

GLOBAL VIEWS



CAO YI / FOR CHINA DAILY

GERT GROBLER

Rejection of lies and fabrications

Countries need to sift the truth about Xinjiang from the prejudicial propaganda chaff promoted by the US and its allies

The United States with the support of some of its allies continues to escalate its onslaught against China by claiming the Chinese authorities are repressing more than “1 million detained Muslim Uygurs” in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region and engaging in “genocide”, adopting the same rhetoric as its predecessor, the Donald Trump administration.

Many countries, including some in the West, but particularly in the developing world, such as in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, consider that the US and its allies have adopted an ill-considered approach, and compelling questions are increasingly being asked of the US and its handful of allies.

How can these serious allegations of “crimes against humanity” be made without backing them up with concrete and credible evidence? It is felt that such malicious manipulation of facts by the US only undermines its own credibility.

Why do the US and others continue to ignore the fact that the Xinjiang-related issues in essence evolve around counterterrorism and de-radicalization rather than about human rights? Also why has the remarkable economic and social progress that China has achieved over the last few decades including in Xinjiang where the Uygur ethnic population continues to grow apace, been given such short shrift by the Western media?

What prompted this sudden “concern” on the part of the US and some of its allies for the “well-being of Muslims” at this juncture, which has led to a flurry of punitive measures and sanctions? This not only constitutes an offense to the dignity of Chinese people but also a blatant interference in China’s internal affairs and a grave violation of China’s sovereignty and security interests.

Is this playing of “the Uygur card” by spreading preposterous fabrications about “genocide” not a deliberate attempt by the US to foment civil unrest in Xinjiang? Something that the US intelligence agencies have proposed as a means to discredit and destabilize China.

On the question of concrete evidence of “genocide” and other “human rights

abuses”, the US and its cohorts have not produced one iota of credible proof. The sad irony is the fact that the US and others who pride themselves on being democratic, just and fair, have discarded all these hallowed principles by falling hook line and sinker for the lies and fabrications on Xinjiang emanating from a variety of anti-China forces such as Christian fundamentalist Adrian Zenz, a so-called leading German expert and his questionable crony institutions such as the right-wing, US government-backed group, called “Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation”. Zenz actually serves as a convenient tool for anti-China forces in a number of countries and in the process funds and manipulates “Uygur groups abroad”. Furthermore, the bulk of reporting by the Western media on Xinjiang originates from Zenz and his ilk, with their so-called evidence based partly on false “internal documents” and “victim statements”.

Fortunately, China’s many friends, particularly in the developing world, who uphold an objective and unbiased attitude, have spoken up in support of China’s position and positive measures on Xinjiang-related matters. At the 46th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which concluded in March, about 80 countries made joint or separate statements to express their solidarity with and support for China’s legitimate position on Xinjiang-related issues. In fact, the influential “Organization of Islamic Cooperation” consisting of 57 countries, as well as the “Gulf Cooperation Council” commended the progress in China’s human rights cause and its counterterrorism and de-radicalization efforts. There is also widespread understanding in many African countries for China’s position on Xinjiang.

It should also be noted that the International Criminal Court in The Hague has indicated recently that there was “no basis to proceed” with an investigation into alleged claims of genocide against the Uygur ethnic group.

Also of interest is that there was a recent difference of opinion within the US State Department’s Office of the Legal Advisor, given that the latter also concluded earlier

this year that there was insufficient evidence to prove genocide charges, placing the top diplomatic lawyers of the US at cross purposes with both the Trump and Biden administrations.

As for what motivated the US and some of its allies, to display this “new found” concern about the rights of Muslims, there is an increasing global realization that it is anchored in an outdated Cold War mentality which exposes the hegemonic idea of the US to pursue supremacy and deprive others of the right to development. Furthermore, human rights issues are being used as a pretext for interfering in China’s internal affairs and impede China’s development. The worst irony is that this so-called concern for human rights of Muslims in Xinjiang stems from a country that has been the most dominant and fervent proponent of bombing, sanctioning, torturing and displacing, millions of Muslims in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Iran and others over recent decades.

China’s many friends will continue to value their bilateral relations with China and strengthen their efforts to counter the destructive tactics of those seeking to undermine China’s success by politicizing and fabricating issues, in order to advance their own agendas.

What, therefore, is of increasing importance to a growing number of countries in the international community, as far as developments in Xinjiang are concerned, is to separate the propaganda promoted by the US and its few allies from the true facts on the ground.

Pertinent questions in this regard will therefore remain at the door of the US and others: Not least, where is the concrete and credible proof of all these serious allegations?

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Loss of confidence

Xinjiang-related accusations leveled by some Western countries against China lay bare their unease in the face of China’s expanding global influence

A joint statement, which was released by the G7 foreign ministers at their meeting in early May, accused China of “human rights violations and abuse” in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. This was the latest illustration of the anti-China policy reasserted by some Western countries in recent years through hyping up so-called Xinjiang issues.

The European Union, on the basis of fabricated “facts”, followed the United States’ lead and imposed sanctions on China, which has jeopardized its cooperation and friendship with China cultivated over a long period of time and further misled the international community on Xinjiang issues.

China Watch Institute, a think tank powered by China Daily, recently issued a report detailing how some “experts” and organizations in the West have rolled out a defamation campaign centered on the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region in order to discredit and suppress China. The report sheds light on the Xinjiang-related fallacies fabricated by some Western countries from nine perspectives, and uncovers the Cold War mentality behind the lies and the geopolitical agenda being pursued by some Western countries.

The so-called Xinjiang issues, in essence, are an ideological fight provoked and led by the US, which is a continuation of its Cold War mentality. The ideological nature of the US offensive doesn’t tolerate views that are neutral and objective. Within the deliberate rhetoric and discourse setting, any who disagree will be labeled as “brainwashed”, leaving no ground for reasonable criticism and discussion.

The “genocide” accusation was first made by former US secretary of state Mike Pompeo, as an attempt to force other countries to line up alongside the US in its efforts to contain China.

The Xinjiang-related research and papers produced by some Western “experts” and organizations are based on presumption of guilt and full of groundless claims, coupled with sensational figures that defy common sense, combined with “witness testimonies” from anti-China forces. For instance, the accusations linking cotton produced in Xinjiang to claims of “forced labor” hold no water at all, since the planting and picking of cotton are highly mechanized in Xinjiang. This so-called academic research, fraught with loopholes and data misuse, is not a presentation of facts, but a means of solidifying the preset accusations against Xinjiang. With the lie machine working, political speculators have got what they want, but at the cost of Xinjiang being defamed and the deterioration of the global trade environment.

The so-called research findings published by Adrian Zenz and his cohorts are full of false data and fraudulent claims. They confuse speculation with hard facts, blur the lines between propaganda and academic research, and fabricate anti-China narratives based on ideology. As

the China Watch report reveals, Zenz said at an event organized by the US mission in Geneva in March 2019 that “although speculative, it seems appropriate to estimate that up to 1.5 million ethnic minorities [have been interned in Xinjiang].”

This admission of baseless speculation rather than rigorous research flies in the face of the norms for scientific studies.

As a Christian fundamentalist, Zenz’s “research” only serves the interests of the far-right ideology he upholds, rather than the welfare of the Uygurs in Xinjiang. His papers, though full of loopholes and fallacies, not only misled international public opinion, but also undermine the foundation for global counterterrorism cooperation.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks on the US on Sept 11, 2001, the fight against terrorism and radicalization became a fundamental necessity for all countries to safeguard national security and protect their people. Countering terrorism has become a global consensus.

The Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region has long been plagued by the “East Turkestan” forces which have officially been designated as a “terrorist movement” by the United Nations Security Council, in accordance with Resolution 1267. China has worked to explore effective and law-based approaches to protect the fundamental human rights of people living in the region from violation by terrorism and extremism. In fact, China’s efforts in fighting against terrorism and curbing the infiltration of radicalization in Xinjiang have garnered support from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and many Islamic countries.

The accusations relating to Xinjiang are based on false statistics, testimonies, and evidence. The war of words, based on ideologies and values, will only force countries to take sides. However, what the world needs now is to seek joint development in a stable international environment, while poverty is the breeding ground for terrorism and extremism. Hyping up baseless claims of “genocide” only devalues the genuine genocides that happened in history.

China’s contribution to global economic growth has been increasing over the years. However, the Xinjiang-related accusations leveled by some Western countries against China lay bare their declining confidence in the face of China’s expanding global influence. In fact, the sustainable development of the world is not possible without China or any other country. The war of words will only reduce trust and take a toll on the recovery of the world economy that has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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