

NEWS WRAP

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Chairman Mao continues to be worshipped in China, as the visionary who founded China and transformed it into a world power. But China's Communist Party has broken from many of the ideals of Chairman Mao, through market-based reforms of the past three decades. Amid the global financial crisis, nostalgia for the old days has increased. Authors and academics like Zuo Daimei have been using microphones to speak on "Unhappy China". They declare that China had become too capitalist, and China's leaders were going in the wrong direction. Assertions are made that things could improve, only if the Chinese state authorities increase their control over state assets. The income gap between rich and poor, and the manipulation of the court system by state officials and company executives comprise China's principal problems. A growing number of Chinese feel that the solutions to the country's present problems lie in the teachings of Mao Zedong.

Unlike the dissidents or political exiles of a previous generation, the influential New Left critics do not call for an overthrow of the Communist regime. They believe that state power could redress the injustices created by free markets, privatization and globalization. Fierce nationalism and criticism of the West, characterize their recommendations and criticisms. The Chinese Communist Party has held absolute power since 1949. The Chinese authorities now face growing discontent over unemployment, contaminated infant food formula that caused illness for 300,000 babies, shoddy building construction that led to the collapse of thousands of school buildings during 2008's Sichuan earthquake, and widespread corruption among public officials. The New Left has been publishing position papers in journals and on the internet since the 1990s. The global financial crisis has brought the New Left's leading figures under spotlight.

Communist officials have tolerated the New Left, which is one aspect of a broader phenomenon of emboldened Chinese, who question officials and speak of the failings of government. The New Left is described as a "patriotic movement", while ordinary citizens or "laobaixing" increasingly demand participation in government and legislation, along with increased transparency and accountability.

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Seventeen Chinese Muslims, known as Uighurs, have been held under detention, ringed by barbed wires, at the US Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, for the past seven years. The US government acknowledges that they should not have been there, as they were not enemies of USA or its allies, and they have not engaged in violence against USA or other interests. USA cannot return the Uighurs to China, for fears that they would be mistreated or tortured. The Chinese government considers the Uighurs as a component of a terrorist group, and have been frequently detaining or assaulting Uighurs. The Chinese authorities have threatened to retaliate politically against any nation, that offers sanctuary to Uighurs.

The Uighurs continue to be prisoners on the island naval base, due to ancient hostilities and modern-day diplomatic failures. The International Uighur Human

