

# CCP & Nazi Germany: How History May Be Repeating Itself

## Written Report

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## **Chapter 1: Introduction**

### **1.1: Background**

Over the past decade, the Chinese government has enacted policies that have led to the oppression of the Uyghur ethnic group, a minority within Chinese territory. This systemic oppression has been evident since 2017, being perpetuated by the Chinese government, under the direction of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), however president Xi Jinping has warned of the “toxicity of religious extremism” while visiting Xinjiang in 2014, and advocated methods of “dictatorship” to eliminate Islamic extremism in a series of secret speeches leaked by sources inside the party. (Maizland, 2021) Foreign governments have severely condemned the Chinese government’s treatment of the Uyghurs, and have labelled it as “severe human rights abuses.” Similarly, during the Nazi regime’s reign of power, they sought to persecute the European Jews, a minority within German territory. The Nazi party implemented the persecution in stages, firstly through ostracization and maltreatment, such as the Nuremberg Laws, and finally through genocide. The actions of the Nazi party and that of the CCP have and are facing similar scrutiny, as both of their actions have been deemed as inhumane and cruel.

### **1.2: Rationale**

Many articles and studies have been written documenting Uyghur suppression within the Chinese region of Xinjiang. These papers showcase the alleged cruelty and inhumanity of the Chinese government against the Uyghurs in their attempt to oppress an entire ethnic minority and its culture. This report seeks to address these claims made and draw comparisons with Nazi Germany. The reason we chose to do this is to spread more awareness of the events taking place in Xinjiang, and to understand why the Chinese government is doing this in the first place. Is it a crucial step in a thorough plan? Or is it something more sinister? Furthermore, the Nazi party is an appropriate and good comparison as they are similar, with both parties' oppressing a minor community in order to face less resistance.

### **1.3: Research Questions**

1. How has the treatment of the Uyghurs by the CCP liken the CCP to the Nazi party?
2. How have recent policies implemented by the CCP likened it to the Nazi Party?
3. How has leadership affected both parties' control and treatment of their country?

By asking these questions, we can more effectively compare and contrast these two countries in order to determine if history is indeed repeating itself.

### **1.4: Thesis Statement**

The actions taken by the CCP against the ethnic minority Uyghurs is an attempt to eliminate their culture and ethnicity. Through forced assimilation or otherwise, they have chosen methods which bear resemblance to those used by the Nazis against the Jews at the height of its power. The political ideologies and implemented policies between the two parties also bear similarities.

### **1.5: Scope**

Our project is focused on an analysis of the Chinese Communist Party's actions against the Uyghur minority, and how these actions can or may have likened it to the Nazi party . We have made comparisons of their implemented policies, social ideologies, and the rationale behind these actions.

### **1.6: Significance of Research**

Through this project, we hope to bring light to the events taking in Xinjiang, and make an analysis of their actions by comparing it to the actions of the Nazi party. In this way, we will be able to draw a concrete conclusion on whether or not what the CCP is doing should be considered inhumane or not, and if action should be taken against them from foreign bodies. Foreign governments should be wary of such trends and thus, be capable of managing such an issue if it worsens in the future. Many around the world, especially within China, are unaware of the alarming actions the CCP is taking against the Uyghurs. According to an article published by The Diplomat earlier this year, Tiezzi states, "The crucial point is that most Chinese have little or no access to such stories. As Ilham pointed out, Uyghurs still within China may be unwilling to speak about unpleasant experiences for fear of being arrested. And given the restrictions on

Chinese internet access, accessing materials from outside China can be difficult.” We feel that this issue should have a greater audience as it is a major humanitarian crisis. The Uyghur minority is facing the threat of being eradicated by a foreign superpower, and dire action needs to be taken to address this issue.

### **1.7: Limitations of Research**

As our project is an analysis and comparison of the CCP’s actions against the Nazi party’s, most research may be biased to a certain extent. Most opinions and sources on this matter will likely be biased in the direction that the actions of the CCP are inhumane and cruel. Furthermore, most of the sources and online resources on this topic are written by the American and European community, where Communism is often viewed in a negative light. Thus, our resources may be biased towards viewing the CCP’s actions negatively. This is also a developing issue and credible sources may not be readily available. Still, there is concrete evidence out there, from interviews with Uyghurs inside Xinjiang and handwritten accounts from these individuals. However, we will and have tried our best to keep our analysis and comparison as fair as possible, and have looked at this matter from multiple perspectives, to come to a balanced conclusion.

## **Chapter 2: Literature Review**

### **2.1: Introduction to Literature Review**

The following literature review introduces two perspectives on the Chinese Communist Party's actions towards the Uyghurs. These two perspectives will lay the foreground for discussion of the CCP's actions and its social ideologies against the Uyghur minority.

### **2.2: War On Terror, Ensuring Unity Amongst its People**

Firstly, there is a shared perspective that has been displayed by the Chinese government which has been agreed upon by numerous muslim-majority countries. This perspective shows that China's involvement in Xinjiang is beneficial for the good of all stakeholders involved. In 2019, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt were among 37 countries that signed a letter to the U.N. Human Rights Council praising China's "contribution to the international human rights cause" — with claims that China restored "safety and security" after facing "terrorism, separatism and extremism in Xinjiang. (Hoffman, 2019) This perspective views that the CCP's treatment of Uyghurs of detaining them in so-called "re-education camps", which in reality resemble internment camps, is there to combat separatism and Islamist militancy in the region.

The Chinese government insists that Uyghur militants are waging a violent campaign for an independent state by attempting to sow discord within the Chinese community, thus threatening the livelihood of the Chinese state, necessitating the crackdown within Xinjiang. It is meant to function as part of the global effort against terrorism, with the CCP citing the 9/11 attacks as a large factor for their efforts. At a press conference at the Chinese embassy in Canberra, Cheng Jingye, a Chinese diplomat, claimed the mass detention in Xinjiang province had “nothing to do with human rights, nothing to do with religion” and was “no different” from other countries’ counter-terrorism measures (Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the Commonwealth of Australia, 2019), proving that the Chinese government are of the opinion that their detainment and “vocational education and training” through their “re-education centres” are necessary in ensuring unity amongst its population and fighting the global war on terror. This also ensures the safety of the people and the smooth development and prosperity of the region.

### **2.3: Complete Suppression of An Ethnic Minority**

A view shared by many Western countries, including the United States, Canada and the Netherlands, is that the Chinese government is responsible for genocide - defined by international convention as the “intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group”(British Broadcasting Corporation [BBC], 2021). This has led to many other countries imposing sanctions against the Eastern global power, such as travel bans and asset freezes. There have been reports of mass sterilization of the Uyghurs to suppress their population, with women being involuntarily fitted with IUDs, while others being coerced into receiving sterilization surgery. In a research study conducted by the Jamestown Foundation, it has been discovered that “natural population growth in Xinjiang has declined dramatically;

growth rates fell by 84 percent in the two largest Uyghur prefectures between 2015 and 2018, and declined further in several minority regions in 2019. For 2020, one Uyghur region set an unprecedented near-zero birth rate target: a mere 1.05 per mille, compared to 19.66 per mille in 2018.” (Zenz, 2020) This showcases how the Chinese government is sterilising the Uyghurs in order to control and suppress their population from spiraling out of control. It has also been alleged that these internment camps carry out food deprivation and “re-education” by having detainees consume Chinese propaganda nonstop. This mainly consists of educational films of Chinese origin and or speeches made by Chinese leaders. There have also been accusations of forced labour in these internment camps. As Xinjiang produces 84% of the territory’s cotton, and is a primary supplier and exporter of cotton, textile, and apparel products to Chinese factories in the interior of China, as well as internationally, it has lead analysts to believe that China is engaging in the employment of their prisoners and detained populations to function as a cheap labour force. These are all considered crimes against humanity under international court law. By doing so, China has inevitably had accusations of attempting to completely destroy a culture and ethnic group placed against them. These accusations have been mounting up against China as of recent, in which China has responded by declaring all these accusations as “baseless”. (BBC, 2021)

## **Chapter 3: Methodology**

### **3.1: Research and Contextualisation of Sources**

Analytical research: We have employed analytical research as one of our methods of conducting research. Analytical research involves critical thinking skills and the evaluation of facts and information relative to the research being conducted based on our topic. We have studied multiple credible sources for this project, such as online scholarly articles, news reports and published books.

### **3.2: Key events in the rise to power**

We analysed historical events significant to the Nazi Party and the CCP, and deduced similarities behind the two. Regarding the CCP, in March 2018, the congress amended China's constitution to roll back term limits for China's president, paving the way for Xi to remain officially in power beyond 2022. This prolonged term of power has enabled Xi to amass power the likes of which has not been seen since Chairman Mao Zedong. Similarly, The Enabling Act, passed by the German Reichstag in 1933 essentially enabled Adolf Hitler to assume dictatorial powers. It

provided Hitler with a base from which to carry out the first steps of his National Socialist revolution of Germany.

### **3.3: Similar Policies and Political Principles**

Through the analysis of the various policies implemented by both the Chinese Communist Party and Nazi party, such as China's birth control policies and the Nuremberg Laws, it provides a lens for us to properly view how these two parties bear similarities to one another. This analysis of policies would also enable us to gain insight on exactly why they were implemented in the first place, and their lasting effects on the target audience, or other groups.

Moreover, we looked at the writings of the late German legal theorist Carl Schmit, who wrote extensively about a principle that the CCP and the Nazi used to prove their legitimacy. It is important to recognise the reason behind certain actions done by both parties, and the foundations of their political agendas.

## **Chapter 4: Discussion & Analysis**

Through the research we have conducted, we can discover many similarities between the Chinese Communist Party and the Nazi Party. Both are similar in their intentions to remove an ethnic minority, and view these minorities as unacceptable as a proper citizen.

### **4.1: Destruction Of An Ethnic Minority**

The Nazi Party and the CCP have or are currently engaging in the suppression and removal of an ethnic minority within their respective nations. Within Nazi Germany, the main targeted ethnic minority was the Jewish People. The Jewish people were generally more affluent and successful than their pure German counterparts, and had differing cultures and religious practices. There has been a history of anti-semitism globally, however the outbreak of World War II caused a new phase in anti-semitism which caused the near annihilation of European Jewry. (Brustein and King, 2004) This all changed when the Nazi Party came onto the German political scene, as they were very vocal about their anti-semitic views. Their main representative, Adolf Hitler had strong anti-semitic views, believing them to be the cause for the loss of the first World War by betraying them in a large global Jewish Conspiracy. Hitler was a believer in racial science, in which certain races were biologically better than others. He viewed the Jewish as a lower race, unfit to be citizens in the German nation. Once the Nazi Party, they established numerous Anti-Jewish decrees to systematically oppress and separate the Jewish from the so-called “Aryan

Master Race". The Anti-Jewish decrees removed many basic rights, removing German citizenship from Jewish People, having no political power to vote and such. Jewish-owned businesses were boycotted, with Jewish citizens being randomly attacked. Synagogues were burnt, preventing the practice of their religion, repressing their beliefs. They also prevented intermixing of the "Aryan race" with the Jews. They were also forced to possess distinctive items that marked them as Jewish, causing racial segregation between the ethnic Germans and the Jewish. Due to this racial segregation, it caused discrimination against the Jewish ethnic minority. Thanks in part to Hitler's spread of Aryanism, this led to many citizens sharing similar beliefs, and shared negative views about all Jews. This allowed the Nazi Party to effectively force the Jewish into concentration camps without much protest from the German citizens. By doing so, the Nazi Party could oppress the Jewish influence on normal German life, and systematically massacre the Jewish race or employ them in forced labor, oppressing and removing their culture within Germany through the Holocaust, which devastated the Jewish way of life and effectively eradicated their culture and all that is unique to them. The CCP has launched genocide against Muslims according to international standards. (Kawase, 2021) Xi's re-education camps can be compared to those set up by Hitler. Uyghurs were forced to eat pork and drink alcohol. (Shih and Kang, 2018)The CCP's genocide in Xinjiang against Muslims can also be compared to the genocide undertaken by the Nazis against the Jews during World War 2. This shows that the Chinese government has pointed efforts towards the removal and suppression of the Uyghur minority, by forcing them to renounce their religious and cultural beliefs, it creates a disconnect between the ethnic Uyghurs and the Uyghur culture, where those who are forced to go against their culture must criticise themselves, their people and their beliefs, or die staying true to their beliefs by refusing food that goes against their religion. Innocent Uyghurs lose sight

of their original religion and culture, and do not view it as possible to return to, thereby creating a disconnect between the people and their religion. This supposedly helps with racial integration into Chinese society, however it is causing a complete cultural cleansing through these mass incarcerations. These all point to a similarity between the two powers that they are suppressing and removing the culture and identity of these ethnic minorities within their nations.

#### **4.2 Similar Political Ideologies**

The CCP has been known to frequently curtail the freedom of its citizens and clamp down on any dissent. Not only has Chinese citizens have had their freedom of speech and right to protest infringed upon, state media has also been heavily censored to keep the average citizen in the dark. Although the 1982 constitution guarantees freedom of speech, the Chinese government often uses the "subversion of state power" and "protection of state secrets" clauses in their law system to imprison those who criticize the government. Currently, any deviation from CCP's interests is severely punished, such as the recent sentencing of citizen journalist Zhang Zhan. Zhang Zhan was one of the few citizen journalists in China to report on the early experiences of people in Wuhan during the city's lockdown. Zhang Zhan was found guilty of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble," a frequent charge against activists. (BBC, 2020) China's anti-democratic stance can also be heavily observed in regions such as Hong kong, Inner Mongolia and Tibet. This can be seen in the recent Hong Kong protests, with rioters clashing with the police over Hong Kong's extradition to mainland China, and demanding full democracy over Hong Kong. It is important to recognise the pro-democracy protests against Beijing, such as the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, have only ended in a bloody battle, with Beijing coming down hard

and stifling any form of dissent. Nazis have similar political compasses as the CCP. During World War 2, Hitler believed that Germany had to move fast and conquer more land before its adversaries became too powerful. The Nazi Party effectively removed their dissenters via physical and mental threats preventing those who had powers to sway the public from speaking up. They justified many of their actions by using others as the scapegoats or simply by means of authority, such as instituting laws that grant much control over all citizens, allowing the Nazi Party to squash any potential threats to them. One such case would be the Night of the Long Knives, in which many threats to Hitler's rule were purged through arrest or executions, allowing him to consolidate power and prevent any form of disagreement. Thus, the 2 parties share similarities in their political ideologies, further likening the CCP to the Nazi Party through their use of authoritarian rule.

## **Chapter 5: Conclusion**

In conclusion, we feel that this is a likely case of historic recurrence, due to the many striking similarities between the actions and ideologies of the Chinese Communist Party and the Nazi party. Both parties are the official ruling parties in essentially a one-party state, facing little to no political opposition as well. They have committed heinous crimes against respective minority groups within their borders, and it is something that should not be overlooked by the international community. This is further reinforced by the fact that China is gradually ascending as a global superpower, and for their ruling party to commit such abhorrent acts is disturbing. While the Nazi party eventually lost their position of power, which led to the cessation of their crimes, modern day China is essentially a one-party state under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, any opposition to the government or their actions will be quickly quelled and suppressed. Whether the CCP meets similar fate as the Nazis would be known as the situation unfolds. Foreign intervention is risky and the only real way to resolve this would be from inside the country. This is a modern day humanitarian crisis, and it will continue to exist unless decisive action is taken.

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