

China Shows (Yet Again) That Communists Have No Respect for Life

In recent days the world has watched in horror as residents of Shanghai have been [locked](#) in their homes by their government. Why? The authorities in China are pursuing a senseless and impossible goal of zero COVID cases—despite the fact that the virus has a death rate of [less](#) than one percent and that a vaccine is readily available.

To enforce their new lockdowns, the communist regime has invoked brutal tactics. The 25 million residents of the city have been locked in their homes, while their food supplies dwindle and medicines are running out. Their government is supposed to be delivering these items to the homes of its citizens, but unsurprisingly, it is failing to do so in an organized or timely manner.

And it doesn't stop there. CNN [reports](#) people have been unable to receive medical care, even for emergencies, without a negative COVID test. Children with COVID-19 have been taken from their families. Patients with chronic illnesses or those in need of surgery have been [denied](#) care indefinitely. And videos show authorities killing family pets who escaped into the streets.

More than 30,000 medics and 2,000 military workers were dispatched to the city to enforce these measures, and though the extent of this “enforcement” is not exactly known, it does not look good. The *New York Times* [reports](#) residents chanting, “We want supplies! We don't want to starve to death.”

Residents in [#Shanghai](#) screaming from high rise apartments after 7 straight days of the city lockdown. The narrator worries that there will be major problems. (in Shanghainese

dialect—he predicts people can't hold out much longer—he implies tragedy). pic.twitter.com/jsQt6IdQNh

– Eric Feigl-Ding (@DrEricDing) [April 10, 2022](#)

CNN also [reported](#) “one popular comment on the highly censored Chinese social media platform Weibo read, ‘We are not killed by Covid, but by the Covid control measures.’”

BREAKING—China's grip on BA2. At least 23 cities in China on full or partial lockdown—cities with over 193 million residents. Food shortages throughout even Shanghai. Doctors and nurses also exhausted—this doctor collapsed, and was carried off by patients at an isolation center. pic.twitter.com/raJlRNEezC

– Eric Feigl-Ding (@DrEricDing) [April 9, 2022](#)

None of this is actually reducing COVID cases, by the way. They passed 20,000 last week—a peak higher than that seen in Wuhan in 2020.

The draconian measures being pursued by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the tragic results we are witnessing are a reminder of just how deadly this authoritarian ideology can be. Indeed, Communism has [killed more people](#) and caused more suffering than any other ideology in history. And in China, the leaders of the CCP are proving yet again that human life (or really, any life at all) will never be valued under a communist system.

Do you agree? pic.twitter.com/g3he9bUMoQ

– FEE (Foundation for Economic Education) (@feeonline) [April 11, 2022](#)

In its brief 100 years, communism has been [responsible](#) for more than 100 million deaths—and it has ruined the lives of countless more. In fact, China's own Mao Zedong [killed](#) more of his own citizens than Hitler or Stalin, with a body count estimated at 45 million. As Mao famously [said](#), "Communism is not love! Communism is a hammer we use to destroy our enemies!"

Communism is an oppressive and evil ideology that relies on brutal force and coercion. It has only ever succeeded in making everyone under its grip poor and miserable. The current human rights abuses occurring in China are an important reminder of how important it is to have a system that recognizes and protects individual rights.

Ayn Rand (1905-1982), the celebrated writer and philosopher, once said, "Do not make the mistake of the ignorant who think that an individualist is a man who says: 'I'll do as I please at everybody else's expense.' An individualist is a man who recognizes the inalienable individual rights of man—his own and those of others."

Rand, a child of the Russian Revolution, understood the value of individual rights better than most. At age 12, she and her family fled St. Petersburg after the Bolshevik uprising when [her father's shop was confiscated](#) by communists in the wake of the October Revolution.

All lives have value. Collectivism asks that we deny that fact and pretend the good of the whole surpasses that of the individual. But this is false. As we've seen time and time again throughout history, when individual rights are undermined, the group is inevitably hurt as well. Everyone is less well-off and everyone suffers. In contrast, when individualism is upheld and people are incentivized to serve their fellow man, as they are under capitalism, society at large flourishes as well.

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