The CCP Ruins Academic Freedom via US-China Educational Exchange

An Evening Chat with Mike Pompeo: A Message to the Chinese People

TRANSCRIPT

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The video is available: https://youtu.be/K8KXopfT5Hc

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Michael R. Pompeo:

Hello, my dear Chinese friends behind the Great Fire Wall of the CCP, Mike Pompeo here speaking to you again from the Hudson Institute’s China Center.

Americans and Chinese people are separated by time, space, language, and history, but we have a lot in common, and so much we can learn from each other.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of Chinese students come to our colleges and universities. They’re the largest pool of international students we have. That’s fantastic.

What spoils those academic exchanges is the Chinese Communist Party. It tries to take advantage of students who come here to learn, and sometimes it sends spies over here with them.

I used to receive reports that the CCP’s Consulates in the US were working to control and intimidate Chinese students on American soil, through CCP-controlled campus organizations, and through outright coercion and intimidation.

The CCP also buys influence, sending billions of unreported dollars to American campuses. This isn’t generosity. A lot of the time it’s espionage.

The CCP also uses its Thousand Talents Program to recruit our top scientists and researchers. It steals their expertise. There was an example of that in my home state of Kansas, and in the head of Harvard’s chemistry department.

At Princeton, students in a Chinese politics class were even forced to use code names in their work, to protect their identities, not from America, but from the CCP.

Some of Beijing’s most frequent victims are Chinese and Taiwanese students themselves, who just came here looking to get a real education and experience academic freedom here in America.

They didn’t expect authoritarianism to follow them across the Pacific.

That should never happen in America.

American higher education is a crown jewel of our society. And we must protect it. We must be vigilant against fraud and theft.

We need to stand for free speech, open inquiry, and the competition of ideas. And we need to secure the freedoms that make our colleges and universities the envy of the world, and that attract so many brilliant Chinese students every year.

Academic freedom is essential for a vibrant democracy like the US, and academic exchanges should enhance, not undermine, that very freedom.

Cheers to free speech, academic freedom, and a future with more of both!