

**HAVING A CLOSER LOOK AT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEUNG CHUN YING**

**Is This The Beginning Of The End Of  
Laissez-Faire Capitalism For Hongkong ?**

In a true democracy, one has to ask whether or not the people should be protected from the government and the laws that that government has enacted by consent of the people, laws that have been enshrined in the statute books.

Conversely, should a democratically elected government be protected from the people that it has sworn to serve?

When a government is beholden to the people that it is sworn to serve, any wrongdoing by that government can be brought to book or, at the very least, called into account for its actions.

The concept of a democracy is generally accepted as being a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and is exercised by the people, directly or indirectly, via a system of representation.

This is supposed to be the governmental system of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), a system of government that is enshrined in The Basic Law – the mini-constitution of the 416 square miles that constitutes the territory which, since July 1, 1997, has become, once again, an inalienable part of the PRC.

The Basic Law states, inter alia:

*'The socialist system and policies shall not be practised in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the previous capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years.'*

*'The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall protect the right of private ownership of property in accordance with law.'*

It is generally held that the function of every social order, the law, being an accepted social order, is to bring about and to harbour reciprocal behaviour among men, inducing them to refrain from perpetrating certain acts that are deemed detrimental to society, as a whole, and to perpetrate acts that are regarded as useful to all men.

Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr Leung Chun Ying (), has, recently, gone on record, stating that the HKSAR Government should become proactive and should abolish, where it is deemed expedient so to do, laissez-faire capitalism.

In economics, laissez-faire capitalism is defined as being an abstention by a government from interfering in the workings of the free market.

Chief Executive Leung Chun Ying has made the claim that laissez-faire capitalism, as has been practised in the territory for more than one and a half centuries, was inherited from appointed, British Colonial

Governors who, traditionally, had headed the Government of Hongkong.

He maintains that the time has come for the Government of the HKSAR to reconsider whether or not laissez-faire capitalism is outdated, in part or as a whole.

A government that has adopted laissez-faire capitalism, over an extended period of time, cannot partially disband it: Laissez-faire capitalism is either embraced, entirely; or, a government must determine to champion a completely different economic system.

But, once a government has put just one proverbial toe into the waters of a river that does not embrace laissez-faire capitalism, then, staunch advocates of laissez-faire capitalism can never again expect to enjoy, or to taste, the flavours of those waters that were free from governmental interference.

One cannot walk in the same river twice, for the waters are forever flowing.

Chief Executive Leung Chun Ying has said, among other things:

*'One of the reasons (that) I put forward such a new idea is because the competitors of Hongkong has (sic) been very proactive in addressing the economic and livelihood issues.'*

*'As an economy to compete with places like Singapore and South Korea, Hongkong has to consider what role the (HKSAR) Government should play.'*

The Chief Executive went on to state that the HKSAR Government should be a proactive leader, a coordinator, and a '*super connector*' of the territory's business sector.

This smacks, very much, of the actions of a totalitarian form of government, a government that is centralised and dictatorial, and demanding, inter alia, of complete subservience to State authority.

And, if this is the intent of Chief Executive Leung Chun Ying, then, the entire complexion of the HKSAR will change, forever.

The Chief Executive, also, stressed that economic development should take precedence over politics:

*'Two of the past three years have been spent on political reform. That's why I said we had to transfer the energy to economic and livelihood issues ...'*

*'There are some obstructing forces within Hongkong ... which have dragged down the pace of the city's economic development ...'.*

The last sentence, with reference to the '*obstructing forces*', obviously refers to the discontent that has come to the fore of late, by some Legislative Councillors, confrontational students – seeking to try out the power of their imaginative intellectual '*wings*' – as well as ordinary residents who are opposed to certain actions of the HKSAR Government or, alternatively, its lack of appropriate action in a timely fashion.

What may be considered of interest to right-minded people of the HKSAR is that that which the Chief Executive is proposing, today, is an action plan for which there is unlikely to be return to laissez-faire capitalism.

**TARGET** () would, unhesitatingly, suggest that the Chief Executive's plan of having the HKSAR Government be empowered to step in, in order to make certain that the economy is on the right path, in the opinion of the Chief Executive's appointed Governmental officials who would be required to answer, directly, to him or his relegated person(s), is the '*foot-in-the-door*' technique because, once that foot blocks the door from closing tightly, it is highly unlikely that it will ever be able to be shut, again.

Also known as '*successive approximations*', the foot-in-the-door technique relies on basic human

motivations, such as avariciousness and the craving for power, in order for it to succeed.

It is usually applied by, first, making a modest proposal that, insidiously, leads to a much-larger demand, that demand, being based on the underlying, accepted concept, ingrained within the previous modest proposal.

History is bespattered with leaders of countries, employing this technique, usually with covert or, in some cases, evil intentions.

In the case of the transparent suggestion of the HKSAR Chief Executive, to abolish laissez-faire capitalism and all that it entails in the HKSAR, **TARGET** would be disposed to think that it is unlikely to have been of evil intent that he has chosen this time to make the proposal to have the Government that he heads adopt a proactive stance in respect of the territory's economy.

One cannot help to ponder, however, whether or not the underlying concept behind the abolishment of laissez-faire capitalism in the HKSAR, an economic system that has served the territory so well for so many years, has been osmotically infused by virtue of the Chief Executive, having rubbed shoulders on many an occasion, with another form of government.

It is noted that his comments were made in an interview with an employee of the Xinhua News Agency (), the official news agency of the Government of the PRC.

The Xinhua News Agency is, in fact, the de facto '*Propaganda Ministry*' of the PRC Government, being a Ministry-level Department of the Government, its President, being a member of the Central Committee of The Communist Party of China.

This, of course, stirs up the embers of the long-smouldering '*fire*' with regard to the duty of fidelity that the Chief Executive of the HKSAR has toward the 7.30 million, permanent residents of the territory.

Does he owe allegiance, first to the Beijing, and, then, to the HKSAR?

After all, Article 15 of The Basic Law states, definitively:

*'The Central People's Government shall appoint the Chief Executive and the principal officials of the executive authorities of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.'*

Article 15 tends to make a mockery of the so-called '*election*' of the HKSAR Chief Executive because, in accordance with The Basic Law, the PRC Government has the final say as to whom should lead the Government of the territory that is, after all, '*an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China.*' (Article One of Chapter One).

Be that as it may, the HKSAR is supposed to enjoy a high degree of autonomy under the General Principles of The Basic Law (Article Two of Chapter One).

But one might well be inclined to question the loyalty of the PRC-Government's appointed Chief Executive to the territory, today, knowing fully well that his duty of fidelity is to Beijing, first, and the HKSAR, second.

In effect, the HKSAR Chief Executive is merely the '*puppet*' custodian of the PRC's territory at the southern-most tip of the second-largest economy of the world and, as such, he is bound to follow the '*suggestions*' of the puppeteer.

Much has been said to berate the statements and actions – or lack of actions – of Chief Executive Leung Chun Ying, but one must bear in mind that, as soon as he agreed to don the purple of office of the HKSAR, he assumed an unenviable political position as the leader of these 416 square miles that houses some 7.30 million, human inhabitants, all of whom call the territory their home.

His exalted position cannot be desired by people, endowed with a high degree of that faculty of reasoning that makes such a man stand out in a crowd. He does not have such a bearing – sadly.

He may, also, be somewhat impaired, mentally, in respect of his ability to understand matters of abstraction or even have a proclivity toward hard work, requiring long hours of thinking through concepts about which, in his earlier years, he had never come in contact.

At any time, he may be fettered by a single angry word, uttered by one of his many superiors in Beijing, and, with such an utterance, he must realise that his political world in the HKSAR is in peril, and it has the ability to come crashing down, round his feet.

It is said that the man of superior quality is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.

Chief Executive Leung Chun Ying is, certainly, modest in his speech.

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