

30 Years Later, What Christians Should Know About China's Horrific Tiananmen Square Massacre

Thirty years ago, on the night of June 3, 1989, the Chinese Communist Party murdered thousands of democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square. It is an event that resonates even today and should be remembered.

Compared to the 35 million deliberately starved to death in the 1950s and the millions killed in the Cultural Revolution of the 1970s, the number of victims of the Tiananmen Square massacre hardly registers. Yet by 1989 the Chinese Communist Party had put on a kinder, gentler face, and many expected them to begin moving toward democratic rule. But we were wrong. Instead, the winds of freedom that were blowing through the Soviet Empire terrified the rulers in Beijing. The democratic demonstrators were crushed by the Red Army in one bloody night.

The communists had survived 1989, but another terror gripped them in 1991 as they watched the American Army effortlessly destroy the best military technology in the communist block during the First Gulf War. The Red Army was no match for the Americans because, like the Russians and Iraqis, China could not match American spending on defense and technology. To compete, China had to become richer, but the communist/socialist economic system produced only poverty. The solution came from leader Deng Xiaoping, who put China on a path to adopt a modified version of the capitalist system.

First, Deng went to the Red Army and got them to agree to capitalist reforms if they got more funding. Then he went to

the coastal city governors and got them to agree to fund the Red Army in exchange for supporting capitalism. Finally, Deng won support of the Communist Party by promising to use the Red Army and the increased capitalist wealth to keep the party in power. Deng redefined socialism to be any economic system that worked, in other words, capitalism, and popularized the saying "To be rich is glorious."

Deng's plan worked beyond his wildest dreams. By removing the dead hand of socialism and allowing people to own property and keep the fruits of their labor, he ignited the greatest economic boom in human history. Hundreds of millions of people have moved out of poverty and into the middle class. China has become an economic powerhouse and is the second largest economy in the world.

But as the Chinese economic miracle unfolded, the world forgot about Tiananmen Square. Once again, the world began to believe that China would move toward democracy. Once again, we were wrong.

We failed to notice the success of the rest of Deng's plan. The Red Army, enriched by its own capitalist companies and higher taxes, has built a modern air force and navy. And, embodied by its new power, the Red Army has taken over the international waters in South China Sea, threatening its neighbors and American power in East Asia.

Thanks to China's capitalist prosperity, the Communist Party is more entrenched in power than ever. Worse, one man, XI Jinping, has succeeded in amassing power as Mao Tse Tung did. And, like Mao, he is determined to crush all other competing organizations in China. The church, which may grow from 100 million to 250 million over the next 20 years, is one of his main targets.

Some churches have been put under control of atheistic party members, and those that refuse are under attack. Thousands of

churches have been closed, and over a million Christians suffered persecution last year alone. The state forbids Christian education of children, and Christian teachings are banned even in many churches. And advanced technology such as facial recognition is used to identify and persecute Christians.

Yes, sadly the Chinese Communist Party is back to Tiananmen Square-style repression.

So remember Tiananmen Square, and remember to pray for Chinese Christians like Early Rain Church pastor Wang Yi. After he and his wife were arrested, Wang Yi said “The rulers have chosen an enemy that can never be imprisoned—the soul of man. Therefore they are doomed to lose their war.”

Amen. {eoa}

Ron Allen is a Christian businessman, CPA and author who serves in local, national and international ministries, spreading a message of reconciliation to God, to men and between believers. He is founder of the International Star Bible Society, telling how the heavens declare the glory of God; the Emancipation Network, which helps people escape from financial bondage; and co-founder with his wife, Pat, of Corporate Prayer Resources, dedicated to helping intercessors.