

The Culture of Genocide

September 30, 2020

"Let's be careful with our language," advises Stapleton Roy, former U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of China.

Very careful. Totally careful. Totalitarian-ly careful.

Speaking to students earlier this month in a Zoom meeting as part of Pomona University's Model United Nations, Roy took issue with Hong Kong students and protesters for "provoking mainland intervention," arguing the millions who marched for basic democracy "went too far" and should have used more "self-restraint."

The U.S. foreign affairs veteran even decries the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, which he also concludes "set back the cause of reform in China for decades."

And here I was thinking that the massacre of an estimated 3,000 to 10,000 unarmed Chinese civilians



Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy

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by the People's Liberation Army is what detoured that noble cause.

"China has come under criticism from U.S. officials following revelations of mass forced sterilization of Uyghur women, as well as the internment of over one

million Uyghurs in camps where detainees are forced to learn Communist Party ideology. Reports of torture, rape, and other abuses have emerged from these camps," writes *National Review's* Zachary Evans.

"Genocide is generally used to refer to the extermination of a people or nation," Ambassador Roy explains. "Genocide is not taking place in Xinjiang."

Yet according to the United Nations, the Chinese Communist Party's manner of oppression does constitute "genocide."

"More accurately," even Roy acknowledges, "there is what can be called 'cultural genocide.'"^{*}

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Okay, Mr. Ambassador, let's choose our terms precisely. Protesters in Hong Kong have a word for the Beijing government: "ChiNazis."

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

^{*} What a coincidence! "China seized control over Tibet in 1950 in what it describes as a 'peaceful liberation' that helped the remote Himalayan region throw off its 'feudalist' past," notes a recent Al Jazeera report. "But critics, led by exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, say Beijing's rule amounts to 'cultural genocide.'"