



Telluride Institute Tibet Fund Newsletter

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News updates

China: Watch out for news from China on June 4, the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre. The Chinese government never officially announced how many protesters were injured, imprisoned and killed during this largest uprising for democracy...

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompresso
are needed to see this picture.

There is a fabulous interview at The Tibet Connection with Robert Thurman concerning the power of one: http://www.thetibetconnection.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/thurman_web.mp3.

China – Tibet: China's forceful relocation plan in Tawu County sparks protest: The Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy reported that on May 24, Tibetans in Tawu County, Sichuan Province, protested the Chinese Governments plan to relocate tens and thousands of local Tibetans to make way for the construction of a major hydroelectric dam. The local Chinese authorities had assembled local Tibetans to make a public announcement on the plan to resettle them to some other location and the gathering broke up into a major protest with the crowds shouting slogans against the government's controversial resettlement plans. The Chinese Government's undertaking of the hydroelectric dam between Nyag-chu and Tawu County is already resulting in a large-scale displacement of local Tibetans in Kardze County.

US reps and European leaders seem to agree on putting dollars before human rights:

"Speaker Pelosi arrived in China accompanied by a delegation of members of the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. While the main focus of their visit remained environmental issues rather than human rights..."

"The Europe-China summit (that was boycotted by China last November because French President Sarkozy had met the Dalai Lama) finally took place on May 20 with trade topping the summit's agenda ..."

China, a personal note

I made an attempt in the past few weeks to learn more about China in order to muster some compassion for Tibet's oppressor. Once I started looking, compassion came easily: average Chinese citizens have suffered/are suffering no less from their totalitarian regime than the Tibetans. Throughout the last century China was in turmoil, from depositing their emperor to 30 years of civil war and the war with Japan; to Mao's endless, senseless and contemptuous "reforms;" to unabashed materialism and industrialization that leave too many behind.

Some sources say up to 100 million Chinese died from famine, war, state brutality (labor camps, torture and executions, forced relocations, etc) in the course of the 20th century. 4000 years of civilization had to be abandoned and ridiculed per party orders; the country's spiritual roots severed, its culture and traditions thrown out, its elders spat on.

When I consider these facts the benefits of the present economic boom seem but a band-aid, however brightly colored.

Where is the silver lining? Maybe in the tenacity of the Chinese people, in their repeatedly demonstrated desire for democracy, in a re-emerging gathering of outspoken intellectuals, and ultimately in the impermanence of any regime.



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Wilkinson Library has great
resources on China. There will be a
public seminar on "China, 100 years
of Revolution" this fall.

With love,
Elisabeth