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COMMENT AND OPINION

American media refuses to ask: What do Chinese students want?

By Brian Smith
■ Western Herald
Western Michigan U.

The U.S. media indicated the magnitude of the news of the Beijing uprising; unfortunately, the complexity of the events and what the students do and do not want has been clouded by the media's neglect to ask the students one question: "What do you want?"

Of course, the answer might refute the U.S. media's implications that the students want Western-style liberal democracy, complete with a complimentary serving of supply-side capitalism.

This became evident on a CBS report. After showing student sit-ins, CBS followed up with a report about what young Chinese want. The report focused on a supposedly typical 12-year-old Chinese boy and his family. And what did that young boy desire in life?

He desired to manage a large factory in which he would control lots of workers and, of course, *make lots of money*.

The question of whether the majority of those in Tiananmen Square were crushed by tanks in order to control each other and to make lots of money can be left up to the survey takers.

But, it is questionable as to whether the students, the community members and military members who now support them, are dying for a better cheeseburger and the right to control several franchises that make those cheeseburgers.

But because the protesters put up a replica of the Statue of Liberty, this action was interpreted as an attempt to be just like us.

After all, doesn't everyone want to be just like us?

Although we have some good characteristics that other nations do not have, this does not mean that we are the perfect society for which others strive. Now that Solidarity has gained power in Poland,



LYNETTE TSAI, DAILY BRUIN,
U. OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES.

A student weeps while listening to an account of the bloody suppression in Tiananmen Square.

CHINA CRISIS



THREE STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

Americans are about to be sent a shock.

Solidarity is not the Republican Party, Polish style. It is still a socialist party, and will govern as a socialist party — the major difference being that it will govern

democratically. And it would seem that the same would hold for the Chinese protesters, if and when they gain power.

Unfortunately, the U.S. media's attempts to make the uprising appear a pro-capitalist rally is only one misleading aspect of their coverage.

The other was the result of their neglect to reflect on how the U.S. government has dealt with similar pro-democracy movements at home.

China could take a few tips by looking at U.S. history.

For instance, perhaps China's biggest mistake is the manner in which they have killed their protesters.

China needs to learn to shoot its students in groups of four, as we did at Kent State, and not 400. China needs to learn to use dogs that look and act like Rin Tin Tin on acid, not tanks that look like Czechoslovakia in 1968.

China needs to learn to use a half-civilian, half-military militia — a National Guard — to quell protests, and not to call out its main militia. Government response can, thereby, be labeled police action; and headlines mentioning civil war are avoided.

China needs to learn to make the student movement appear threatening by infiltrating rallies with undercover officers who, through their violent acts, make a protest appear violent.

The United States found this tactic quite successful in making the Civil Rights and anti-Vietnam War protests of the 1960s appear violent.

China also needs to better control the foreign media; international pressure will then lessen.

But China is a naive, communist, totalitarian nation — we are a smart, democratic, capitalist nation (with good cheeseburgers and good cheeseburger managers). That is why they want to be like us.

Right?

Peace activists' silence indicates consent to Beijing totalitarianism

By Mat Gleason
■ University Times
California State U., Los Angeles

We have watched President Bush impose sanctions on the Chinese government that were followed by calls, from both right and left, for stiffer penalties. Every group associated with international causes from Amnesty International to The John Birch Society, has spoken against these atrocities — except the peace activists.

Tiananmen Square was the setting of the most deliberate and heinous systematic violence in the past 40 years, yet the lack of protests by non-Chinese Americans is not only appalling, it's scary.

This question, this unabashed indifference immediately reveals the wolf in sheep's clothing who has successfully hidden from the press. The worldwide network of peace activists are politically motivated, and their politics preclude certain governments. Which governments are spared the "hit-list" treatment? Illogically, it is the most repressive and brutal governments that are spared the wrath of peace demonstrations. In addition, these lucky regimes are rarely democratically elected. How convenient.

The peace activists' silence is an act of support for Beijing's totalitarian regime. Their motives, disguised as concern for the

oppressed, are exposed. The Peace Movement is an anti-democracy leftist faction that, while probably not an organized conspiracy, has stemmed the tide of democratization.

Nicaragua has no free press. How can the Peace Movement uphold the myth that it holds free elections? Yet, when El Salvador democratically elects a president, the Peace Movement demands that we cut aid. They want us to cut off aid to one of the few democracies in the world because a majority of Salvadorians don't agree with their pseudomarxist views.

Next time a non-socialist, democratically elected government supported by the U.S.A. is involved in violence against some rebel faction or guerilla group, you can bet that we'll hear their impassioned pleas. But they won't protest the Chinese government's use of violence and suppression against pro-democracy supporters.

An activist told me, in the days when we were normalizing our relationship with The Peoples' Republic of China, that China was the closest approximation to pure communism ever. I'm afraid that they may be realizing how true that is.

China has a limitless capacity to fascinate. But it is not Disneyland. It is, as it has been since 1949, a Communist dictatorship held together by brute force. No one who knows China should be surprised when its leaders turn to violence to pursue their political goals. They have done far worse before Tiananmen Square — Former President Richard M. Nixon.