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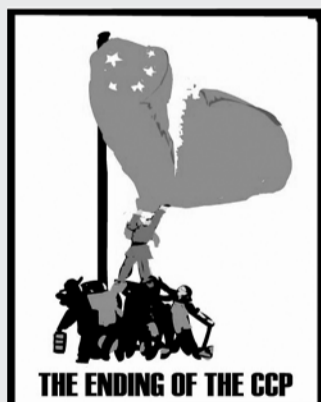
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## QUITTING THE CCP



Inspired by the 'Nine Commentaries',  
as of 20:47 EST, April 29th, 2009

# 53,507,870

Chinese people have announced their intentions to quit the Chinese Communist Party and its affiliated organizations on a special Web site established by The Epoch Times. Many others, unable to break through the Chinese Internet blockade, have posted their withdrawal statements on poles or buildings. Others have written them on Chinese currency. Read recent statements of Chinese quitting the Party, the latest news on the "Nine Commentaries," and more at

<http://www.NineCommentaries.com>

# Peace process will strengthen moderate Palestinians

By DAVID TOMPKINS  
Epoch Times Staff

Many obstacles to peace exist in the Middle East, but none weighs more heavily than the political instability in the Gaza Strip that prevents the Palestinians from being a reliable partner in peace. This is the problem facing U.S. President Barack Obama and his special envoy George Mitchell as they pursue a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Whether peace between Israel and the Palestinians can be achieved at this moment or not, restarting the peace process may help pull the Palestinians back from the calamities of civil war and increasing radicalization.

The Palestinian Authority is said to administer the Palestinian territories: the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In fact, Hamas, an Islamic militant organization, dominates the Gaza Strip and its political wing is steadily growing in popular support and threatening to take the office of the president in the next elections. Mahmoud Abbas is president of the Palestinian Authority and heads Fatah, a nationalist political party that is moderate by Palestinian standards.

This week, Fatah and Hamas will meet in Egypt for the third time to try to hammer out an agreement on a transitional government that would lead to presidential and legislative elections. The meeting is unlikely to result in an agreement that can be tolerated by the international community though. The international Quartet (the UN, the United States, the EU and Russia) insists that any Palestinian government has to recognize agreements that have already been signed, recognize Israel, and condemn violence. Hamas rejects all three points.

### The Character of Hamas

Many countries view Hamas as a terrorist organization. Using suicide bombs and firing rockets at civilian targets in Israel are definitely terrorist acts, but Hamas is much more than a terrorist organization. It is an uncompromising militant movement that is dedicated to the annihilation of any power, law or state that is not Islamic (Sharia law) in "Palestine."

Founded in 1987, Hamas a year later published a Charter called the "Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement." According to the Charter, Jews and Christians can only exist in Palestine when they fall under the "wing of Islam," meaning Hamas will accept nothing short of the destruction of Israel and the imposition of an Islamic state. The Charter specifically denounces any negotiations or peaceful solutions as a contradiction of the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement. For Hamas, negotiating a truce

appears to be only a tactical and temporary move employed so as to better reach its goal of eliminating Israel.

When the Palestinian Authority has negotiated with Israel, Hamas has attacked Israel with Quassam rockets and suicide bombs in order to create mistrust and undermine the dialogue. Yet since winning the Palestinian elections in January 2006, its political wing seems on the surface to have moderated somewhat. It even accepted a six month truce with Israel in 2008.

However, this moderation was not a genuine shift in its willingness to make concessions to Israel or its political rivals, but only a ploy for time. Hamas used the truce to import Chinese made rockets which are far superior and greatly enhanced their ability to strike Israel, making the security situation much more unstable.

## If Hamas wins the upcoming elections expected in 2010, then the prospects for peace will be gone in the near future.

After the truce ended on Dec. 19 Hamas began using the Chinese-made 122mm WS-1E rocket produced by the Sichuan Aerospace Industry Corporation that has a 25 mile (40 km) range instead of the 9.9 mile (16 km) range of the Quassam rocket—their handmade rocket. This allowed Hamas to suddenly target as many as 1 million Israelis. The increased risks of this more advanced weapon to Israel's civilian population and the 300 rockets and mortars fired into Israel in the 8 days following the end of the truce precipitated an all-out Israeli military campaign in the Gaza Strip.

Human Rights Watch reports that during the Israeli invasion of Gaza Hamas made themselves busy by executing 32 political rivals and maiming dozens more by shooting them in the legs. They targeted Fatah members, especially those who worked in the Fatah-run security services of the Palestinian Authority.

### Hope for Peace



**ROCKET FIRE:** A picture shows a rocket being launched from the northern Gaza Strip towards Israel on January 14, 2009 as seen from the Israel-Gaza border.

JACK GUEZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Hamas' popularity grows among ordinary Palestinians as confidence in the peace process wanes. When there is no hope for peace, Hamas is seen as the most lethal weapon the Palestinians have.

On the West Bank the Palestinian Authority is rapidly building its security forces, presumably in preparation for a power struggle, perhaps even civil war, with Hamas. Security personnel are being trained in new facilities in the West Bank. More are being trained in Jordan. And the Presidential Guard is being bolstered.

The term for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas expired in January 2009. A March poll by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research indicates that the recent incursion into Gaza by the Israelis weakened his popularity by 2 percent to 40 percent since early December and strengthened the support for Hamas by 5 percent to 33 percent.

The polls also suggested that there has been a decline in support for the two-state solution by 3 percent to 50 percent for the same time period, and a considerable rise (6 percent to 54 percent) in support for armed attacks against Israel.

Palestinian confidence in the peace process drives popular support for Abbas, and his ability to remain in power. He is a moderate political leader who is acceptable to both Israel and the international community. Building the credibility of the peace process has never been more important. At some point it must be successful. In the interim, though, the peace process will contribute towards rebuilding the popularity among Palestinians of the moderate politicians who support and are so critical to the success of the peace process.

If Hamas wins the upcoming elections expected in 2010, then the prospects for peace will be gone in the near future. This is a distinct and growing threat.

Palestinians thirst for their own state almost as much as Israelis are nervous about giving in and agreeing to it. The international community must consider whether it can help keep the Palestinians from swinging to the extremist and uncompromising political camp of Hamas that is committed to violence and its own narrow ideology—and what to do if they fail.

# In other news: a bloody history waits to repeat itself

By CHRIS MALLINOS

Around the impoverished villages near Lake Kivu in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), you can still see evidence of the boom. Makeshift mines dot the countryside there, constant reminders of a once desperate search for a metallic ore called coltan.

None of the coltan stayed in the country of course. It was funneled out onto the global market, where it is a key component in the production of computers, cell phones, video game consoles and a host of other electronics.

All around the world, from offices in Tokyo to basements in Toronto, Congolese coltan can be found in the devices we use every day. Few know it's there, even fewer know where it comes from.

But back in the DRC, coltan is murder.

From 1998 to 2003, half a dozen African countries and more than 25 rebel groups fought bitterly for control of the country's coltan mines. Known as "Africa's World War," the battle killed more than five million people.

Villagers were kidnapped at gunpoint and forced to dig. Children were enslaved and women were raped by the thousands, all in the pursuit of coltan.

Armies and rebels lucky enough to find some were greeted with open arms by Western companies looking to profit from the worldwide electronics industry.

There was, after all, money to be made. As the world eagerly awaited the 2000 release of Sony's Playstation 2, for example, the price of coltan spiked from \$44 a pound to \$275 a pound.

Those numbers suited the warring factions just fine because it meant more money for weapons and more incentive to control the mines. In 1999 alone, the Rwandan army—a central figure in the DRC's war—made a staggering \$250 million from coltan.

Playstation 2, meanwhile, went on to become the world's best-selling game console.

At the height of war, the United Nations released a damning report linking our coltan consumption to the DRC's plight. It detailed how armies and rebels fought and killed to supply our demand.

The report went even further, naming specific American and European mining companies that were either complicit in the killings or directly guilty of partnering with the rebels.

Nothing ever came of the allegations though, as alleged diplomatic pressure forced the UN to bury the report. Greed, it seemed, was excusable as long as it was profitable. The story of coltan was forgotten.

If this all sounds familiar, that's because it is. Coltan is just one in a long list of natural re-



Chris Mallinos

sources pillaged from developing countries for our own consumption. Western demand for diamonds, gold, and oil have all left a trail of despair in their path.

Little seems to have changed since the days of Africa's World War—including our indifference to the plight of those who supply our goods.

In the DRC, some 45,000 people still die every single month from hunger and disease. The price of coltan may have dropped to pre-war levels, but people there are still suffering.

What's worse is that it's only a matter of time until the Congolese feel the wrath of our greed once again. When the next big technological innovation hits—perhaps a new iPhone or Nintendo Wii—and our coltan supply dwindles, the West will once again look to Africa, where most of the world's coltan remains.

At the end of the Congolese war, just 15 percent of the global population had a cell phone subscription. Today that number tops 60 percent. Massive markets are opening up in China and India, where millions more people are buying record numbers of electronic goods.

For those still reeling from the first coltan boom, this is a ticking time bomb.

No one would ever suggest that we boycott electronic goods, nor is it fair to blame the average consumer for Africa's plight. But without a strict regulatory system similar to the one that now targets blood diamonds, coltan will once again make war and death profitable.

Beyond that, we need a shift in focus away from the shameful pursuit of profit that drove our companies to partner with bloodthirsty rebels. If Bernie Madoff and AIG taught us the economic consequences of greed, then coltan and DRC should teach us the consequences on human life.

Perhaps then, mass murder in Africa would spark the kind of outrage that faulty mortgages seem to.

Chris Mallinos is a Toronto-based journalist whose work has appeared on six continents and in seven languages. You can reach him at [www.chrismallinos.com](http://www.chrismallinos.com).

The 'Nine Commentaries' is the book that is disintegrating the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and changing China. This award-winning Epoch Times editorial series discloses the true history and nature of the CCP. Now it is serialized here.

# Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party

### Commentary Seven

On the Chinese Communist Party's history of killing

Whether those killed deserved to die was not the CCP's concern. "The People's Republic of China Regulations for Punishing the Counter-Revolutionaries" announced in 1951 that those who "spread rumors" can be "immediately executed."

While the Suppression of Counter-Revolutionaries was being hotly implemented, land reform was also taking place on a large scale. In fact, the CCP had already started land reform within its occupied areas in the late 1920s. On the surface, land reform appeared to advocate an ideal similar to that of the Heavenly Kingdom of Taiping: All would have land to farm. It was really just an excuse to kill. Tao Zhu, who ranked 4th in the CCP afterwards, had a slogan for land reform: "Every village bleeds,

every household fights," indicating that in every village the landowners must die.

Land reform could have been achieved without killing. It could have been done in the same way as the Taiwanese government implemented its land reform by purchasing the property from the landowners. However, as the CCP originated from a group of thugs and lumpen proletariat, it only knew how to rob. Fearing it might suffer revenge after robbing, the CCP naturally needed to kill the victims, thus stamping out the source of potential trouble.

The most common way to kill during the land reform was known as the Struggle Meeting. The CCP fabricated crimes and charged the landowners or rich farmers. The public was asked how they should be punished. Some CCP members or activists were already planted in the crowd to shout, "We should kill them!" and the landowners and rich peasants were then executed on the spot.

At that time, whoever owned

land in the villages was classified as a "bully." Those who often took advantage of the peasants were called "mean bullies;" those who often helped with repairing public facilities and donated money to schools and for natural disaster relief were called "kind bullies;" and those who did nothing were called "still or silent bullies." A classification like this was meaningless, because all the "bullies" ended up being executed right away regardless of what "bully" category they belonged to.

By the end of 1952, the CCP-published number of executed "reactionary elements" was about 2.4 million. Actually, the total death toll of landowners and former KMT government officials below the county level was at least 5 million.

The Suppression of the Counter-Revolutionaries and land reform had three direct results. First, former local officials who had been selected through clan-based autonomy were eliminated. The CCP killed all the manage-

ment personnel in the previous system and realized complete control of rural areas by installing a Party branch in each village.

Second, a huge amount of wealth was obtained by stealing and robbing. Third, civilians were terrorized by the brutal suppression against the landowners and rich farmers.

### The "Three Anti Campaign" and "Five Anti Campaign"

The Suppression of Reactionaries and the land reform mainly targeted the countryside, while the subsequent Three Anti Campaign and Five Anti Campaign could be regarded as the corresponding genocide in the cities.

The Three Anti Campaign began in December 1951 and targeted corruption, waste and bureaucracy among the CCP cadres. Some corrupt CCP officials were executed. Soon afterwards, the CCP attributed the corruption of its government officials to temptation by capitalists. Accordingly, the Five Anti Campaign against

bribery, tax evasion, theft of state property, jerry-building, and espionage of state economic information was launched in January 1952.

The Five Anti Campaign was essentially stealing capitalists' property or rather murdering the capitalists for their money. Chen Yi, the Mayor of Shanghai at that time, was debriefed on his sofa with a cup of tea in hand every night. He would ask leisurely, "How many paratroopers are there today?" meaning, "How many businessmen jumped out of high buildings to commit suicide?"

"The Heavenly Kingdom of Taiping (1851-1864), also known as the Taiping Rebellion, was one of the bloodiest conflicts in Chinese history. It was a clash between the forces of Imperial China and those inspired by a self-proclaimed mystic of the Hakka cultural group named Hong Xiuquan, who was also a Christian convert. At least 30 million people are believed to have died."