## **Common Sense**

## Slow on Subjugation

January 8, 2021

Latest: China opposes democracy!

When Great Britain turned Hong Kong over to China in 1997, the half-capitalist, ninetynine-percent-totalitarian mainland government

promised, scout's honor, to preserve "one country, two systems" for 50 years. Hong Kong was to be mostly autonomous.

Almost immediately, China began interfering in Hong Kong's democracy with the help of puppet officials on the island.

In 2003, China tried to impose a "national security law" to squelch the Hong-Kong-

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system part of the two systems. Criticism of the Chinese government would be treated as sedition. Five hundred thousand Hong Kongers marched in protest. Not wanting to send bombs and tanks, China retreated.



Hong Kongers blunted other assaults in 2012, 2014, and 2016.

But this last year, with the help of pandemicrationalized restrictions on civic life, China has been making great leaps forward with its agenda. Recently, it detained 53 Hong Kongers for the terrible crime oftrying to run candidates in local elections.

Observing this, Victoria Hui, a political science professor at the University of Notre Dame, has reached an insight.

"This is a total sweep of all opposition leaders," she says. Why, if it is judged "subversion" just to run for office in Hong Kong, then the true purpose of the new security law is "the total subjugation of Hong Kong people."

This goal has been blatant at least since 2003; longer, to anyone who knows China's history. Sounds like Ms. Hui is only now catching on.

This is Common Sense, I'm Paul Jacob.