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WHY CAN IT BE SAID THAT THE DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT IS ALSO A KIND
OF CULT

11 June 2014

[This essay purports to identify advocacy for democracy in China with the “heterodox cults” the regime is so eager to suppress, especially with the more violent cults. The reason is that the democrats, like the cults and terrorists, desire to throw China into chaos. The democratic movement serves the interests and receives the support of the insidiously clever United States—and ditto for the cultists and the terrorists. This essay is a reprint from the “New Wave Blog,” a site that seems to concern itself mainly with entertainment news, items about celebrities, and the like, and appeared in Seeking Truth, a serious (or self-serious) theoretical journal taking mainly a hard line on political themes. Seeking Truth declined to take responsibility for the contents, but printed them for the readers’ information and reference. The attitude is probably extreme, but it is an extreme view of an increasingly dominant trend: the general trend of Chinese politics over the past few decades has been becoming increasingly repressive and hostile to western and liberal influences. It might also be mentioned that some recent information calls into question the characterization of the Almighty God sect as a criminal organization, implying this is a political smear by the authorities. See the report, “Church of Almighty God, <https://censamm.org/resources/profiles/church-of-almighty-god>, and continuous reporting on the persecution of the group in the online journal Bitter Winter (<https://bitterwinter.org/>). The author seems fairly prominent in the leftist blogosphere.]

Lots of people do not understand why public intellectuals defend cults, whitewashing them, wanting to stand together with them. It’s no different from public intellectuals whitewashing terrorists. On the surface this seems to be unthinkable, but it has its own internal logic and causal connection. It’s very simple: whether we look at cult members or

terrorists, they all hope to throw China into chaos, and take measures to do so. This is in unspoken accord with the thinking of public intellectuals and that is the reason that the public intellectuals stand together with them.

We can't say that every single member of a cult pays attention to politics. But the background of the cults is political—this is something that cannot be doubted or concealed. Otherwise, the United States would not give refuge to various big Chinese cult leaders [“bishops”主教¹]. It is for the same reason that the United States keeps several big Chinese splittist bosses. The political motive is not only very obvious and also sinister. The United States is a state that exalts capitalism, and capitalist doctrine places profit above everything else. Anything that can bring profit may be done, whereas anything that does not bring a profit, no matter how moral or rational, is absolutely out of bounds. “Every man for himself—the devil take the hindmost”; “it's good to be selfish”; “selfishness is the motive force of social progress”—these public intellectuals are directly conveying to us the main principles of liberalism, importing the transplants from America. This is the core of the American vision of values, the inner core of “universal values.” Whether it be Chinese cultists, terrorists, or democracy movement elements, they all stand in America's corner, sapping China's vital strength. They all serve the goals of American containment strategy. That is why they all receive support from the United States. America today is a country that has a deep understanding of strategy. Their united front tactics have been tempered in blue-hot flame. If there is any force that can oppose China or bring chaos to China, the United States will unite with it and make use of it. The United States can also make use of its own capital and nurture to transform these social

¹ I think the statement is ambiguous. Zhujiao is bishop, but here it seems to be used generically. But also Zhang Weishan, the founder of the Almighty God sect, has the title of Zhujiao, and he resides in the United States.

forces that oppose and bring chaos to China into political forces to do the same.

Therefore, it is the United States that stands behind cult organizations, behind the terrorists, and also behind the democratic movement. Cultists, terrorists, and the democratic movement are deployed by the United States in pursuit of a common goal and seeking a common benefit. They all serve the America's anti-China strategy.

Therefore, some public intellectual lawyers have made use of the cultists' Sanjiang riots to attack the system; some have whitewashed the terrorist attack in Kunming, placing responsibility on the system. Some have deflected the public indignation at the murders by cultists at Zhaoyuan toward the system.² There is no reason at all to wonder about any of this. They are friends and brothers of all those who oppose China and desire chaos. They will whitewash the deeds of their brothers and comrades-in-arms. What is strange about this?

Also, while it may seem that the democracy elements do not entirely share the faith and beliefs of terrorists and cultists, their democracy has taken the form of a kind of religion. Or we can say that their democracy is a religion. They regard their democratic ideals as sacred and beyond doubt, dubbing them with the title of "universal." What they mean is that everybody has to agree with them. When they speak of freedom they mean their own freedom to say what they want and everyone else has to shut up. They style all those who do not go along with them as "fifty-centers."³ They talk about democracy, but

² The "cultists were said to be members of the Almighty God church, a new religion. The Church of Almighty God (全能神教會), also called "Eastern Lightning"—东方闪电—cf. Matthew 24:27) was founded in 1990 by Zhang Weishan, who later in that decade moved to the United States. The Church teaches that God ("Yahweh") and Jesus have both been reincarnated in two Chinese women. It also predicted the end of the world on December 21 2012 (as per the Mayan calendar?), but presumably has amended this. Chinese popular Christianity often has an apocalyptic tone to it, but the Almighty God are considered loony even by local standards. The authorities claim that the Church proselytizes through violence, often directed against other Christians. Some "house church" Protestants even speculate that the Church is in fact a black operation run by the

in their bones they hate diversity. Any model that does not accord with their own model they call “dictatorship.” To be even more precise, their only standard of democracy is whether it has the recognition of the United States. Their only standard of freedom is whether it has the blessing of the United States. They take the American perspective as the gold standard. American standards are supreme over everything else; American interests prevail over anything else. Anything that does not accord with the American perspective or American interests or does not have the approval of the Americans, anything that does not satisfy the United States: all are classified as “dictatorial states,” “rogue states,” or other commonly used slurs. Anything that is in conflict with American standards is looked upon with enmity and must be destroyed. In pursuit of their missionary evangelism they can despise all morality, challenge any sort of limit without any feeling whatsoever of guilt. The Almighty God cultist who beat to death an innocent woman in Zhaoyuan said afterwards that he had “no regrets. There is not the slightest difference of nature or degree [between him and the “public intellectuals”].

Could the democratic elements be showing themselves as a fresh instance of a cult? They are a secretive cult. They proclaim the advantages of democracy, propagandize

authorities with the aim of discrediting unregistered Christian churches generally; but most consider this unlikely, On the evening of May 28 2014 six members said to belong to the Almighty God sect were in a MacDonald’s in the town of Zhaoyuan, Shandong province, asking other customers for their cell phone numbers, supposedly in order to solicit new converts. One woman responded in an insulting fashion, so the sect members allegedly beat her to death. More recent reports, however, suggest that the culprits were not actual Almighty God faithful, but belonged to a break-away group, and that the accusations against the mainstream of the cult are disinformation by the authorities.³ The Chinese internet police supposedly hire a cadre of professional trolls to monitor various blogs, putting their own comments to postings considered to be subversive otherwise not to the taste of the ruling class. The trolls supposedly receive fifty (Chinese) cents for every comment they post.

American concepts: they are the cult of “Almighty Democracy” or, even more, the cult of “American Interests.” That’s the reason so many people have suddenly become public intellectuals, something people find so hard to justify. It’s just like abandoning all logic and discussion. They incline toward a perverse racism, beginning to despise anything associated with their own country. Their words, deeds, and bearing make us easily think of those cultists, since they use the same kind of propaganda and brain-washing techniques. Therefore, to consider the public intellectuals to be a kind of cult is to get closer to their real nature and allows us to understand a great deal of their behavior.

Lots of foreign media have reported on an open letter by a certain famous “Genius Wang” how the democratic element X Dan⁴ has pointed out how he “unites with all forces that can be united with,” and has hurriedly fled to America to join together with Zhao Weishan, the founder of the Almighty God cult. Inside China they have developed violent protest activities. I do not see anything the least bit strange in this. What would be strange is if they did not do something like this. What they want to do and are in the process of doing does nothing but provide proof for my present analysis. Also, the domestic democratic elements, such as the “diehard” (sike—死磕: “death-knockers”; “bitter-enders”) lawyers have long been fighting together with the cultists. Democratic elements overseas have been away from China for a long time and clearly underestimate the political sensitivity of what their colleagues inside the country are up to. When the diehard lawyers call the cultists “citizens,” they have already become their people. The democracy elements “citizen” is no longer a legal category but a political category.

⁴ Both references seem to be references to Wang Dan, a worker-activist in the 1989 democracy movement who, after being released from prison, went into exile. He received a PhD in history from Harvard and in 2014 was teaching in a university on Taiwan.

Everyone the democracy elements regard as a citizen shares common ideas or space with them. Only then can they be considered “citizens.” Look at those they revile as “fifty-centers”: do they call them citizens? They say they want democracy and, once they have democracy, they will set up a “civil society.” But don’t forget there is something else: Once they have their democracy they want to kill their families, hang people from street lamps. Hasn’t the democracy element Zhou Yahui bellowed for the extermination of 200 million people, since only then can there be a liberal democratic system?⁵ Similarly, before Indonesia could fit itself to the American standard, they killed 450,000 leftists whose opinions were to the left of theirs. Before South Korea could fit the American standard, they killed 100,000 leftists. Only after the leftists had been exterminated were there the conditions allowing for democracy. Under that kind of democracy, there is room only for people in their own circles. Obviously, their “civil society” does not allow those they consider to be enemies to exist. It is a society of people like themselves. The essence of their “freedom” is “praise for those who go along, destruction for those who resist.” The nature of their democracy is “We (朕)⁶ are democracy.”

Therefore, according to its nature the democracy movement is a kind of cult. Thus, public intellectuals manifest certain behaviors and traits of cultists.

Statement: This essay represents the author’s personal viewpoint, not the viewpoint of *Seeking Truth* or the Seeking Truth Theoretical Network. Its originality and the truth and comprehensiveness of its detailed contents have not been tested by this Site. It is provided for the reference of the readers, who are invited to determine for themselves the degree of its validity.

⁵See <http://www.cloudheap.com:8080/showItem/showDetail/14845326.html>

⁶朕, zhen, is how the Emperor referred to himself: the “royal We.”

Qiushi, June 11 2014