

MRSA With Your Sunscreen? Death on the Half Shell?

Resistant microbes star at international science convention

By MARTHA ROSENBERG

CHICAGO—Global warming and our “absurd over-dependence on carbon-based fuels” is interconnected with the looming economic and national security crises said former U.S. Vice President Al Gore to an overflow audience at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting in Chicago in February.

It’s also connected to the rise in antibiotic resistant strains of deadly sea-born bacteria said scientists at the AAAS meeting whose theme was global warming this year.

Seafood collected from three locations on the U.S. southeast coast showed striking levels of antibiotic resistant *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, related to cholera and *Vibrio vulnificus*, which can kill in 72 hours, reported Ramunas Stephanauskas, PhD from the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Science in West Boothbay Harbor, ME at a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) sponsored event.

The increasing risk of Death on the Half Shell—the *Vibrios* showed resistance to most common antibiotics like aminoglycosides, tetracyclines and cephalosporins—is caused by a coastal water toxic soup of metal contamination and livestock runoff potentiated by global warming said Stephanauskas.

Nor do you want to bathe in the water, said Lisa Plano, MD, a pediatrician and microbiologist with the University of Miami’s Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, at the same workshop.

Research that Plano and her University of Miami colleagues conducted on public beaches that had no sewage source found adults and babies who started out without antibiotic-resistant bacteria—they were MRSA and MSSA-free (Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and Methicillin sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus*, respectively)—ended up with the micro organisms in their bodies after exposure to sand and water!

Bacteria are developing resistance so quickly to the arsenal of human antibiotics, Plano began her lecture with a cartoon of “graduating” microbes being told by their teacher, “You are the next class; go out and succeed!”

Once confined to hospitals and medical settings, resistant bacteria are now rampant in schools, locker rooms, and the community and complicating treatment of HIV, TB, campylobacter and diseases seen in re-



turning Iraq war veterans, said presenters.

The chief cause of antibiotic resistance is agricultural use of antibiotics on factory farms to promote animal growth and “prevent disease” say most science groups including the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Union of Concerned Scientists, which was present at the AAAS meeting.

But weeks after announcing a ban on the widely used antibiotic cephalosporin last summer, the FDA quietly reversed its decision after getting strong push back from agribusiness and pharma.

Even the hearings on the Hill in September sponsored by the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry flew under the public’s radar. They were termed a “review” of “advances in animal health within the livestock industry.” Advances? Hello?

Still the assemblage of reps from the egg, chicken, turkey, milk, pork, and cattle industries—and the Animal Health Institute which represents Monsanto, Pfizer, Dow, Bayer, Wyeth, Novartis, and others—left no doubt who is creating the toxic soup.

Up to 70 percent of all dairy calves receive antibiotic-laced “milk replacer” and almost all mature dairy cows receive antibiotic-laced “dry cow treatments,” ad-

mitted Dr. Robert D. Byrne, Senior Vice President, Scientific & Regulatory Affairs, National Milk Producers in his You’re-Going-To Ban-WHAT? presentation to the government.

A little antibiotic never hurt anyone said Blair Van Zetten on behalf of United Egg Producers, whose related hatcheries were caught by the FDA injecting antibiotics directly into eggs we eat. Or ate.

Raising turkeys without antibiotics “would increase the incidence of illness,” whined Dr. Michael Ryblov, Director, Scientific & Regulatory Affairs, National Turkey Federation, who called a typical 227-acre turkey farm “small.” And it would eat profits! More land would be needed if birds couldn’t be crammed together and more food since animals “grow” less if not on antibiotics, said Ryblov.

In fact, when you think of the extra *crop land* required to produce more food and the *extra manure* that would result, antibiotic-laced factory farming is downright ecological, he said.

Maybe he should have spoken at the AAAS global warming meeting.

Martha Rosenberg is a writer living in Chicago.

Chinese Regime Spending Spree—Strength or Weakness?

By D.J. MCGUIRE

The United States last week plead with the Chinese Communist Party to keep buying American debt. The cadres were more than happy to agree to do so, and to score highly undeserved political capital in Washington for it.

The regime was sickeningly gleeful at how obsequious the United States had been, but such is the cost of ensuring the cadres will continue to lend to us, right?

Wrong. To understand why the U.S. appeasement was so unnecessary (and thus, all the more maddening), we need to look at what else the cadres are doing abroad.

In Australia, Canada, and France, the CCP is looking for firms desperate enough to need capital now—and finding them in abundance. The regime is building a special sovereign wealth fund to buy up foreign resource firms—at least the ones not already dependent upon regime-run banks for loans. High-ranking cadres are going on import tours in Europe, and the regime is already buying half of Australia’s mineral exports.

All of which would be taken as signs that the regime is spreading its economic wings and effectively buying geopolitical power—which it is. It will also be taken as a sign that the CCP has arrived as a major global power in all realms—which is also true.

Finally, it will be seen by some as a “tipping point,” revealing that with America weakened by the global downturn, the Chinese Communist Party is taking the wheel and driving the global economy. That’s where the narrative jumps the track.

While the regime does indeed look strong from afar, get closer in and the picture looks very different. As Zhongnanhai prepares to gobble up chunks of the global economy, the regime’s national pension fund posted its first ever loss.

Meanwhile, the details released on the CCP’s “stimulus” are so vague that a lawyer in Shanghai (Yan Yiming) is threatening to sue for more information. In a very clear sign that the cadres themselves haven’t figured out their own thinking, Yan is not only still out of prison, but being quoted *approvingly* by Communist mouthpieces.

Given what the regime would *normally* do to such gadflies, one can only assume at least *some* of the CCP’s factions are cheering Yan on, which would mean a deep division on the most important issue the regime faces: how to get the Chinese economy out of the ditch.

So what can we take from the regime’s recent actions? What does it mean when the tyrannical elite will invest in prostrate foreign firms but steer clear of its own pension fund? What can we infer from the cadres’ complete clarity on what to do for, with, and to *other* economies when coupled with the fog of confusion about fixing their own?

I would humbly submit that the regime is not investing abroad because it *wants* to do so, but because it *has* to do so.

First, we have to remember that the regime is dependent upon expanding its influence and power abroad to distract the people at home. This has been the cadres’ *modus operandi* ever since the Tiananmen spring. So it should be no surprise that they are moving into the economic realm now that they appear to have the resources needed.

However, there are two other factors that cannot be forgotten. The more obvious one is the cadres’ dependence on their exports. Despite the advice of nearly every economist on the planet to shift from an export-centered economy to a domestic-demand-centered one, the cadres know that such a move would (as all adjustments do) cause some serious hardship in the transition.

Since the cadres have been relying on a wealthy, urban elite to defend its “mandate from heaven,” any transition that would turn said elite into a poor and angry one is not in the cards. Thus, the Communists, trapped in their export dependence, must rely on foreign spending to keep them in power.

In America, that means the regime *cannot* pull the plug on its massive debt holdings. In fact, it is facing the exact dilemma I predicted last year. Any attempt by Beijing to force American policymakers to do its bidding by unloading American bonds would either drive down the dollar so far that American exports become competitive with their CCP counterparts, have absolutely no effect as others snap up the bonds the cadres sell, or (most likely) result in events somewhere in between these two extremes.

More importantly, such a move would *certainly* reduce or eliminate any appearance of Communist leverage over the American economy, while moving American politics in a decidedly anti-Communist direction.

For these reason, the CCP can’t afford to sell its American debt holdings. In fact, they can’t even afford to stop buying more—especially with U.S. Treasury notes continue to be a safe haven for just about every investor on the planet.

In other words, the United States didn’t need to beg Beijing to keep buying American debt. If anything, the cadres need to lend us money more than we need to borrow it from them. That the United States felt the need to do it anyway—almost certainly at the behest of the President—is a very troubling sign of what we can expect from the Obama administration regarding the CCP.

Sadly, it appears we must wait until 2013 for an anti-Communist Administration—and in many ways, that could be too late.

D.J. McGuire is co-founder of the *China e-Lobby* and the author of “*Dragon in the Dark: How and Why Communist China Helps Our Enemies in the War on Terror.*”

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The ‘Nine Commentaries’ is the book that is disintegrating the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and changing China. This award-winning Epoch Times editorial series discloses the true history and nature of the CCP. Now it is serialized here.

Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party

Commentary Six On How the Chinese Communist Party Destroyed Traditional Culture

Destruction of Spiritual Beliefs

In addition to destroying the physical forms of religion and culture, the CCP has also used its utmost capacity to destroy people’s spiritual identity formed by faith and culture.

Take the CCP’s treatment of ethnic beliefs for example. The CCP considered the traditions of the Hui Muslim group to be one of the “four olds”—old thought, culture, tradition, habit. Therefore, it forced the Hui people to eat pork. Muslim peasants and mosques were required to raise pigs, and each household had to furnish two pigs to the country every year.

The Red Guards even forced the second highest Tibetan living Buddha, the Panchen Lama, to eat human excrement. They ordered three monks from the Temple of Bliss located in Harbin City, Heilongjiang Province, which is the biggest Buddhist temple built in modern times, to hold a poster board that said, “The hell with sutras—they are full of shit.”

In 1971 Lin Biao, the vice chairman of the CCP’s central committee, attempted to escape China but

was killed when his plane crashed in Undurkhan, Mongolia. Later, some Confucian quotations were found in Lin’s Beijing residence at Maojiawan. The CCP then started a frantic movement of “criticizing Confucius.”

A writer pen-named Liang Xiao¹ published an article in *The Red Flag*, the CCP’s banner magazine, entitled “Who is Confucius?” The article described Confucius as a “madman who wanted to turn history backward,” and a “deceptive and shrewd demagogue.” A series of cartoons and songs followed, demonizing Confucius.

In this way, the dignity and sacredness of religion and culture were annihilated.

Endless Destruction

In ancient China, the central government only extended its rule to the county level, below which patriarchal clans maintained autonomous control. So in Chinese history the destruction, such as the “burning of books and the burying of Confucian scholars” by Emperor Qin Shi Huangⁱⁱ in the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC) and the four campaigns to eliminate Buddhism between the fifth and tenth century by the “Three Wus and One Zong,” all were imposed from the top down. They could not possibly eradicate the culture.

Confucian and Buddhist classics and ideas continued to survive in the vast spaces of society. In contrast, the campaign to “cast away

Never in history had any emperor eradicated from people’s minds what they considered to be the most beautiful and the most sacred.

the four olds” by teenage students incited by the CCP was a nationwide grass-roots movement with “spontaneous enthusiasm.”

The CCP’s extension to every village through village-level Party branches controlled the society so tightly that the CCP’s “revolutionary” movement extended without end and affected every person on every inch of land in China.

Never in history had any emperor eradicated from people’s minds what they considered to be the most beautiful and the most sacred, using slanderous and insulting propaganda in addition to violence, as the CCP has. Elimination of be-

lief can often be more effective and long-lasting than physical destruction alone.

Reforming Intellectuals

The Chinese characters embody the essence of 5,000 years of civilization. Each character’s form and pronunciation, and the idioms and literary allusions composed of combinations of the characters, express profound cultural meanings.

The CCP has not only simplified the Chinese characters, but also tried to replace them with Romanized pinyin, which would remove all cultural tradition from the Chinese characters and language.

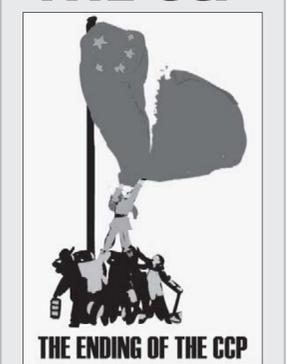
But the replacement plan has failed, thus sparing further damage to the Chinese language. However, the Chinese intellectuals who inherited the same traditional culture were not so fortunate as to be spared destruction.

Notes

ⁱ “Liang Xiao” represents a group of assigned writers, including Zhou Yiliang, whose involvement in the writing group earned him an anonymous letter from an old friend that referred to “the extreme of shamelessness.”

ⁱⁱ Emperor Qin Shi Huang (259-210 BC), alias Ying Zheng, was the first emperor in the history of the unified China. He standardized legal codes, written language, currencies, weights and measures, and ordered the Great Wall be built. All these measures had a profound influence on Chinese history and culture. Qin Shi Huang ordered the books of various schools burned including those of Confucianism and Daoism, and once ordered 460 Confucian scholars be buried alive. These events were later called in history “the burning of books and the burying of Confucian scholars.” He built a huge mausoleum for himself and the terracotta army of the tomb of Emperor Qin became known as the eighth wonder of the world.

QUITTING THE CCP



Inspired by the ‘Nine Commentaries,’ as of February 26, at 9:01 p.m.

50,445,279

Chinese people have announced their intentions to quit the Chinese Communist Party and its affiliated organizations on a special Web site established by The Epoch Times. Many others, unable to break through the Chinese Internet blockade, have posted their withdrawal statements on poles or buildings. Others have written them on Chinese currency. Read recent statements of Chinese quitting the Party, the latest news on the “Nine Commentaries,” and more at <http://www.NineCommentaries.com>

Help Chinese people who want to leave communism behind

Inspired by the 2004 series “Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party,” more than 35 million Chinese people so far have had the courage to quit the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Chinese people continue to step forward daily to register their withdrawals from the CCP.

The Global Service Center for Quitting the CCP was set up to help Chinese people quit the CCP, and receives daily requests to quit through letters and phone calls.

You can help more people quit by keeping this service going: Donate to the Global Service Center for Quitting the CCP.

To make a donation, call: (818) 338-2883 Fax: 1-718-865-0622