistines, of the number of political prostitutes, of the number of so-called political activists, all of whose only real motive, by and large, is to be able to earn \$HK181,034 per month by assuming the title of *'The Honourable'* – a Legislative Councillor.

The fiery rhetoric of some of the former, most vocal, lawmakers has been replaced with requests for political appeasement and reconciliation with the Government of the PRC ... in the interests of all parties concerned, one is told.

Today, the HKSAR has become a by-station, but a by-station to where, most people are unaware.

During the Cultural Revolution in the PRC, proper, in 1965, the British Colony of Hongkong was, also, seen as being a by-station by many residents of the PRC, proper ... who were desirous of escaping from the chaos, the tyranny, and the political oppression that were raging throughout the world's most-populous country.

Compared with the period, just 3 decades prior to the advent of the assumption of sovereignty of Hongkong by the Government of the PRC, the territory, to many of the people of the PRC, proper, was a destination, devoutly to be wished.

It was viewed, widely, as being a free and prosperous city where it was perceived that one with talent and tenacity had the opportunity to rise to great heights.

It was viewed as an exemplification of freedom from the oligarchical, PRC Government, where absolute dictatorship was taken for granted.

And, there was a great deal of truth in that view of the British, paternalistic Government of the former Colony of Hongkong.

It is said that things have changed in the HKSAR and in the PRC, proper, since the assumption of sovereignty by the PRC Government of the territory; and, that things are continuing to change for the better ... perhaps.

But, nevertheless, the very act of imposing its sovereign will on the human population of the HKSAR, in spite of an uprising by a large proportion of the permanent resident population, would appear, to any lover of freedom, as being the principal act of a good dictator.

One could say that, today, the population of the HKSAR looks back at the past 7 years without indignation and without pleasure; and, they look to the future without much hope, but with more than a modicum of foreboding.

As with Dionysius the Elder, Tyrant of Syracuse of the 4<sup>th</sup> Century B.C., sitting at the banquet with the Sword of Damocles, hanging overhead, so the population of the territory realises that, should push come to shove, the Government of the PRC would not hesitate to send in the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to quell any definitive perception of a stentorian public outcry that could endanger the peace and tranquility that Beijing determines should exemplify the relatively newly won 416 square miles that constitute the HKSAR.

What has restrained Beijing from sending in the PLA, thus far, has, probably, been the visibility of the international press corps, which has been documenting the activities of the territory since July 1, 1997, on a very regular basis.

Had not the HKSAR been under the microscope of the world, no doubt, the territory would be an entirely different place, today.

In the PRC, proper, it would be unthinkable for a large segment of the population to call for the resignation of Premier Wen Jia Bo.

At Tiananmen Square, on June 3, 1989, when the tanks of the PLA moved in at the stroke of midnight, crushing the one-million strong, unarmed student revolt overnight, the then Paramount Leader of the PRC, Mr Deng Xiao Ping, was televised, shaking the hands of his generals, the next morning in The Great Hall of the People, which abuts Tiananmen Square, for their singular act of bravery.

### **The Cold Opinion Of The HKSAR**

A cold, dispassionate, languid opinion is what one notes about the HKSAR of today.

It is that which one would expect in the discovery of affairs that are of no great importance or of pith and/or moment to man; or, to affairs that do not concern one: Few people commend the measures, which are being pursued, or expect any good from those acts in preparation.

There is little passion; there is little excitement ... and it prompts little action, save the March of The Discontented.

What brought about the current situation is, simply put, the absence of planning and management at the highest levels of the HKSAR Government.

To bring the population of a territory to a feeling as tends to amendment and/or alteration of the system, as it affects the lot of the ordinary man, there has to be planning; there has to be management.

There has to be, also, that golden ring, capable of being snatched by the energetic on the merry-go-round of daily life.

All direction of public opinion and the humour of the population must, by necessity, originate in the few.

But the HKSAR lacks those few.

They have gone, probably, never to return.

And those, who have remained, maintain a low-key approach to most political subjects, deemed to be controversial by the powers-that-be, as they keep one foot in the HKSAR ... and one foot in Canada, the US, Australia, and etc.

One notes the would-be political leaders of the HKSAR, today, being armed with passports to Canada, to the US, to Singapore, to Australia, to New Zealand, and etc, or having their spouses, or other family members, with such rights as the right of abode in countries where these political leaders may be afforded refuge should needs be such.

It is said that events supply materials; times furnish dispositions.

But it is conduct that, through tenacity, can bring them to bear for useful purposes.

Things cannot be left to themselves for, if that becomes the case for a sovereign territory, then, one will, in the fullness of time, note the gradual decline, of wealth, of vibrancy, of the will of the population, falling from the highest point of excellence and grandeur, where the territory is singled out by Nobel Prize winning economists, such a Mr Milton Friedman, who penned his position in respect of economies, which were born on the theory of no, or little, monetary control and governmental non-intervention, as an example of social and economic utilitarianism, to a much lower state, cowered in imbecility and meanness of action.

Sadly, one may never be able to pinpoint that particular period of the declension of an economy/government: It, suddenly, as with the rising of the sun in the morning, appears.

And, then, it is too late.

Every event in time prepares the subsequent event and so, when that time arrives, it should be of no surprise as to its birth ... and it should be the cause of no extraordinary alarm.

Because, by and large, the peoples of a territory make their own bed and, in that bed, they must surely sleep.

To procrastinate, as has been the case in the HKSAR for some years, now, will not ripen the fruit on the political tree of the territory, because public discontent will rise to fill the air with its lyrics long before the fruit is met by the warming sun.

Unless forward-thinking, political measures are tempered with direction and hope, held out to the population, in general, they are of little value.

The fruit of political assertiveness must be met and matured by proper means: There must be direction in order for the political schemes of their authors to be useful; and, they must engender hope for the future.

Political '*kings*' and '*princes*', naturally, love the company of the lower orders since, then, they may be cloaked in love and admiration ... of their sycophants.

Thus, the kings and princes rise above ordinary man – in their political myopia.

History is inundated with political nobility, perfectly willing to act the part of flatterers, the bearers of tales – calculated to enrich themselves in the course of time – parasites, pimps and fools.

The more, keen-sighted population of the HKSAR should have noted the acts of the political nobility of the past 7 years – had they been sufficiently perspicacious, or had they been willing to note the acts of the political nobility in objectivity and in impartiality.

Turning once more to history, the rise and fall of the Roman Empire is a well-documented example of how insidious political corruption, within a well-established, political regime, may be brought down in a similar manner as the tiniest fungus, attaching itself to a stately and very healthy tree, will, eventually, over-power the tree and bring down the magnificence only rot on the forest floor.

The Roman emperors, almost from the birth of the Empire, allowed themselves to be lulled and cajoled into seeming security by political sycophants.

The mischief ensured, daily, and it increased until, eventually, it, as with the smallest fungus, attached to the tall and very healthy tree, undermined the very foundations of the Empire, bringing it crashing down.

In the HKSAR, today, the Chief Executive, his sycophants and his servant staff, one could say, may be ineffective in '*court*', which may be better off for their absence.

But it is fair to state, also, that the court has been, since July 1, 1997, without effective leadership and, as such, it has fallen into privation.

The duty of public life is one of power, personified in one man, or a group of men: It is exemplified by energy, also.

One should add that he who trespasses against his duty, he who sleeps upon his watch, is he who sides with the enemy.

A government's determination on a single aspect of the day may be correct or incorrect.

That determination is no matter of fact, but a matter of opinion, which may be disputed from sunrise to sunset.

But when Mr Tung Chee Hwa makes a determination, claiming, openly, that that determination is correct and proper, taking into account all factors, said to be known to him, only he, himself, knows and understands the implications of his overt acts.

Whether or not Mr Tung Chee Hwa understands those determinations to be correct or incorrect is a point of still greater distance than the acts themselves – sadly.

How convenient it is for politicians, or would-be politicians, to allow the judgments of their determinations in respect of overt acts, cognizable by any judge in any court of the world, to be triable only in the very secret Court of Star Chambers, where they are sure of being heard with favour, and where the worst possible sentence may be private approbation or, a mild inculcation.

### **The Need For A Leader**

Man has, over the eons, never really changed.

He requires and demands leaders.

Without talented and dedicated leadership, man tends to sink to among the lowest levels of vulgarity; he retrogresses in order to cloak himself in those innate propensities that typified the abandonment of what man terms, today, to be harmony in civil society.

If no man steps up to the rostrum to adorn himself in the robes of purple, then, guides will try to fit the gown, rather than the gown to fit the guides.

The result, more often than not, is that those guides will contrive to conduct man to shame and ruin.

Such was the case in Germany with the rise, and subsequent fall, of Adolf Hitler (1934 – 1945).

A leader in today's world must be not an annual plant that perishes at the first frost of winter and disappears from the ground, forever, but a perennial growth, which, regardless of the season of the year, keeps its roots healthy, ready to flower at the appropriate time of the year.

He must be as a tall oak that grants cool shade in the heat of summer and offers shelter when inclement weather threatens.

The leader that the PRC Government chose to direct the affairs of the HKSAR since 1997, regrettably, has been discovered to be singularly endowed with eminence inutility.

The replacement of Mr Tung Chee Hwa, if selected by the PRC Government, once again, is likely to be just as good as the first selection.

He, too, will, surely, be nothing more than a coryphée, dancing on the tips of his little toes in order to avoid touching the PRC's political landmines, which will adorn his stage.

That is the most important reason that the so-called democrats of the HKSAR are demanding Universal Suffrage and the right to choose their own leader after Mr Tung Chee Hwa either steps down from office or becomes unable to continue in office, for whatever reason may be offered by whomsoever.

-- E N D --

***While TARGET makes every attempt to ensure accuracy of all data published,  
TARGET cannot be held responsible for any errors and/or omissions.***

*If readers feel that they would like to voice their opinions about that which they have read in TARGET, please feel free to e-mail your views to [editor@targetnewspapers.com](mailto:editor@targetnewspapers.com) or [targnews@hkstar.com](mailto:targnews@hkstar.com). TARGET does not guarantee to publish readers' views, but reserves the right so to do subject to the laws of libel.*