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The Forgotten Concentration Camps of 2022

Morgan Schroeder

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Sitting in my Psychology 100 class, I hear the claim, "I could never be a Nazi." Many classmates said this as they watched Stanley Milgram's *Shock Experiment* tapes. The social psychologist became famous for his obedience experiments in which he sought to understand how a nation of people could support the worst acts of terror in history. Many would like to believe we could never become a Nazi, yet Milgram found that about 60% of people would be willing to shock a person to death just because an authority figure demanded it of them (Russell). Besides, a vast number of Americans hardly know a fact or statistic about the Holocaust. A study of young Americans (ages 18-39) shows that 23% of this population believe the Holocaust was a myth, that it was exaggerated in schools, or that they were not sure about the whole matter. In that same study, one in eight respondents said that they had never even heard of the Holocaust (Sherwood). Those of us who at least vaguely understand the Holocaust are fine-tuned to identify a Nazi or neo-Nazi when they wave around their obvious fascist flag, but we are blind when identifying tyranny. It is a wonder that people can claim they could never be a Nazi when we ignore a tyranny much stronger than Nazi Germany that lies just across the Pacific Ocean. Now is the time for us Americans to Call out both the Chinese and North Korean governments for the inhumane treatment of their citizens.

At this very moment in time, the Chinese government violates basic human rights with the long-term goal of supremacy over the rest of the world. Chairman Xi Jinping carries on the authoritarian mantle left behind from Chairman Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping by cleansing his country into his vision of an ideal nation. He encroaches on his own citizens' freedoms in ways that most Americans passively ignore in their everyday lives. Among such harsh restrictions include mass censorship, controlling birth rates, and

implementing social credit scores that determine how loyal each citizen acts. Worst of all, China actively runs concentration camps, threatens neighboring countries with invasion, and openly supports North Korea. These atrocious actions add up to a modern-day Holocaust. As China defiles human rights, Americans buy billions of dollars worth of Chinese products and refrain from speaking out in great numbers. China follows a similar path as the Nazis did, and we Americans, as so many citizens did in the past, are sitting passively as they grow stronger. We must learn from history before tragedy overtakes us first. If we Americans claim to live up to the heroes who brought down the Nazis in World War II, then it would be ludicrous to ignore the parallels between Nazi Germany and China.

After the crushing defeat of World War I, Germany fell into financial ruin with a population overcome by bitterness. Hitler struggled during the war as a member of the German armed forces, apparently showing great courage throughout it, but powers outside of his control ultimately defeated Germany. Kaiser Wilhelm II abandoned Germany for Holland, which forced the remaining German leaders to sign an armistice (Shirer 29). Hitler and many Germans thought that they needed someone to blame for these misfortunes. They consequently developed the mentality of having been “stabbed in the back,” which presumably caused their downfall (Shirer 31). After recovering from the war, Hitler found work in Germany and began speaking publicly about the state of German society. These speeches drew in large and enthusiastic crowds. At one event, a man named Anton Drexler invited Hitler to join his new National Socialist (Nazi) Party and so began Hitler’s official political career (Shirer 36).

The Holocaust did not occur over night. Adolf Hitler began his life of politics in Vienna by observing the Pan-German Party and the Christian Social Party. From the former came articulated hatred of the Jewish population and the desire of German supremacy over Europe (Shirer 23-24). This disdain rumbled in the underbelly of Austria and Germany for many years, but failed to catch fire. Hitler saw opportunity in this shared sentiment among his fellow citizens. At the same time, the party failed to see the value of using religion as a weapon of emotional manipulation. This is why Hitler turned towards the Christian Social Party. This party understood the importance of incorporating religious pathos into politics and they also appreciated the power of propaganda. These two parties led to Hitler's eventual prosperity with the Nazi Party. He learned these successful tactics from each, yet avoided the mistakes that prevented either from uplifting Austria.

From then on, Hitler rapidly rose to power, eventually becoming Chancellor of Germany in large part due to his ability to manipulate the masses. He slowly turned up the heat on society, and never took a measure too extreme to be recognized until it was too late. Remembering the lessons of Austria, he simultaneously ordered the production of propaganda and expanded his military power. He used the WWI defeat to fuel his citizens' rage towards outsiders, with Jews at the epicenter of this xenophobia. The relentless rage blinded citizens into allowing six million Jews to be murdered in less than a decade (Shirer 880). Nazis systematically eradicated Jewish citizens from the surrounding countries with never-before-seen efficiency. They worked most effectively in Poland. Once-ordinary German men threw Jews into ghettos or shot them on the spot. Many prisoners including Jews, the disabled, the mentally ill, and ethnic minorities faced a fate worse than death.

The Nazis imprisoned them in the infamous concentration camps and experimented on many for the sake of curiosity. They used both men and women to test varying air pressures or grafted their bones. In Dachau, they forced gypsies to live on salt water until they died of organ failure (Shirer 881). When the prisoners became useless to the Nazis, they weaponized starvation and sent them to extermination chambers.

Historians passionately retell the story of the Holocaust because each and every victim of Germany must be honored. We owe it to the victims, to do the opposite of what the Nazis wanted: to keep their memory alive. We owe it to them because otherwise we may as well have killed them twice. Today, the world faces the same threat with a different name. Fascists, communists, and authoritarian governments all stem from the same lust for power and the dismissal of human rights, yet many like to split them up into different simplified political camps. The Nazis taught us that the suppression of out-group ethnicities and races is wrong. This statement almost seems self-evident today, however the communists did not leave the same impact on society that makes people quake at the thought of it, despite killing millions more.

The lesson we should learn from communists is centered on the danger of equality of outcomes. This fatal flaw in the communist theory cost the lives of millions because it just *seemed* right. Society would become a peaceful utopia if everyone followed the law of complete equality of outcome, where comrades generously give their excess wealth to the poor, and the poor, in turn, use these resources wisely. Yet, such a society cannot exist because communism fundamentally ignores human nature. While it is true that humans are inherently greedy, it does not mean that we are condemned *only* to be greedy. We deserve differentiation and advancement for our accomplishments. This does not just

mean that those born with privilege are the only citizens allowed to achieve, but rather that even those born with disadvantages should be allowed to ascend a hierarchy of merit; thus is the good that comes from the equality of opportunity. Communists of the past started their regimes by striving for this equality of outcome, promising the disadvantaged that they would have their revenge on their oppressors. Incompetent leadership and the dismissal of merit magnified the resulting mass murders.

That being said, the Chinese communist revolutionaries did not spring up from imagined wrongs, much like fascist Germans in the 1930s. For Germans, the implementation of the Treaty of Versailles destroyed any acquired gains they fought for in WWI. They lost land outside of the country, lost many lives in the fighting, and their military became diminished. This complex situation worsened during the worldwide economic depression of the early 1930s (Shirer 32). Such turmoil, combined with growing bitterness, resulted in both Mao Zedong and Adolf Hitler's absolute takeovers.

China emerged from a complicated early half of the 20th century. Just before WWII, Japan invaded the northeast region of the country known as Manchuria, then began taking cities further south. Most notable of these invasions happened at the capital city of Nanking. Japanese soldiers brutally killed an estimated 300,000 Chinese citizens in the span of just six weeks. In Iris Chang's book *The Rape of Nanking*, she includes first-hand photos of the incident. The evidence shows the brutal aftermath of the worst instances of sadism. Japanese soldiers left their rape victims mutilated with deep lacerations and poles shoved into their vaginas. The soldiers used men for bayonet practice and discarded their bodies into the surrounding rivers (Chang 146-147). While these events took place, Japan also opened a research development center nearby where they captured Chinese

citizens and prisoners of war to use as test subjects for biological warfare. The cruelest forms of torture took place within the walls of Unit 731. Here, a gathering of scientists infected people with plagues, froze and heated skin until flesh fell off, and performed vivisections: live surgeries with no goal in-mind for the surgeons (Devolder). The Chinese citizens fortunate enough to survive were deeply scarred. They never received any reparations, in large part due to America's assistance with covering up the torture. America's silence only cost the Japanese government unlimited access to the morbid test data (Devolder). Japan used China like a slave nation throughout the 1930s. The Chinese refused to be victimized any longer.

In 1949, Chairman Mao Zedong took control and established the People's Republic of China. Like Hitler did in Germany, Mao promised to bring China into a position of control all the while purging his own country in his image. This became an epoch in Chinese history known as Liberation, for where Mao oversaw the deaths of millions of citizens. The revolutionaries under his command started their "liberation" with the Anti-Rightist Campaign. They blamed the rightists, much like how the Nazi's blamed the Jews, for keeping valuable resources to themselves during the crises of the 1930s. The revolutionists put these undesirable citizens into work camps or slaughtered them outright (Kristof 66). However, the very people who fed the masses were the same ones the communists deemed as unfit for their utopia. The revolutionaries' fatal mistake came to fruition as China entered their worst period in history.

In 1958 came the Great Leap Forward, a narcissistic facade that resulted in the largest famine and most unnatural deaths in human history, all in the name of a fairer future. Historians estimate that between 30 and 45 million people died during this period.

This death toll easily topples the records of the worst dictators in recorded history. Comparatively, Joseph Stalin oversaw the deaths of 10 million people in a similar fashion. In both China and the Soviet Union, citizens died due to the complete mismanagement of the promised resource distribution (Kristof 66). Not only did government leaders order the deaths of farmers, but also doctors and private business owners who might have helped alleviate the famines. Even if the Chinese revolutionaries correctly labeled the upper classes as being exploitative, citizens could have sustained themselves more capably under their influence. They could have worked with them instead of impatiently employing ignorant elitism.

After Mao's death, the mass slaughtering and starvation slowed down exponentially. China became more modern and focused on stabilization. Government leaders even freed up the market to allow for some entrepreneurs to take advantage of their desperate economic needs. As the markets became more open, the citizens integrated more individualistic attitudes into their lives as well, especially among college-age adults. The growing western-esque sentiment gave the citizens enough confidence to finally call out the corruption in the government, but as soon as Chairman Deng realized the threat against his position, he pushed back. In 1989, students protested for a more democratic government, many of them willfully fasting to prove their dedication to the cause (Kristof 81). The government subsequently declared martial law to put an end to the growing movement. What became of it is known today as the Tiananmen Square Massacre. Tanks were moved in to intimidate and soldiers shot at thousands of people. An unknown number of people died, but it is estimated that the numbers range from hundreds or thousands (Kristof 90). After this incident, no other

large protests emerged. China remained a semi-capitalist country with no checks or balances to ensure the survival of this system.

Due to draconian policies of the overarching government of modern-day China, Chinese citizens may not be able to study the true history of their own country. Regrettably, many Americans do not use their freedom to understand history either. The Chinese establishment is anti-American to the core. They share no common ground with our Constitution and support no particular stances that current liberals or conservatives take. This does not mean anyone should turn with hatred towards Chinese citizens. The government creates these problems, and citizens caught in their system should not be held to the same degree of accountability. Even if Americans understand little about the history of China, in the past few years, many turned their focus towards the country. From 2018 to 2021, the American view on China dropped from 42 points out of 100 to 28, with lower being “colder or more negative” (Moncus). An explanation for this decline was certainly inspired by both former President Trump’s negative opinion towards them and the public’s knowledge that COVID-19 originated in Wuhan.

Passive information fed by the 24-hour news cycle only worsened Americans’ obscured view of China, leading to a frenzy of reactions whenever the subject of the country is brought up. In March of 2021, a year after the initial pandemic lockdowns across America, a man entered an Asian spa in Atlanta and killed four of its workers (Bauerlein). While the shooter claims to be a sex addict who was not racially motivated, the legitimacy of his words is debated among Americans. Those who do not believe him started the hashtag #StopAsianHate. This caught on across social media, publicly calling out any hatred people may feel towards Asians, linking this to frustration with the

pandemic. No other major events involving crimes towards Asians occurred other than the wildly unreported hate crime where a man beat an innocent Asian woman with a cane (Sisak). Even though video evidence of this event came out to the public, those who monitored Asian-haters overlooked this incident, but authorities handled it nonetheless. Besides the neglect of this hate crime, Americans remained on high alert for anti-Asian sentiment, some people even going so far as to praise China to avoid being labeled as a racist.

American citizens hold a deep trust in China. We do not admit it, but show this through our actions. Besides the fact that most of our imports needlessly come from this country, China also exports an increasing amount of media to America. Hypocrisy breeds fruitfully under these conditions. Our consumption of Chinese goods is almost unavoidable whether someone claims to be #AgainstAsianHate, believes in ending trade with China, or simply is aware of China's evil.

In 2020, the American public awaited the release of the live action film, *Mulan*, with mixed anticipation. The controversy started with the lead actress Liu Yifei's tweet in 2019 that read, "I support Hong Kong police" (Specter). This tweet led to a number of Americans responding with #BoycottMulan. At the time, Hong Kong's struggle for independence reached a new height with police crackdowns and mass protests similar to the Tiananmen Square Movement (Kristof 87). The people of Hong Kong took a stand against this illegal action in 2019 when China began to officially annex the region into the mainland. China advanced too soon based on the pact they agreed to with Britain in 1997. The massive protests resulted in Chinese police units using aggressive force against them. These protests gathered some attention from the media with most of the coverage coming from

when they first began. The mainstream media paid less and less attention to this issue as time went on, but the issue remains very real for the people being tear gassed and beaten (“How China”). Yifei apparently supports that. The American government made no impactful moves in assisting Hong Kong, even though the protesters there wave our flag around as a symbol of hope.

The general American population seems to share the sentiment that Hong Kong should be free and China should stop using police forces against protesters. Yet the Twitter mob flipped against democracy and compelled the actor John Cena to apologize to China. His crime was saying that Taiwan is a country. This comment presumably could not pass through the filter of being against Asian hate. Not only did Cena apologize, but he said, “I love and respect China and Chinese people. I’m very, very sorry about my mistake.” Numerous political commentators all fired back, calling Cena “pathetic” (Moore). The Chinese government continuously claims that Taiwan is a rogue state that needs to submit to Chinese rule, yet the Taiwanese declared themselves to live in an independent democracy long ago. Taiwan’s president Tsai Ing-Wen of the Democratic Progressive Party continually stands up to China even with the threat of military force. She is currently trying to gain more support from outside countries to slow but hopeful progress (“Taiwan’s Pursuit”).

All influential celebrities, including John Cena have every reason to support President Tsai. Cena owns enough resources to research facts before speaking or he could even pay someone else to do it for him if he so chooses. Yet he sheepishly backs down out of fear and criticism on Twitter. It is pathetic that even America’s private class will not take advantage of their freedom and do good by condemning the obvious problem. Celebrity

words matter a lot to the public, and those with that status hold the ability to spur on an impactful movement if they really wanted to. Such a cowardice nature harkens back to those who appeased the threat that the Nazis posed in the early 1930s. Even the United Kingdom's Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, submitted to Hitler early on, resulting in his country to be on constant defense for most of WWII. Chamberlain lied to his country and paid the price by German air raids (Ricks, 58). He did not act until it was too late, and today's citizens must not make the same mistake.

While apologizing seems to be a minimal sacrifice towards China, Cena and the people who took offense to his comments do not know who exactly they apologized to. To be clear, the people of China deserve to be treated with respect as much as anyone else. Conversely, the government officials of their country deserve opposition. Chairman Xi Jinping openly declared that he wants China to dominate the world. He wants the strongest military, best technology, and specifically desires to reign superior over American military forces. He calls these three phases the 2049 Plan (Axe). It is unfathomable that Americans did not go into a craze when this information first came out. What is more terrifying is that, unlike WWII, America does not have time to be neutral. Xi states that the point of this new military will be to strike first and fast (Axe). China will not plow through France, Poland, and Britain before America decides to join the war. China will target America first and foremost if it comes to it.

Outside of military power, Chinese companies controlled by the government recently began to win over the influence of American minds. As seen from John Cena, Chinese officials assert control through fear that is evoked by enraged revolutionist-types here in America. A clear example of this is seen through the TikTok app, which proves to be

simultaneously addictive and dangerous. The Chinese company ByteDance designed the app to spy on its users through a microphone and by collecting data. These data can then be given to the Chinese government, which subsequently holds the power to manipulate TikTok users (Moon). When Americans already face turmoil due to our political divide, this app can exacerbate the division in a multitude of ways, including but not limited to supporting radical political ideologies and spreading misinformation (Moon). Part of China's 2049 plan involves making their own country more appealing (Axe). TikTok opens the door for China to alter the malleable minds of America's youth (Moon). China's advanced technology gives them a leg up that Nazi Germany only could have dreamt of. It may be the most effective channel of propaganda in the world.

The most startling comparison to Nazi Germany comes from China's implementation of concentration camps. These camps hold a million or more Uyghur people, a minority of Muslims in east Asia. Little information leaks out regarding the conditions of these camps due to a rather successful cover-up by government officials. The limited evidence available leads many to call it a genocide. The Chinese police collect Uyghurs, not unlike the means used by the SS, and put them into confined facilities. The police separate Uyghur families, sterilize women, and torture all of them into making false confessions of being terrorists. An ex-police officer, who wished to remain anonymous and who worked in a Uyghur detention center, said that he and other officers would arrest and brutally beat prisoners following orders from their higher-ups. He recalls a colleague slamming a prisoner's head into a metal radiator as an example to the Uyghurs. He also noted that not a single person he arrested and interrogated committed any crime

(Watson). This slow and secret operation started in 2014, but has gained little attention around the world.

Uyghurs who escaped Chinese detainment and who now live in the US plead with the American government to do something about the atrocities being committed by the Chinese. The American government responds with silence. Zumrat Dawut, a victim of sterilization, regularly speaks out about her experience in the camps. Complicit Chinese teachers force the captured Uyghurs to abandon their cultures and replace their religion with a love for the Chinese government. Even though current standards in Chinese society lean away from the communist past, the teachers still praise Mao like a god. As the teachers reform the minds of the Uyghurs, officials force these hostages to perform physical labor to prove that they can be of use to the country as a whole. They involuntarily produce large quantities of cotton and sell it around the world, especially to American consumers. Any form of resistance from the slaves and the police make them disappear. Dawut herself paid a high price for speaking out, even when living in America. The Chinese police detained her father as a threat so she would stop fighting back. When she refused to conform to their demands they executed him, but denied being involved with his sudden death (Gatehouse). The sterilization, executions, and suppression of cultures adds up to why we should consider this ongoing atrocity a genocide. Millions of Uyghurs live in concentration camps for the crime of existing. Even those fortunate enough to leave China still cannot escape the totalitarian control that Xi Jinping holds.

These modern day concentration camps go against everything America stands for, no matter one's political affiliation, so why are they not grabbing more attention? Fear and the association with other dangerous countries stop us. For a complete analysis of the

Chinese government, its tight relationship with North Korea cannot be neglected. To put it simply, North Korea could not sustain itself without the help of China. The two countries partake in trade and China donates aid, but only a minimal amount (Albert). China supports North Korea for two main reasons. First, to uphold the communist ideals the two countries struggled for since the 1940s. As horribly governed as it is, North Korea still represents another team member to this ideology, which proves to be a win for them no matter the cost. The second reason China sustains North Korea comes down to the millions of starving citizens living there. Xi and the Chinese elite hate the burdensome North Koreans. If their little-brother country collapsed, millions of North Korean refugees would slam the Chinese border. It would be the worst humanitarian crisis in the modern world (Albert). The Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un rules over the worst dictatorship in this world, but it hangs on by a thread of grace supplied by Xi.

We must not immediately associate North Korea with nuclear weapons and “brainwashed” citizens. This simply is not the entire story. It is true that Kim’s advancement of missiles in 2017 concerned governments and citizens worldwide, including in China (Albert). It seems that not much else can be sanctioned from North Korea’s government, but this should not be Americans’ concern. The citizens of North Korea must be recognized. A few popular podcast hosts, including Lex Fridman, use their platforms to encourage more conversations about the country. He researches AI at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and hosts the *Lex Fridman Podcast* where a wide variety of interviewees come to talk about current events. He sat down for an interview with Yeonmi Park, a North Korean defector turned human rights activist who wrote *In Order to Live*. This autobiography explains her journey and gives insights about her isolated

homeland. Her main goal is to share the story of the 25 million of citizens who the dictatorship silences. Park says on the podcast, echoing the United Nations' words, "The Holocaust is happening again... how or why are you okay doing nothing about it?" (Fridman). Park went through hell on earth her entire childhood. She suffered indoctrination, starvation, and was forced to witness public executions. She brings up the fact that we raise millions of dollars for animals each year, but then asks why we do not invest in the humans who live and die under constant oppression? Why do we want to go to Mars when we cannot solve the injustice across the ocean? Yeonmi and Fridman conclude that humans do not want to accept that we are capable of these horrors, so we willfully ignore the issue (Fridman).

The outlook on American opposition toward China is bleak. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the inaction against the humanitarian crisis seems to come down to money. In 2020, the US bought \$434.7 billion worth of imports from China, most of which related to technology. Even though we exported \$124.5 billion worth of goods to the country, China still comes out on top (*United States*). Our dependence on China simultaneously sustains and weakens America. Theoretically, if we stopped importing and exporting all at once, China would not suffer nearly as much as we would. America would be without supplies, and if China develops their hard and fast military, put up against ours, our nation might not make it. Now-retired American General John Hyten agrees that China's development is outpacing us. He suggests that we work on advancing quicker, with less bureaucracy, and keep close ties with our allies (Marquardt). Yet both the American government and the private class of citizens refuse to act. China holds power in almost every aspect of life. We wear their products made by slaves. We watch thousands of videos and sacrifice our

identity to their data logs. We sit by idly while millions of people are slowly killed, directly or indirectly, all because of Xi. He possesses nuclear weapons. He allies with others who do as well. They are forming a military that is larger and far more intelligent than ours while we squabble over comparatively trivial matters. What the hell can we do?

As citizens of a free country, some responsibility falls on us to see these victims. Simply acknowledging them and helping when we can shows politicians that we care about the issue. Our Kantian imperfect duties cannot always be applicable to everyday life, but serve a noble cause that must be contributed to for the sake of humanity. To look for guidance on how to move forward, we can turn towards those who overcame the worst obstacles in history. Although millions died because of tyranny in the past, many more lived. As we enjoy the comforts of our modern lives, we must remember that we stand on the shoulders of giants.

Yeonmi Park escaped North Korea with nothing but her mother and the clothes on her back. She was tricked into joining the Chinese sex trafficking blackmarket and eventually escaped, only to march for miles through a desert in the middle of a storm in sub-zero temperatures (Park 139, 195). Why? She laughed and said, “for a bowl of rice” (Fridman). She just wanted to feel full for once in her life. Many of us would hail such bravery and admire her for having hope, which she admits that she is losing. She does not understand the increasingly hedonistic nature of free countries. If we, with our free state, cannot stop evil then she fears that no one can.

Still, others resist falling into despair. Benjamin Ferencz is the last living prosecutor who condemned the Nazis during the Nuremberg trials. He began his career in the army as an enlisted man after pursuing a law degree. After years of hard work and dedication to

his country, he was chosen by higher officers to present the evidence that would bring on the greatest act of justice in history. Through the turmoil of WWII, he found one bit of advice that we would be wise to follow: "Never give up" (Gleckman).

As inspiring as this sounds, opposers of tyranny cannot afford to be arrogant. The burden of knowledge can be painful. Iris Chang, author of *The Rape of Nanking*, committed suicide while pursuing the forgotten Holocaust of WWII. At a young age, her Chinese-American parents told her about the massacre at Nanking, warning her that she must not forget it. The details of the incident will make anyone sick. The Japanese army mangled people in unimaginable ways. Once one learns about the incident it is hard to turn away from it. Chang believed that pursuing truth mattered more than her own discomfort. She therefore published her book and shined a light onto the criminally overlooked tragedy. It is unclear why exactly she took her own life. Many suspect she had depression her whole life and constantly being reminded of the atrocities picked away at her mind until the end (McLaughlin).

When facing a threat as significant as the Nazis, a plethora of brave men and women told their stories of how they managed to survive. Unfortunately, many concentration camp survivors have passed away, but their documented advice can still breathe light into the future plans of humanity. One of the greatest accounts of living in a concentration camp comes from Viktor Frankl. In his famous book, *Man's Search for Meaning*, Frankl describes the conditions he suffered. He started his journey in Auschwitz (Frankl 51). The lack of food and excruciating working conditions contributed to the complete psychological regression of the camp's prisoners. With nothing to do but think, Frankl developed an existential philosophy that allowed him to create a mental rulebook

for survival. First and foremost, he realized that he and his fellow inmates were not the products of their new environment, but rather they held the ability to control their perspectives on their situation. They could fall apart by hoping for one single goal of freedom, or work with what they could and endure (Frankl 107). He realized that we must be worthy of suffering and know that life expects things from us; we do not just expect things from life. A significant moment for Frankl came when the Nazis transported him to a new camp affiliated with Dachau and he found out that this new place had no gas chambers. He and his friends managed to be grateful, even hopeful, and they thought that the future was not as bleak as before (Frankl 71). Frankl's book provides us with infinite wisdom on how to get through the worst of times. This man endured incomprehensible pain, but he acknowledged that his personal experience became worthwhile because he could spread this information to those who need it most.

If you are reading this essay, you are not in a concentration camp. You may freely act as you please as long as you do not harm anyone else. You can read this and carry on with your life, or you can take up the responsibility this information demands. I will not dare to propose a plan to solve every single problem occurring in China or North Korea, but I will do what I can now, as a college student, to get the attention of powerful people focused on those who need it most. I often wondered how people could survive in a concentration camp when modern life seems so arduous. Survivors' answers to this question explain that it comes down to the most pure human instinct: the desire to live. I have searched for a single answer to address the problems our future will inevitably face by studying the aforementioned heroes. At the beginning of my expedition, I thought that I needed advice that could shake me awake, and I would be eternally inspired by it. I now

realize I can take inspiration for some time, but my motivation must come from within my own willpower to continue fighting for liberation. We owe it to the suffering prisoners, our fellow humans, to meet their desire to live with equally relentless determination.

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