

Chairman Gallagher on Chinese Dissidents in San Francisco

11.11.23

as prepared for delivery

Many China-watchers around Washington D.C. believe that the Taiwan Strait could be the most important battlefield of the 21st century.

But that's not what the CCP thinks. In Xi Jinping's view, the war has already started on the most important battlefield: your mind.

The CCP calls it cognitive domain operations or psychological warfare.

As Xi Jinping himself has said in a speech on military political work, "The crumbling of a regime always starts in the realm of ideas.

Cognitive warfare is not something we tend to think about here in the West. Sure, we have ideas like soft power, but they're not a national strategy.

We don't really do propaganda here.

How do we fight back on the battlefield of people's minds while staying true to our values? I believe Chinese netizens and dissidents like Wei Jingsheng have part of the answer: we're going to have to fight like insurgents.

Because you can't reason. You can't betray your values to create a self-referential ideology of your own. You need to use the cognitive warfare insurgent's most powerful weapon of all: humor.

That's part of why we're here in San Francisco... and show the world that accommodating a dictator like Xi is not just morally wrong, strategically stupid, it's also laughable.

Just look at this APEC gala dinner being thrown in his honor. Look at how effectively the CCP has executed its strategy of elite capture in our country from corporate executives, to bankers, to university presidents, to politicians and their families. Xi Jinping must look at America and see nothing but mercenaries.

But gatherings like this one today show that there are people in this country willing to speak the truth no matter how costly.

It's time to join the fight.