

**POLITICAL MORALITY IS WELL ON THE WAY
IN THE HONGKONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Of late, there has been a number of seemingly staged meetings that must be considered well within the compass of political morality.

These meetings are all held in the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The imported key speakers at these meetings could well be described as being among the elite members of the political firmament of Beijing, the Capital City of the PRC.

When, for instance, Mr Qiao Xiao Yang (), recently visited the HKSAR, he stated, in very definitive language, that which the 7.40 million, Chinese residents of the territory should appreciate.

He said, among other things:

- *'The Basic Law (of the HKSAR) does not grant the right to oppose the nation's (the PRC) fundamental system ...'.*
- *'There is an important legal boundary to Hong Kong's capitalist system. The condition is that it must support the nation's socialist system and be beneficial (sic) to it ...'.*
- *'Hongkongers seem to be scared off when they hear the phrase "socialism with Chinese characteristics." If you pay attention to (President) Xi Jin Ping's thoughts, perhaps you might realise – which part of it does not speak to the people? Which*

part of it is unacceptable?’

- *‘Why wouldn’t you support the Chinese Communist Party?’*
- *‘Does the (Communist Party of China deserve) support from Hongkongers? Ideological differences aside, I believe the answer is “yes”.’*
- *‘It was “unconstitutional” for those in Hong Kong to oppose Chinese socialism, publicly’.*

Mr Qiao Xiao Yang is the 72 year-old, retired Chairman of The National People’s Congress Constitution and Law Committee (), one of 10 special committees of The National People’s Congress, the national legislature of the PRC.

He came to the HKSAR on a seven-day-long tour, during the last week of April, inter alia in order to promote and popularise the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China, one was informed.

Without dwelling on semantics in respect of the above-mentioned, verbatim statements of this gentleman, his thoughts, having been uttered in Chinese, but clearly not accurately translated into English in the figurative sense as opposed to the literal sense, it is noted that his singular remark with regard to President Xi Jin Ping () in the sentence, containing the words, *‘attention to Xi Jin Ping’s thoughts’*, is, in this medium’s opinion, suggestive of comparing the present President of the most-populous country of the world to the Founder of the PRC, to wit, Chairman Mao Ze Dong ().

One is reminded of the *‘Little Red Book’* (), a small book, bound in a red cover, said to contain the thoughts of Chairman Mao Ze Dong, a former Chairman of The Communist Party of China.

The *‘Little Red Book’* was, at the time of its publication and dissemination, considered a *‘must’* for all loyal and loving Chinese people: They were encouraged to study it in full not that many years ago.

It was widely distributed during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, a sociopolitical movement in the PRC that lasted from 1966 until 1976.

Today, taking the words of Mr Qiao Xiao Yang to heart, one might like to ponder just how is one supposed to *‘pay attention’* to the thoughts of President Xi Jin Ping when one has very little to no knowledge of this gentleman’s thoughts and, in addition, there are very few – if any – people in this world, who are truly clairvoyant.

Will there, soon, be a publication of President Xi Jin Ping’s *‘Little Red Book’*, too, in order for one to know and to understand and grow to admire this gentleman’s thoughts?

Xerxes I, King of Persia and Media

Xerxes I was the King of Persia and Media from 486 B.C. until 465 B.C.

He was assassinated in 465 B.C. by the Commander of the Royal Bodyguard.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is, still, referred to as '*Persia*' in many circles within the human population of the country, numbering some 81 million, men, women and children.

Xerxes I is widely known to history buffs for his failed invasion of Greece in 480 B.C.

The well-documented, historical reports of The Battle of Thermopylae have been among the most poignant examples of how the democratic nation of Greece repulsed the 1,000,000-strong army of Xerxes I for seven days at Thermopylae.

The Greek contingent, numbering 300 Spartans, 700 Thespians and 400 Thebans, under their commander, King Leonidas of Sparta, fought to their death under the weight of the military might of Xerxes I.

While the defeat of King Leonidas and his loyal men has been recorded as a victory for the Persian King, it was far from being a victory at day's end.

During those six days that King Leonidas's small contingent of fighting men successfully repulsed the army of Xerxes I, according to the annals of Herodotus, a fifth-Century B.C. historian, his works, having been well-constructed and being vividly narrative (although, today, some recorded historical accounts are considered somewhat questionable), the battle to negotiate a way through the pass at Thermopylae was merely a holding action of King Leonidas, allowing the main Greek army and navy to prepare to meet the forces of the Persian King.

It is, now, accepted as fact that, had King Leonidas and his men been able to hold the pass at Thermopylae for a little longer, it would, no doubt, have required Xerxes I to withdraw his massive army due to a dire lack of food and water.

During the height of the battle, Xerxes I was said to have been more than a little shocked that his huge army, the largest ever to have been assembled in history up to the day that the Persian tyrant determined to conquer

Greece, had been unable to annihilate the relatively small force of Greeks, led by King Leonidas.

A number of the senior army officers of Xerxes I was said to have been summarily executed on instructions of the Persian King due to their inability to placate this vain and foolish tyrant, their suggested military plans for the surrender or death of the Greeks at Thermopylae, proved to have been badly flawed.

During those seven days of The Battle of Thermopylae, it has been recorded that Xerxes I requested an audience with Demaratus in order to seek his guidance at a time that, clearly, the Persian military logic had proved to have been fallacious.

Demaratus had been a king of Sparta and, in about 510 B.C., he and his coruler, Cleomenes, worked together in order to free Athens from Peisistratids – the family or supporters of the Athenian tyrant, Pisistratus; specifically, his sons, Hippias and Hipparchus.

In time, Demaratus and Cleomenes became bitter enemies: Two male lions have never been known to be intimate or to work together for any extended period of time.

Demaratus abdicated as a coruler of Sparta and became friendly with Xerxes I where he occupied an important position in the Persian Court; he was said, among other things, to have abhorred Cleomenes's attack on the Aeginetan allies of the Persians.

Xerxes I received Demaratus warmly, it has been recorded, but the Persian King was told, in no uncertain terms, that waging war on Greece was foolhardy.

Demaratus is recorded as having said inter alia:

'It would never come a (single) battle ... Xerxes would find only empty cities and countries, for they would not so much as stand the very fame of his (Xerxes I) coming.'

While other persons in the Court of Xerxes I attempted to sooth the Persian tyrant, making mention, on numerous occasions, of the prodigious numbers of his army, all that they managed to achieve was to concur to puff him up ... to his eventual destruction.

It was only Demaratus who advised Xerxes I not to depend too much on his numbers (of the Persian Army) for he (Xerxes I) would, in time, discover them to be a burden to him, rather than an advantage.

Demaratus reminded Xerxes I that a small contingent of Greeks, numbering 300 Spartans in the foreground, was, seemingly, sufficient to check the entire, one-million-strong Persian Army of the day.

Demaratus continued by warning his benefactor that such an accident of circumstance had turned his vast numbers within his army to his confusion.

He, also, told the Persian King that the Greeks did not blindly follow their king because they, also, had the weight of law to guide them in their lives.

Demaratus is recorded to have explained to Xerxes I:

‘Free as they may be, they (the Greeks) are not altogether free. Set over them as their master is the law ... and they are more terrified than ever your men are of you.

‘Certainly, they (the Greeks) do what it (the law) commands them to do – a command that never alters.’

For his forthrightness and fidelity, Xerxes I thanked his mentor for his words of wisdom – although, initially, it has been recorded that he was not completely convinced as to the veracity of the oblique warnings of the proposed actions, expounded by Demaratus.

On the seventh day of The Battle of Thermopylae, the day on which the entire, relatively small contingent of Greeks at Thermopylae, under the command of King Leonidas, had been dispensed with did Xerxes I come to the realisation that, among the many of his subjects, only one had come forward and had been sufficiently brave to utter the truth to him: Demaratus.

World War II

In the Second World War (1939 – 1945), Germany invaded The **U**nion of **S**oviet **S**ocialist **R**epublics (**USSR**) – now called The Russian Federation – did the words of Demaratus’s words continue to ring true ...about 2,500 years after they had, first, been enunciated.

As the German Army advanced deeper and deeper into the wide expanse of the USSR, it was met with the Scorched Earth Policy – the military stratagem of burning or destroying crops or other resources that might be of use to an invading enemy force.

The harsh Russian winter, combined with the stratagem of the Scorched Earth Policy, did as much to defeat

the invading army of Adolf Hitler as did the constant bombardment of the Russian-produced T-34 tanks.

There was little reason to continue to employ a great deal of ordnance to fire at the miles and miles of retreating, ragtag columns of German soldiers because nature and nonsensical, German military stupidity had contrived to be the best weaponry of the day, leading to the defeat of the hated enemy of the USSR, as far as the Russian Government of the day was concerned.

The number of German troops that died in this disaster, as the soldiers wearily trudged over the snowbound sod of Russia, will never be completely known.

Temperatures of minus 40 degrees Celsius and below and the foot-deep snows of the Russian winter, coupled with the lack of food and warm clothing were more than could have been imagined by the High Command of the Wehrmacht at the outset of the invasion.

The Russian military historian, Mr Grigoriy Fedotovitch Krivosheyev, has published figures for the German casualties on all fronts, compiled by the German High Command, up until April 30, 1945, based on captured German records in the Soviet Archives: 3.83 million men dead or missing in action.

No country has ever conquered Russia.

Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of France between 1804 and 1814, tried and failed to produce a plan, leading to the conquest of the vast expanse of Russia,

On June 24, 1812, Napoleon Bonaparte sent his Grande Armée in an attempt to engage and defeat the Russian Army of Tsar Alexander I.

He hoped to compel Russia to cease trading with the United Kingdom.

It was the Russian Government, under the direction of Tsar Alexander I, that first employed the Scorched Earth Policy and due to this unique stratagem of the day, the invading French troops found it increasingly difficult to forage food for themselves and their many horses.

The Grande Armée, numbering about 450,000 men, suffered horribly from the rigours of the harsh Russian winter, too, and tens of thousands of the French troops died, during their ignoble retreat over the snow-covered Russian heartland.

They suffered a similar fate as did the Wehrmacht about 129 years later.

History repeating itself, once again.

The Communist Party of China: Watch Your Manners, If You Please !

Unquestionably, The Communist Party of China, the (present) ruling regime of the PRC, is the most-effective government that the country has ever known in its 5,000-year history.

Since 1949, much to the consternation of many economies of the world, the PRC's financial strength has left its indelible mark ... and the country's economy continues to expand, rising from one plateau to an even higher one.

The PRC is, today, the world's second-largest economy; and, the expectations of statisticians are that, within the next decade (or earlier), the economy of the PRC is quite likely to eclipse the economic power of The United States of America, graduating to become the largest-single economy of the world.

That the people of the PRC should be proud of the accomplishments of their country's government goes without saying but, as history has proved, also, there is no boundary to avariciousness.

The pleasures of sloth, of gluttony, and of lust have no affinity at all with precepts, or of meaning.

With the PRC's Government's avowed intent to embrace, inter alia, the concept of a market-driven economy, so it could be held that the former (iron-clad) foundations of the communist regime appear to be underpinned, somewhat.

That which man strives is foremost, among other things, a sense of identity in the place that he calls home.

For, to be a man with no country of which to speak, suggests that he cares little for much more than himself.

The greatest empires of the world, as they flourished, so did the ruling powers find themselves forced to make modifications to their governmental constitutions because, had they not moved with the times, they would have perished sooner rather than later.

History has proved that it is not sufficient for a man just to respond to a stimulus: He needs to strive for a goal because the real joy in life for him is in the achievement of a preset target, either in part or in whole.

And, having attained his preset target, a new and more-difficult preset target takes the place of the previous one.

An undeniable force in creative man is the need to feel that he has accomplished that which he strove.

For man comes to recognise and appreciate in time that the greater the struggle to succeed, the sweeter are the fruits of success.

Man has always been gregarious and, as such, he strives for the love of his neighbour and, if that is not to be, for one reason or another, then, at least, he hopes for the ability to feel an affinity with his neighbour.

The cobbler, the factory worker, the mechanical engineer, the computer programmer, and the bus driver all tend to seek out their own kind within their chosen fields of endeavour: The creation of communities.

The banding together of different communities, in which there is interaction among them, results in members of the various communities, attempting to obtain, or to share, common or similar goals.

This, therefore, is that which is the mettle of a society.

Ergo, for a PRC Government official to visit the HKSAR in order to lay down the tenets of a new law, or to attempt to indoctrinate the masses with propaganda in respect of this or that, is akin to a mouse, attempting the impossible task of being on friendly terms with a hungry cat.

Unless there is general acceptance, especially by the hoi polloi, of a concept that has yet to be adjudged as being conducive to the well-being of all members of a society, as a whole, then such visits to these 416 square miles by elite gentlemen of the politics of Beijing are tiresome and meaningless.

How very odd it is that many men of letters remain more solicitous about their dress than they are of their manners.

And, as age encompasses all men and women, so important memories of yesteryear tend to fade, eventually to insignificance; and virtue, that was once paramount in the life of all, is buried in fallow land.

-- End --

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