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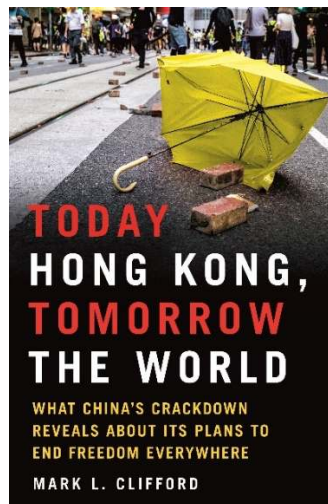
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# New Book Argues that China's Repressive Tactics in Hong Kong are a Playbook for the Rest of the World

Hong Kong Journalist/Publisher/Historian Provides a Cautionary Tale

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Author available for interviews as news develops and Olympics loom  
Netgalley copies available [here](#); Print advance reading copies available on request



“An agile observer and diligent journalist, Clifford leads us through Hong Kong’s fraught modern history in relation to the striving for democratic freedoms, and he reveals many stark consequences brought about by the suppression of its spirit. An intimate, eye-opening chronicle that should serve as an alarm to fragile democratic republics around the world.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

Whether it’s cobalt mines in the Congo or Chinese bombers invading Taiwanese air space, China’s expansionist ambitions are on display around the world.

But according to a new book, these ambitions go beyond mere land grabs. China is also exporting its authoritarian tactics around the world—and they are starting with Hong Kong.

“What is happening in Hong Kong provides a blueprint for the sorts of tactics that China is increasingly wielding against democratic societies around the globe,” writes Mark L. Clifford in **TODAY HONG KONG, TOMORROW THE WORLD: What China's Crackdown Reveals About Its Plans to End Freedom Everywhere** (St. Martin's Press; February 1, 2022; \$29.99 hardcover). “Its strategy of crushing dissent and silencing independent voices is central to its international playbook...The free world ignores the tactics on display there at its peril.”

As the former editor-in-chief of both English-language newspapers in Hong Kong, *The Standard*, and the *South China Morning Post*, and armed with a PhD in Hong Kong history from the University of Hong Kong, Clifford is uniquely suited to tell this story. He is also *part* of that story in that his former company was shut by Chinese authorities after five hundred armed police stormed the *Apple Daily* newspaper, froze bank accounts, and jailed seven employees, including most senior managers and directors (Clifford was a director). Now, he is speaking out around the world as the President of the Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong.

**TODAY HONG KONG, TOMORROW THE WORLD** weaves together the stories of individual Hong Kongers and their Chinese and British rulers. It provides a narrative that illustrates how China's assault on the city's long history of civil liberties and economic freedom has provoked the most intense and sustained revolt against Communist Chinese rule since the 1949 founding of the People's Republic of China.

The book also makes clear why we need to view China's actions in Hong Kong as a warning shot for the rest of the world. What China is doing in Hong Kong it wants to do next in Taiwan—and wherever it can. Clifford shows how Australia's call for an independent Covid-19 investigation led to China's restriction of Australian imports. The Philippines faced similar treatment when it challenged China's South China Sea militarization. Norway was punished when a Chinese dissident was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. South Korea's Lotte Corporation was driven out of China in punishment over its sale of a piece of property for an antimissile defense site China opposed. Canadian hostages were seized (and recently released) in objection to legal proceedings against a Chinese executive in Canada. A Swedish citizen was abducted from a beachside resort in Thailand and now sits in a Chinese jail. As recently as November 2021, dissident Hong Kongers were assaulted by pro-Beijing thugs in London. China's reach knows no limit.

In an interview, Clifford could discuss

- What the rest of the world can learn from the Hong Kong experience and how China subverts freedom.
- The history of political violence inflicted by the Chinese Communist Party, starting with the revolution, running through the Cultural Revolution and Tiananmen Square to today.
- How China reneged almost immediately on its agreement that Hong Kong remain autonomous.
- Why the 2020 National Security Law had immediate impact on Hong Kong.
- How repression in Xinjiang and Tibet are examples of what may be to come in Hong Kong.
- How the Chinese government nurtures and facilitates attacks on individuals, especially ethnic Chinese, around the world.
- The inside story of how the Communist regime systematically destroyed Next Digital, publisher of the pro-democracy *Apple Daily* newspaper, and how this action threatens Hong Kong's role as an international financial center.
- How Western companies may find it impossible to continue operating in Hong Kong and China.

- Why business needs to reduce dependence on China—not for reasons of morality but national security.
- How income disparity and class distinctions play a role in democratic suppression in Hong Kong. Although known for its billionaires, about 1.3 million people, one sixth of the population, live below the poverty line.
- How opportunities have been squandered during China’s 24-year rule of Hong Kong.
- How Great Britain tried to make up for 150 years of political reform neglect during its last five years in Hong Kong.

“Standing up for the Hong Kong people will not save the city from its devastation at the hands of the Chinese Communist Party,” concludes Clifford. “But people in free countries everywhere can remember and support those in the city, whether in jail or free. They can help those who want to leave and restart their lives in other places. They can refuse to give aid and comfort or economic advantage to a country that wants to do to others what it has done to Hong Kong. They can support Hong Kongers who are keeping the spirit of their city alive during a dark time while they struggle for a brighter day, a day when Hong Kong people can enjoy the freedoms that were promised to them by China.”

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR: MARK L. CLIFFORD** is president of the Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong and the former executive director of the Asia Business Council. He is editorial chair of the Asian Review of Books, a Council on Foreign Relations member, and a former board member at Next Digital. He served as editor-in-chief of both English-language papers in Hong Kong, *The Standard*, and the *South China Morning Post*. An honors history graduate of UC Berkeley and a Walter Bagehot Fellow at Columbia University, he holds a PhD from the University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong history. Visit his website, [www.markclifford.org](http://www.markclifford.org).

## Advance Praise for **TODAY HONG KONG, TOMORROW THE WORLD**

“Powerful, comprehensive and poignant, this book offers a truthful and balanced overview of events in Hong Kong over the past three decades or more. As someone who has lived and breathed much of what Mark Clifford writes, I identify with it and endorse it totally. If you want to understand Hong Kong, the Chinese Communist Party, and the threat to freedom itself, you must make it a top priority to read this book.”

—Benedict Rogers, co-founder, and Chief Executive of Hong Kong Watch

“Gripping and powerfully-written, Clifford pulls in the reader through a vivid account of Hong Kong’s history and on-the-ground reporting on the students, business tycoons, and politicians central to this disturbing drama, that tells us much about the growing threat China’s top leaders pose to global freedoms. He taps into his deep experience running Hong Kong’s top English language newspaper, directing the business association representing the region’s most powerful companies, his close contacts with senior Hong Kong officials, and his crucial role as a director for Hong Kong’s once most independent media company, whose destruction is central to this modern tragedy. Clifford, who has spent most of his adult life in Hong Kong, is uniquely suited to tell this sad story...A must-read account on the ongoing destruction of Hong Kong and why it matters to the world.”

—Dexter Roberts, author of *The Myth of Chinese Capitalism*

“Mark Clifford has written a riveting and passionate account of China’s attack on Hong Kong and its broader implications. *Today Hong Kong, Tomorrow the World* parts the curtains on what every informed citizen should know and be thinking about.”

—Jeffrey E. Garten, Dean Emeritus, Yale School of Management

“The world has usually viewed Hong Kong as either a last gasp of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century European colonialism or, more recently, as a buzzing beehive of modern capitalism. Neither image captures the surprising phenomenon that Mark Clifford details in this masterly study. Hong Kong has now become a front line in the world-wide quest for human freedom. Pursuit of it has spouted like a geyser from Hong Kong wellsprings that are located neither in national pride nor in appetite for lucre but in human nature itself—in the desire to be master of one’s own life. The Communist Party of China’s repression of Hong Kong is both fierce and unscrupulous, and the world ignores this stand-off at its peril. As Vaclav Havel has taught us, an assault on human dignity anywhere is an assault on it everywhere.”

—Perry Link, professor emeritus, East Asian Studies, Princeton University, and author of *An Anatomy of Chinese*

TODAY HONG KONG, TOMORROW THE WORLD: What China's Crackdown Reveals About Its Plans to End Freedom Everywhere

By Mark L. Clifford

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