

THE SILENT COLOR RED: A HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL APPROACH TO THE FORCED ABORTIONS OF COMMUNIST CHINA

We will now discuss in a little more detail the Struggle for Existence.
-Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species*

Introduction

In the bustling city of Anyang, China a young and terrified woman flees out of her apartment window with tears in her eyes and hope in her heart. As she makes her narrow escape, an event long plotted yet never desired, this desolate woman is cherishing only one thought as she runs—life. The mantra in the country says, “life is cheap,” but the status of her soul roars in staunch opposition. The pursuers breaking through the lock of her apartment door are the government’s abortion clinicians. The young woman has been found guilty: pregnant with a second child. The law states that second children are not permitted to live, so she flees to her relatives in the rural mountains to deliver and nurse her baby. This young woman happens to be my cousin; and the 700 million women just like her are my sisters.

“America simply does not understand; for a Chinese person the greatest struggle is not fighting against symptoms of death, but fighting for chances of life,” says my father as he reflects over his life in Communist China. For our family, these Chinese Abortion Laws hit home in more ways than one. What was initially proposed as a proactive method for “national family planning” has silently erupted into, what is now no

doubt, the largest genocide in the history of humanity. Since 1980, roughly ten million people each year have been mercilessly sacrificed to the ancient gods of protocol, pre-eminence, and pretense, and their crime according to the Communist Party? —Existing. It is with this knowledge that I boldly and unapologetically claim China's Forced Abortion Laws as one of the greatest ethical calamities of the modern era.

As the *Wall Street Journal* recently reported, "South Korean authorities have seized thousands of pills containing the powdered flesh of fetuses and babies that were smuggled in from China to be used as Viagra-style performance enhancers, according to multiple reports."¹ This holocaustic scenario is just one of the numerous repercussions stemming from multi-generational tragedy which has been plaguing China since the rise of Communism. The following is a short and accurate account of the origins of such catastrophes.

History of Atrocity

Shortly after the Second World War panic spread across the East as the sleeping dragon of China was awakened into a new Red Era. By 1949 the nation's long-imagined dreams of prosperity resided solely in the promises of Mao Zhedong, the Chairman and Savior of the People. However, his *Great Leap Forward* required extensive promotion of a large and lasting army, which would usher in the new empire of guaranteed equality, eventually liberating the masses.

Chairman Mao Zhedong indoctrinated the population with cunning, persuasive logic: *all empires have gained their power through powerful armies, powerful armies are the outcome of large populations, therefore if China is to be the greatest empire of them*

¹ Laurie Burkitt, *China Realtime Report*, Online. <<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2012/05/07/south-korea-steps-up-fight-against-human-flesh-pills-from-china/>> Cited 20 November 2012.

all, it will require the largest population of all. No sooner was this ideology birthed, than the people of China, in loving adoration of their wise and foresighted leader, birthed a colossal army to embody it. Hence the population boom of the East ensued—and with the ability to totally control and manipulate the communication media, the Communist Party not only formed the largest standing army, but also created one of the most lamentable ethical dilemmas of our time.

From the trespass in the first Garden, to the terrorizing feats of the Gestapo, humankind's instinct of evil has continually sought to *control*. In the case of the Chinese Communist party, what proceeded after the death of Chairman Mao in 1976 was simply a voracious obscenity of succession as they sought to bludgeon their iron hand of dominance over the civilians. During 1978 Song Jian, a high government official in charge of investigating missile-control systems, traveled to a conference in Helsinki concerning control-system theory and design. Here, Song Jian was exposed to the literature of the Club of Rome's "Limits to the Growth and Blueprint for Survival." After reading and dialoguing such matters with officials in China, the Communist Party concluded that China's population was approximately 300 million people over the limit.² What ensued was a drastic ideological shift.

Alas, China discovered the reason for their third-world status: this population boom, which was "purported to prove that the reason for China's continued poverty was not 30 years of disastrous misrule, but the very existence of the Chinese people."³ Rapid and radical strategies were activated in the coming months—all women under the age of

² Susan Greenhalgh, "Missile Science, Population Science: The Origins of China's One-Child Policy." *The China Quarterly*. vol.182 (June 2005): 253, 276.

³ Robert Zubrin, *The Washington Times*, Online. <www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/may/21/chinas-population-control-holocaust> Cited 3 November 2012.

23, regardless of marital status, were prohibited to give birth. Women already having one existing child were forced to endure the surgical insertion of a stainless steel IUD (Intrauterine Device), and if they were found tampering with or removing the device, they were sentenced as criminals. Women who deliberately opposed the Regime's family planning tactics were brutally abducted and sterilized by force.

Fast-forwarding to present day, local family planning clinics and police forces in every province are required to satisfy "abortion quotas" in order to ensure the desired results. Those who do not meet the set figures are demoted or fired, while those exceeding the protocol are rewarded with promotions to higher-ranking positions. Worse than the horror of infanticide, abortion laws have combined with cultural dynamics to create the world's largest "gendercide."

Based upon its agrarian cultural roots, the Chinese mindset traditionally privileges males over females because males function as the heir of ancestral honor, and are able to proliferate the family name and legacy. Because of this preference, women are more prone to abort their first child if it is a girl, in hopes of producing an heir to their husband's lineage. In regards to this, journalist Mara Hvistendahl writes that this "is probably the single most important issue in the next fifty years that this country [India] and China are going to face. If you're going to wipe out 20 percent of your population, nature is not going to sit by and watch."⁴

As a result of this onslaught of sex-selective abortions, China now has 37 million more men than women—a startling population comparable to the current population of

⁴ Mara Hvistendahl, *Unnatural Selection*, (New York: Public Affairs Publishing, 2011), 47.

California.⁵ Terrifying social ramifications proceed: mass confusion of gender roles and sexual orientations, unprecedented increase in sex-slave trade, massive HIV/Aids epidemic, large-scale unemployment, and rising military spending. It is estimated that by 2013, one out of ten Chinese men will lack a female counterpart, and by the late 2020s, a projected one in five men will be a demographic surplus.⁶

Since 2005 roughly 13 million babies are aborted each year, averaging to 35,000 abortions per day.⁷ And because of this, the one-child policy has led to a burgeoning black market in stolen children, at least 70,000 a year.⁸ Suicide is currently the number one cause of death of rural women age 15-34, and according to the Beijing Suicide Research and Prevention Center's 2009 report, suicide rates for females are three times higher than males.⁹ Now, the crimson red of China signifies a catastrophic truth: a voice is heard in the East, China is weeping for her children because they are no more.

In the winter of 1979 the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) met with the People's Republic of China, and issued a grant of \$50 million dollars to be allocated over a period of four years for the project of population control. China agreed to use this large

⁵ Dudley Poston, Texas A & M "Statement for Congressional Press on the Issue of Gendercide and its Implications for Global Security," *All Girls Allowed*, 1 June 2011.

⁶ Jiang Quanbao et al., "Son Preference and the Marriage Squeeze in China: An Integrated Analysis of the First Marriage and the Remarriage Market," *Watering the Neighbour's Garden*, (Paris: CICRED, 2007).

⁷ Vicky Jiang, *The Epoch Times: English Edition*, Online. <<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/china-news/one-child-policy-abortions-in-china-most-are-forced-21819.html>> Cited 3 November 2012.

⁸ "China's Stolen Children." *ABC Reporter*, Channel 4, Broadcast 28 April 2008.

⁹ U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China, *Annual Report 2010*, Online. <<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CPRT>> Cited 3 November 2012.

amount of money to train at least 70,000 family planning workers, buy computers, and update equipment. However, Hvistendahl reports,

With the money UNFPA had earmarked for such purposes, the commission trained family planning agents and launched an ambitious propaganda blitz to spread the word that it was serious about birth control. UNFPA probably intended funding for an education to go toward posters proclaiming the value of daughters and the benefits of small families. But local officials had other ideas about what they considered effective communication. Village walls soon read,

BETTER TO LET BLOOD FLOW LIKE A RIVER THAN TO HAVE ONE MORE THAN ALLOWED.

and

YOU CAN BEAT IT OUT! YOU CAN MAKE IT ALL OUT! YOU CAN ABORT IT! BUT YOU CANNOT GIVE BIRTH TO IT.¹⁰

Among the voices of sobriety amidst this demographic crisis is the young Feng Jianmei of Shaanxi Province, whose stark story was recently publicized as an archetype for the sufferings of Chinese people by various newscasters and journals in June 2012. This young mother was not only arrested, but abducted by family planning officials, carried into a van with her head covered by a pillowcase, driven to an abortion clinic and induced into labor by an injection of poison during her seventh month of pregnancy. Jianmei's husband Feng was not aware of this atrocity until well after her abduction and forced abortion. Family planning officials sought to contact Feng, who was unable to earn \$6,350 in time to save his baby's life. What is more unfortunate than the gripping injustices of this particular story, is the unwavering reality that currently millions of women are undergoing the same physical and psychological torture, but have virtually no means of expressing their anguish over the systematic rending of the heart and womb.

¹⁰ Hvistendahl, *Unnatural Selection*, 142.

In short, control is at the center of corruption. The one-child policy has feigned its own self-condemning success. To some extent this is due to deception in the name “one-child policy” versus the truth of “forced abortion.” Under the veil of economic affluence and governmental agendas for the promotion of China’s prosperity, many foreigner observers coming from a strictly economic, third-person-perspective are deceived by and personally detached from these politics of oppression. Population control divorced from the personhood of the population is deception. It might well suite distant, sterile notions of figures and statistics— however a nation is comprised of real people— individuals with ontology: identity, hopes, dreams, emotion, will and rationality.

Indeed, there is much evidential warrant for the rapacious acts of Communist China’s Forced-Abortion Policy. Countless numbers of these tragic stories have filled my heart and mind with the deepest sense of reactive compassion, yet how can this heinous rapacity be solved? Though Party officials command abortion clinics to administer anesthetics to women at high fees, it is the Communist Party itself, which pays the costly price of numbing the inner senses. According to scholar Walter Brueggemann, “This denying and deceiving kind of numbness is broken only by the embrace of negativity, by the public articulation that we are fearful and ashamed of the future we have chosen.”¹¹ And why do I claim such sensitivity for myself? — because I was the second child.

Biographical Narrative

My father and mother grew up in a poor and remote village of Hunan Province, which to those familiar with Chinese culture, is often known as the ghetto of the nation. During the Communist Revolution, both sides of the family encountered drastic change.

¹¹ Walter Brueggemann, *The Prophetic Imagination* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press), 59.

As a child, I heard stories of Communist soldiers barging into my great-grandmother's hut, stripping it of all metal products, including the doorknobs, the pots and pans, and even the lock from her diary.

Though agrarian life continued, food was scarce because most of the nation's produce went to support the Communist Movement in Vietnam. During times like these, my great-aunt died from starvation, and my father was oftentimes reduced to eating grassroots and willow tree leaves. My father recalls a special holiday on which his family dined in a restaurant. When my grandmother saw that the next table had vacated, and even left some food on the table, she quickly collected the leftovers to bring to her children. In a combination of poverty, pride, and rage, my grandfather reacted by beating grandmother for her condescending act of survival, and her unashamed desire to provide for the family.

Education and military position were basically the only ways to prosper under the regime. Under the Communist system, college was permitted and provided for the top five percentile of high-school graduates. After their education, students were expected to serve the Communist Party in their respecting occupations. After years of scholastic dedication, my father was the first person from Ku Hua village to receive the privilege of a college education, and was sent to Kaifeng University. A year later my mother, who was his next-door neighbor in the small village, and his high-school sweetheart, followed him to the university. Since middle school both were active leaders in the Youth Communist League, and had literally memorized all of Chairman Mao Zhedong's popular "Little Red Book," which was equated as *a Bible to the People* in these times. During his studies in higher education, my father encountered two American missionaries

who not only taught him English, but in time, also taught him about the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of Jesus Christ.

The Party strictly banned any form of religion, since it was ideologically seen as the great “opium of the people.” But throughout his studies as an English Major, he encountered an overwhelming amount of references to the Judeo-Christian notion of “God” in the writings of Nathaniel Hawthorne, John Milton, and Jane Austen to name but a few. This foreign and intriguing idea of personal deity drove him to compile a long list of “religious references,” which were essentially a large compilation of citations about God he found while reading the Western literary classics. With the strict purpose of better understanding English literature, he presented this list to the Dean, in hopes of borrowing a Bible from the Banned Book Section. The dean approved, and my father searched for hours in the library’s Banned Book Section, to find the only copy of the Bible in the collection labeled “Western Pornographic Literature.” He took the Bible, copied it by hand for four weeks, returned it, and kept the personal manuscript hidden in his pillowcase.

Towards the end of his senior year, the two American Missionaries offered him a scholarship at the School of Theology in Cleveland, TN. Though my father was glad to receive such a prize, he was predominately overwhelmed by fear, since such a connection to religion would not only expel him, but most likely imprison him. Still, in hopes of a better life, a life of freedom, he mustered the courage to present this invitation to the Dean of Students for approval. Miraculously, when the Dean read the words “School of Theology” he mistook it for “School of Technology.” The Dean joyfully permitted and provided all necessary documentation for my father to study this world-class

“technology” in the democratic republic of America.

The following years for my family were very prosperous. After three years in America my father secured the funds for my mother, by this time his wife, to continue graduate studies in America as well. Both were riding under the F-1 Student Visa. As they finished up their degrees, they had no choice but to return home to China with their newborn daughter, since their visas were to expire in a matter of weeks. It was during these critical weeks that China’s college scene was in uproar. University students from all around the country gathered for a massive peaceful protest in the front yard of China’s headquarters in Beijing, Tiananmen Square, literally meaning the Gate of Heavenly Peace.

In June of 1989 *New York Times* reported,

The student organization that coordinated the long protests continued to function and announced today that 2,600 students were believed to have been killed. The troops sealed off Tiananmen Square and started a huge bonfire. Many Beijing residents drew the conclusion, again impossible to verify, that the soldiers cremated corpses to destroy the evidence.¹²

And many of these very students were my parents’ old classmates. Months before, the Party in Kaifeng discovered my father’s strong religious affiliations and he was immediately blacklisted as a religious instigator, making his return to China far more fear-inducing than his arrival to America. With the encroaching onslaught of government crack-down upon revolutionaries like my father, any chances of a normal civilian life by returning to China were squelched.

Fortunately, it was during this time that President George W. Bush, Sr. allowed all Chinese immigrants living in America under the F-1 Student Visa to apply and receive

¹² Nicholas Kristoff, “Beijing Death Toll at Least 300; Army Tightens Control of City But Angry Resistance Goes On,” *New York Times*, June 5, 1989. Cited 20 November 2012.

the United States Resident Card informally known as a green card, which provided asylum from their native land torn by turmoil. By this act, my father was saved from persecution, arrest, torture, and imprisonment. Also, by this act, I was saved. In the coming months, my mother was pregnant for the second time, another girl, which she was able to keep.

In the Judeo-Christian Tradition there lies a cherished story of a man, who by the power of divine covenant exclaimed to his oppressors, “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”¹³ And indeed, I have been kept alive today. I personally resonate with this sober statement of Joseph, son of Israel, and believe that oftentimes hope means hoping when circumstances are hopeless; otherwise it is no hope at all.

As the former senior student leader of the Tiananmen Protest and founder of the All Girls Allowed organization Chai Ling states, “History will remember the 1989 Tiananmen movement as one vital step forward in China’s century-long struggle for true freedom. It will not be the last one. I believe greater things will come, and China will be set free.”¹⁴ For freedom is more than arbitrary decisions, in its truest sense, it is the ability to operate in the manner in which one was originally created. Freedom happens when reality meets intentionality. Biologically speaking, it has always been the function of a woman to bear children. Therefore, I believe that there will come a time when the Chinese womb will no longer suffer barrenness. For in the womb of hope, a silent song erupts,

¹³ *The Bible*, English Standard Version, Genesis 50:20.

¹⁴ Chai Ling, *A Heart for Freedom* (Carol Stream: Tyndale Publishing, 2011), 392.

*Your children are not your children
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.*¹⁵

For I believe that forced abortion at the hands of the political oppressor shall be abolished. And someday, these heinous acts of genocide and ensuing gendercide shall be aborted.

¹⁵ Kahil Gibran, *The Prophet* (New Delhi: Sterling Press, 1945), 23.

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