

Session 8 China part II

Activity 5

China Today has it Changed

China is in the news a lot lately. There are accusations along with acknowledgement of their growing economic success. China is projected to boast the number 1 economy, based on GDP, in the not to distant future.

Yet, behind the scenes, there are questions about how much they have changed in terms of Human Rights!

Note: There are various spellings of the name Uighur/Uyghur and more

1. Read the BBC article titled, *Huawei: Uighur surveillance fears lead PR exec to quit*.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-55332671>

- a. Using the article identify who/what Huawei and Uighurs are.
 - b. How do they fit together?
 - c. A project referenced in the article is about facial recognition and using it to identify people based on ethnicity. Based on the United Nations definitions of genocide and the other three Mass Human Rights violations, how could facial recognition be used negatively? How could identifying someone by their ethnicity be used negatively?
 - d. The article states that up to one million Uighurs were in “re-education” camps. Based on the name, define “re-education camp”. Then, using an internet search engine, find a definition from an online dictionary. Does one exist? Do a general search for the term “re-education camp”. Where else is it currently being used and in what context?
2. Read the CNN article titled, *She tweeted from Sweden about the plight of her Uyghur cousin. In Xianjiang, the authorities were watching*.

- a. The story is about a Uyghur woman who had two stints in internment camps. What are internment camps? Are they the same as re-education camps?
- b. What crime did she commit to land her there?
- c. Aside from Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, were sent to “vocational training centers” designed to fight “extremism”. Are vocational training centers, internment camps, and re-education camps the same? What is extremism? Can extremism be viewed differently depending on who is observing it? How could a center for vocational training help fight extremism?
- d. Elima tweeted that her cousin had finally been freed. The following day she was taken to a hospital and claimed that that was how the Chinese government was going to censor her. What is censorship? Are there guarantees that allow people to speak uncensored? In this

- case, what role would Twitter play? Has Twitter been involved in censorship and, if so, where and when?
- e. Provide examples from this article about crimes against humanity and/or ethnic cleansing.

3. Read, *Alibaba Founder Jack Ma Has Fallen Off the Radar. Here Are Some Clues Why*

<https://www.npr.org/2021/01/08/954046428/alibaba-founder-jack-ma-has-fallen-off-the-radar-here-are-some-clues-why>

- a. Who is Jack Ma?
- b. What did Ma say that may have angered the Chinese government?
- c. Is he the only Chinese person of wealth to 'run afoul' of the their government? Provide names and a brief summary of what happened to them?
- d. How does the concept of 'free speech' come into play regarding Jack Ma?
- e. Is his disappearance (as of the time of this article) an example of genocide or the three Mass Human Rights violation? If not, how does it reflect the government's approach to their people?