

**BEIJING IS UNLIKELY, EVER, TO COUNTENANCE
SECESSION FOR HONGKONG**

**Or To Countenance, The Ranting
And Ravings Of Vociferous, Political Lightweights**

Empedocles of Acragas, a Fourth Century, Greek city on the site of modern Agrigento, Sicily, is credited with numerous, insightful statements, contained in his poem, '*On Nature*'.

In the fragments of that poem that have been discovered, Empedocles makes the statements that the unavoidable limitation of human knowledge is based on two factors:

The weakness of the instruments;
and,
The circumscribed experience of the individual.

In his address to Pausanias, the leader at the Greek victory over Mardonius and the Persians at The Battle of Plataea in 479 BC, he said, among other things, that the senses are feeble, intelligence at the mercy of circumstance; life is short, and each man sees only that which happens to come before him. Thus, a man grasps (at) that part and thinks it is the whole.

While it is not known when this philosopher died, it is confirmed that he was in his prime in 450 BC. That is about 2,466 years ago.

The pre-Socratic philosophers gave much to the world, but, sadly, much of that which these brilliant thinkers discovered and/or induced, without the benefit of any formal education, has been buried along with their bones.

The Revolution

Today, in the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the beginnings of a political revolution appears to be in progress.

It is led by two young ladies and one young man.

They are:

Ms Yau Wai Ching (), aged 25 years;
Ms Wong Sum Yu (), aged 28 years; and,
Mr Nathan Law Kwun Chung (), aged 23 years.

Ms Yau Wai Ching makes the claim that she advocates self-determination for the people of the HKSAR.

Ms Wong Sum Yu maintains that localism – '*made in Hongkong*' – will protect the values that are treasured by HKSAR residents, those values include freedom, democracy, equality, justice, human rights, righteousness, and an incorrupt society.

As for Mr Nathan Law Kwun Chung, he has gone on record, stating, inter alia, that the rights and freedoms of the people of the HKSAR ‘*are being threatened*’ and that, in order to protect the future of the territory, it is necessary ‘*to resist the suppression from the Chinese Communist Party. We shall fight for a self-determination, and secure real autonomy of Hongkong.*’

Ms Yau Wai Ching, Ms Wong Sum Yu and Mr Nathan Law Kwun Chung have, only, recently, been elected as Legislative Councillors.

But before taking HKSAR’s Oath of Allegiance in order to become, officially, members of the Legislative Council, chaos reigned in the Legislative Council Chamber with the trio, making it very clear that they wanted to democratise the system of government of the HKSAR.

A banner, declaring their intent, went up in the Legislative Council Chamber, proclaiming:

‘Hongkong is not China’.

But the 416 square miles that constitute the HKSAR is the sovereign territory of the PRC.

The very word, secession, uttered by any minority group in the PRC, is not a word that Beijing likes to hear.

It is highly unlikely that the PRC Government would countenance a rebellion of the likes that the three, new Legislative Councillors have intimated in their stentorian statements in the Legislative Council Chamber, last week.

Might does not, necessarily, equate with right in today’s world.

Sir John Bremridge’s Legacy

Prior to Sir John Bremridge (), accepting the position of Financial Secretary of British Colonial Hongkong in 1981, at a meeting to which **TARGET** () was invited to take part, Sir John Bremridge stated, openly, that he saw his role in the Government of the British Crown Colony of Hongkong as being that of the loyal opposition.

While Sir John Bremridge did not, always, agree with the actions (or the lack of correct actions) of the British Colonial Government of Hongkong, throughout 1981 to 1986, when he held one of the most-senior positions in Government, he continued to be loyal to Queen and Country.

He remained, until he left Hongkong’s shores for the last time, the loyal opposition.

It is unlikely that the three newest members of the Legislative Council can fully understand the meaning of ‘*the loyal opposition*’ in a government, but Sir John Bremridge, for all of his idiosyncrasies and peccadilloes, left his mark on the territory and, for the most part, that which he left behind was of a positive nature.

One special aspect of Sir John Bremridge’s character was that he never bolted his door to anybody; and, he was never averse to listening to somebody whose opinion might be diametrically opposed to his.

In one instance, he invited a senior official of an independent statutory body of the Hongkong Government to a luncheon at The Hongkong Club and, at that luncheon, he sacked the senior official – on the spot!

And, then, he informed the Independent Commission Against Corruption to investigate the official who, at that time, was staying at the Hongkong Hilton Hotel.

Strangely, the three newest members of the Legislative Council – who are, also, the youngest members, by the way – have made it very clear that it would be counter-productive even to take tea with any member of the PRC Government.

One may well ask: If one cannot know one's enemy, how may one hope ever to defeat him.

In the words of Sun Tzu (), a Sixth Century Chinese General, military strategist, and the author of '*The Art of War*':

'If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles.

'If you know yourself, but not the enemy, for every victory gained, you will also suffer a defeat.

Where Ignorance Is Bliss ...

In Thomas Gray's poem, '*Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College*', the final verse states:

*'To each his sufferings: all are men,
Condemned alike to groan;
The tender for another's pain,
The unfeeling for his own.
Yet ah! why should they know their fate?
Since sorrow never comes too late,
And happiness too swiftly flies.
Thought would destroy their paradise.
No more; where ignorance is bliss,
'Tis folly to be wise.'*

Thomas Gray's sentiments in the above verse, written in 1742, seem to come to life, once again, in the HKSAR of today.

Many of his profound observations were as true in his lifetime as they are in today's world.

The three new, youthful Legislative Councillors successfully managed to inspire a certain segment of the HKSAR society by appealing to emotive aspirations.

These emotive aspirations failed to evaluate the prospects for success in their practical application.

The practical applications have never been considered, to any great extent, but, in their profound ignorance, the three new Legislative Councillors determined to try to hoist high the HKSAR's tattered banner of democratisation.

A dilemma, not considered by these newly elected Legislative Councillors, was that an established, successful political formula of one country may not be suitable in another country for a number of reasons.

Further, the three newly elected Legislative Councillors, for the most part, were – and still are – woefully unprepared to undertake their sworn duties of fidelity to be trust upon them.

And they have stated this, by innuendo, openly.

One of the many drawbacks of any democratic system of government is that the most learned and best qualified to head the government are not, always, able to sway the electorate to vote them into office.

Case in point: The present elections in the race of Mrs Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton and Mr Donald John Trump for the right to sleep in the White House as the President of The United States of America.

Both candidates have numerous skeletons in their respective closets, but they are the only two candidates, left in the race; and so, the American electorate is left with little choice, but to select the better of the two tarnished politicians.

Money Is Not Everything, But It Helps, Nevertheless

As Legislative Councillors, each of the newly elected Councillors shall be receiving a monthly remuneration of \$HK93,040.

In addition, they shall each be entitled to receive a medical and dental allowance of \$HK32,400 per annum.

For an unqualified person, the above remuneration is a massive sum of money, especially for one who has yet to reach the age of 30 years.

Not one of the three, newly elected Legislative Councillors appears to have very much of an understanding of the politics of the Government of the PRC – other than it is far removed from being a democratic system of government – and the fact that the laws of the PRC continue to evolve, sometimes on a daily basis.

Similarly, these three youthful Legislative Councillors are unlikely to understand how the HKSAR Government operates, but this shall, no doubt, be explained to them by those certain parties who will seek to foster friendships with them, perhaps for surreptitious reasons, bordering on the nefarious.

The HKSAR Government is charged to look after the welfare of the 7.30 million, human inhabitants of the territory. Its power is derived from a mandate, given to it by The National People's Congress, the national legislature of the PRC.

But therein lies the rub: Will the three, newly elected Legislative Councillors be given an objective and impartial explanation of enterprises of pith and moment; or, in the alternative, will they be bathed in the waters of propaganda by those certain parties of questionable intent?

To many young people, starting out in life, their thinking is, most likely to be, akin to a blank piece of blotting paper on which it is relatively easy to inscribe fallacious concepts, leading to the propagation of bias, and information that is misleading in nature, but all such intelligence and/or misinformation, being cloaked in the mantle of seeming truth.

What Is Your Opinion?

A few months ago, this amanuensis was asked for an opinion in respect of the PRC Government of today and how it would, most likely, change on the morrow.

The answer that was forthcoming from this scribe was that, in a relatively short space of time, it is quite likely that the PRC would be among the largest and strongest economies of the world – if not the strongest and the largest – and that today's politics of the country is bound to change, due to the forthcoming numerous demands of the 1.30 billion, human population.

Also, contrary to popular belief in the West, the PRC is not a jingoistic nation and it has not been known, in its long history, to have wilfully attacked another country.

The person, who had made the request with regard to the likely scenario of the PRC Government in years to come, leading to **TARGET**'s prognostication, is a multi-billionaire in any currency that one would wish to translate his wealth from renminbi.

This mogul has numerous factories, occupying very large parcels of land outside a southern city of the PRC. These factories employ many thousands of workers.

On listening, briefly, to **TARGET**'s opinion, this mogul dismissed all of the statements, outright, saying, among other things, that he had noted how doing business in the PRC, today, is vastly different from doing business only a short time ago.

He said that, in the past, one could sit down to have a cup of tea with a junior-level, PRC politician – if

needs be such – in order to obtain the quickest and most-expedient way to obtain a solution with regard to a commercial transaction in the best interests of the mogul's coffers and that of the State's.

'Now,' the mogul stated, being clearly irritated when he determined that he had not received the answer that he required from **TARGET**, *'it is very difficult to know what to do because the usual way of doing something (the modus operandi, if you will) of yesteryear is not applicable in today's world in the PRC.'*

To this utterance, **TARGET** stated that, when one has a bad cold – a chronic, upper respiratory infection – antibiotics take time to be fully efficacious.

It was very evident that this mogul, who sneered at this metaphor, did not appreciate the fact that the evolution of the laws of the PRC, as well as the modifications to many of the laws of yesteryear, had left him in a quandary.

Further, the rapid changes and modifications to the laws of the PRC had caused him to be unable to find satisfactory solutions to problems that, in the past, could have been resolved with just one telephone call, or sharing a meal with a *'friend'* to nut out resolutions in accordance with the needs and expectations of all parties concerned.

Times had changed, but, as far as this gentleman was concerned, he remained, somewhat locked into the past – and he was not satisfied with his lot.

Also, he was afraid that his seemingly reasonable actions of the past could cause him innumerable problems in the near future.

Thus, it appears that that which confronts the three, newly elected Legislative Councillors is similar, in substance, to the problems, confronting this PRC mogul: The newly elected Legislative Councillors are highly likely to be unable to appreciate that the Government of the PRC, tomorrow, is almost guaranteed to be vastly different from the PRC Government of today.

Say what you will of the PRC Government of today, but to the many multi-billionaires of the Middle Kingdom, to the many successful businessmen of the country (not yet multi-billionaires), to people of the ilk of that former, Chinese tennis star, Ms Li Na (), who rose to the Number Two spot in The Women's Tennis Association, having earned prize money, exceeding \$US17.10 million, one is quite likely to have considerable trouble in trying to justify many of the complaints about the way in which the PRC Government has, in the past three decades or so, achieved its many successes, much to the envy of the members of the world's stage, who sit in awe to ponder the miraculous, economic achievements of this Asian powerhouse.

It is fact: The PRC has never been as successful, in its entire history, as it is today.

Sic Transit Gloria Mundi

The three youthful Legislative Councillors have good reason to be proud, no doubt, but one would hope that their obvious hubris does not rule their life and/or their thinking.

While no member of this medium can makes the claim of being a Christian, that is, advocating the monotheistic religion, based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, at the same time, the Bible is well read by certain members of this organisation.

Parts of this remarkable book appear to be au fait with matters, inculcated in the context of this report.

TARGET is referring, specifically, to 1 Corinthians 13:11:

'When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as

in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

‘And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.’

The electorate of the HKSAR has selected these three Legislative Councillors to sit in the Sixth Legislative Council, rightly or wrongly.

The selection of these three youths will, now, be recorded for posterity.

History will make its determination as to whether or not the electorate was correct with regard to its selection.

It is not for this medium to suggest anything other than recording the facts and attempting to interpolate from them.

One fact seems indisputable, today, however: Come 2047 – the end of the 50-year ‘honeymoon’ since the amalgamation of the territory of Hongkong with the PRC on July 1, 1997 – there shall be one country and one system of Government for the People’s Republic of China.

The honeymoon will be over; it will be time to get married.

And, then, this relatively small chunk of land will cease to be known as the Hongkong Special Administrative Region, but, simply, the southern-most part of the People’s Republic of China.

Come 2047, about 31 years hence, the three youthful Legislative Councillors of today, if they are still active, if they are still living in these 416 square miles, and if they have remained true to their promises of today, will think back in their probable anonymity and recall:

Sic Transit Gloria Mundi

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