

# BLOOD MONEY



Why the Powerful  
Turn a Blind Eye While  
China Kills Americans



# PETER SCHWEIZER

*#1 New York Times* bestselling author



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*An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers*



# Dedication

*To Rhonda, with great love—  
Thank you for everything.*

# Epigraph

Be so subtle that you are invisible. Be so mysterious that you are intangible. Then you will control your rivals' fate.

—Sun Tzu

When you want to help people, you tell them the **truth**. When you want to help yourself, you tell them what they want to hear.

—Dr. Thomas Sowell

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# Introduction: Vacant Eyes

Here then was one of the great secrets of the war and of the world. . . . But hardly anyone would believe it . . . and almost all the great responsible authorities stood gazing at it with vacant eyes.

—Winston Churchill, *The World Crisis* (vol. 2)

Americans were horrified in early 2023 when a Chinese spy balloon as tall as a twenty-story building drifted openly into US airspace and traversed the country from Alaska to South Carolina, following a flight path near US cities and major military installations. The balloon was finally shot down over the open waters of the Atlantic.<sup>1</sup>

Chinese officials claimed that it was a weather balloon that had gone off course. After early warnings and a delayed response in shooting it down, President Joe Biden eventually called the balloon’s mission “unacceptable” and a “violation of our sovereignty.”<sup>2</sup>

But less obvious and far greater looming dangers from China have also invaded the United States. Unlike the spy balloon, these invasions are killing Americans. Illegal weaponry, drugs, money, secret agents and bots to sow social chaos, and a deadly life- and economy-disrupting virus have all invaded from China. Yet most of our leaders choose to gaze with vacant eyes rather than expose and confront the danger.

Many people fear that a war with China may be coming. But the war is already here.



This is not a shooting war, with boots on the ground, fighters flying overhead, or navy destroyers pummeling the coastline. American soldiers and Marines are not dying on battlefields; cities are not being bombed. It is a war, nevertheless, with massive civilian casualties, that is decimating our social stability if not actual buildings.

Sun Tzu, the ancient Chinese strategist, posited that “the supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.”<sup>3</sup>

This ancient concept remains central to modern China’s approach to war. Sun Tzu’s words guide the minds of today’s Chinese leaders. Since 2006, every officer, soldier, and sailor has been required to study Sun Tzu’s book *The Art of War* as a textbook.<sup>4</sup> In keeping with this approach, China’s official military strategy focuses on—in the Chinese leaders’ words—going after the United States’ “‘soft underbelly’ in terms of politics, economics, and the spirit and psychology of [its] people.”<sup>5</sup> Chinese leaders have coined new terms such as “unrestricted warfare” and “disintegration warfare” to describe Sun Tzu’s old strategy of winning without fighting.

For several years, the Chinese military and intelligence services have studied “disintegration warfare,” which was “clearly building on Sun Tzu’s ideas of deception, disruption, and subduing the enemy without fighting,” said Admiral Fumio Ota, the former director of Japan’s Defense Intelligence Headquarters. In 2010, the Chinese military produced a book entitled *Disintegration Warfare*, which featured Sun Tzu’s “To subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill” on the front cover.<sup>6</sup> The same quote is repeated ten times in the Chinese government’s official “three warfares” strategy adopted in 2003.<sup>7</sup>

Deception is key to the strategy of fighting without appearing to fight. Sun Tzu also posited that “all warfare is based on deception,” a phrase that is etched on the wall of the library at the Chinese military’s command academy in Nanjing.

According to a textbook given to Chinese military officers, “Xi Jinping has emphasized that our state’s ideology and social system are fundamentally incompatible with the West. Xi has said, ‘This (incompatibility) decides it. Our struggle and contest of power with the West cannot be moderated. It will inevitably be long, complex, and at times extremely sharp.’”<sup>8</sup>

Complex, sharp, and deadly.

The lethal consequences of China's war are real—and amount to casualties greater than the United States has suffered in war in the past fifty years. In the past five years alone, hundreds of thousands of Americans have died as a result. The casualty count is in the millions and mounting daily. It is a complex strategy, a hydra of drugs, disease, propaganda, and illicit pistol parts, each contributing to social chaos and killing Americans. Beijing conceals its involvement, and our leaders fail to expose and confront it.

It is important to distinguish between the Chinese government, which is run by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and the Chinese people. In many respects, the Chinese people are already the regime's biggest victims. So when the term "China" or "Beijing" is used in this book, any indictment is of the Communist government, not the people of China or people of Chinese ancestry living in or doing legitimate business within the United States.

Perhaps even more shocking than Beijing's aggressions toward us has been the willful blindness of our political leaders. Rather than confronting the reality that Beijing is wreaking havoc on our soil, they focus on domestic policy minutiae. Why?

A simple part of the answer is corruption. Some of our leaders, who are named in the chapters that follow, have financial ties to the Chinese state and don't want to see the flow of money disrupted.

A more complex part of the answer is that acknowledging the truth of what China is doing would require our leaders to accept a profound paradigm shift and would force extremely difficult choices that would also dramatically disrupt the lives and livelihoods of elites from Silicon Valley to Wall Street; those who benefit from partnerships with Chinese government-linked companies very often finance the campaigns of our political leaders.

If Beijing is quietly killing us, how can anyone stand by and watch?

Like all human beings, those of our political class are creatures of habit and stick with what is easy. It is a lot easier to continue to do what they are doing and ignore facts that would radically reshape their approach to leading our country.

Some are perhaps truly ignorant of China's actions and intent, but most are aware of what China is doing and have chosen the path of least resistance, preferring the safe predictability of their ambivalence to the

vigorous work of countering those bent on our destruction. In the chapters to follow, you will find out who they are and why they are doing nothing.

Once you focus your eyes on what China is doing to us, you will realize how detached from reality are the conversations in Washington and in much of the news media.

While we debate domestic politics to address the fentanyl crisis, the reality is that Beijing is deeply involved at every stage of the drug's production and distribution in the United States. And well-connected politicians have ties to some of the drug networks spreading this poison to America.

While we seek to heal the social division and minimize chaos in American life, we ignore Beijing's role in fueling divisions and even violence on American streets.

While our leaders debate the theoretical implications of TikTok being owned by a Chinese company, Chinese strategists have already held practical discussions about how to deploy it as a "cultural weapon" against the United States. In this book, we will follow that enthusiastic conversation and explore who in Washington profits from this arrangement both financially and politically.

While we debate the origins of covid-19 and the effectiveness of masks, school closures, and vaccines, we avoid confronting the fact that, intentional or unintentional Wuhan leak aside, China carried out a sweeping strategy during the height of the virus to maximize our death toll, while successfully imposing its political will on us in surprising and deceptive ways, with the complicity of US health leaders.

What you are about to read is based on close research of restricted Chinese military journals, Chinese corporate records, private emails from key American leaders, leaked documents from the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and other federal agencies, and internal communications from the Mexican military and law enforcement, as well as criminal court records in the United States. This book contains no unnamed or anonymous sources.

In the pages that follow, you will meet an American president who rarely challenges Beijing on anything, including the fentanyl poisoning of America, and whose family received \$5 million from a businessman with links to a Chinese organized crime leader involved in the fentanyl trade.

Indeed, some of that money appears to have flowed indirectly to Joe Biden himself.

We will meet a former American president who ignored the fentanyl crisis only to cash in with China shortly after leaving office.

We will meet a governor who invited Chinese organized crime networks into his state, including those neck deep in the illegal drug trade.

We will be introduced to a powerful congressional committee chairman who looked away from the deadly fentanyl crisis in his backyard, while having entanglements with numerous money-laundering operations based out of his own congressional district.

We will learn about how China shaped the covid crisis to maximize damage to the United States and how senior US health officials covered it up with the express purpose of protecting China.

We will uncover how Beijing is fueling violence in America's streets and which American officials turn a blind eye to avoid confronting China over its actions.

We will expose how America's response to the virus was, in part, influenced and manipulated by Beijing, leading to a higher death toll and the suspension of American civil liberties.

We will meet the American billionaire now living in China who is funding organizations sowing chaos in American cities.

We will explore the Beijing-connected organization supported by some members of the Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez–Bernie Sanders wing of the Democratic Party, steering a radical turn of the American Left.

We will expose how some of the biggest names in entertainment were paid to help to spread a Chinese spy app to millions of Americans.

We will uncover the Hollywood big shots who eagerly followed Beijing's marching orders and allowed their films to be turned into pro-China propaganda vehicles.

This book is divided into four parts, each assigned a relevant proverb from a classic Chinese strategic text. Chinese military and political officials still consider these texts and proverbs, much like those of Sun Tzu, to be highly instructive today. For example, a group of thirty Chinese generals has regularly hosted conferences on how to apply these classic texts to current affairs, and twenty-one Chinese generals have endorsed the publication of a nine-book series of these ancient texts to train the next generation of Chinese military officers and government officials.<sup>9</sup>

Employing deceptive practices to defeat an enemy without appearing to fight it is a common theme.

Each of these sections exposes the way China is waging war against the United States without seeming to wage war.

Part I, “Murder with a Borrowed Knife,” reveals Beijing’s comprehensive involvement by proxy in every step of the cartel operations responsible for the US fentanyl crisis. American political figures, either compromised by personal political or financial considerations and unwilling to do the heavy lifting to confront China, sit largely silent as hundreds of thousands of Americans die.

Part II, “Watch a Fire from Across the River,” exposes the various ways in which Beijing surreptitiously sows and heightens social chaos in the United States—by arming criminal gangs, using radical proxies in the streets, and deploying social media bots to create even more anger and division. Again, our political leaders remain willfully ignorant of what is going on.

Part III, “Hide a Dagger in a Smile,” reveals the way China is quietly and systematically using investments in not only “cultural products” such as TikTok but also Hollywood films and video games to penetrate the lives of America’s youngest generations. Hollywood titans participate in these actions because they profit financially, and our political elites ignore them because they profit politically.

Part IV, “Loot a Burning House,” reveals the myriad of ways in which China sought to maximize American casualties from covid and manipulate our leaders into imposing lockdowns, which became the largest suppression of civil rights during peacetime in US history. Our health care leaders hid information from us to protect their Chinese colleagues and themselves.

Part I

# **Murder with a Borrowed Knife**

( )

# Chapter 1

## The New Opium Wars

President Joe Biden sat facing China's president Xi Jinping, each at a separate table draped in blue cloth. It was November 2022, and the two leaders were in Bali, Indonesia. They conversed amid elaborate flower arrangements on the floor and American and People's Republic of China (PRC) flags standing in the background.<sup>1</sup> It was their first in-person meeting since Biden had been elected president.

The meeting lasted for more than three hours. President Biden came with a full agenda: Taiwan, the war in Ukraine, human rights, Tibet, and climate change.<sup>2</sup> One issue that he did not raise was fentanyl, which was not unusual. In all the recorded meetings and conversations President Biden and President Xi have had since 2021, the time spent on fentanyl has been almost nonexistent.<sup>3</sup>

Biden and Xi left Bali with no resolution of any agenda items. They did release a joint statement; the Biden White House noted that both leaders had agreed that weapons of mass destruction, specifically nuclear weapons, should never be used.<sup>4</sup>

But a different kind of Chinese weapon of mass destruction (WMD) is regularly exploding over the United States.

Some of its victims wander the streets hunched over like zombies, their brains fried. Others collapse on sidewalks, lie in a comalike state on the ground, or are seen "slumped over the steering wheels of cars in traffic."<sup>5</sup>

Hundreds of thousands have just dropped dead.

This lethal weapon is fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that in 2021 alone claimed more than 67,000 lives—that is, more than American combat deaths in the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Vietnam combined.<sup>6</sup> Fentanyl is now the leading cause of death of Americans under the age of forty-five.<sup>7</sup> It has killed more Americans in a single year than were killed in the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.<sup>8</sup>

All evidence points to fentanyl being intentionally deployed. Fentanyl is being covertly and systematically aimed at the citizens of our country by a major foreign power—the most lethal peacetime attack in human history.

Most people who die of fentanyl poisoning ingest it unintentionally; it is laced into other illegal drugs, such as marijuana or cocaine, without their knowledge.<sup>9</sup> Many victims believe that they have purchased an FDA-approved drug such as Xanax or Vicodin, when in fact the product is a counterfeit pharmaceutical laced with fentanyl.<sup>10</sup>

Some victims, such as the musical artists Prince and Tom Petty, are famous, but most pass briefly through the news, to be remembered only by their devastated families and loved ones.<sup>11</sup> Make no mistake: remembered or not, these casualties blight our communities—even “good neighborhoods.” About half of the people who die from fentanyl overdoses are young and of military age. As one former US government official has put it, “This is the equivalent of removing two or three divisions of Army or Marines off the rolls every year.”<sup>12</sup>

A group of West Point cadets traveled to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for fun and sun over spring break. Four cadets picked up what they thought was cocaine, but it was laced with fentanyl. All four soon went into cardiac arrest. Three other people apparently tried to administer CPR, but in the process they exposed themselves to fentanyl and also needed to be hospitalized. Thankfully, all seven involved survived.<sup>13</sup>

“There’s never been a drug like fentanyl before. For street drugs, this absolutely destroys anything else in terms of lethality and danger,” warned Josh Bloom, a senior director of chemical and pharmaceutical research at the American Council on Science and Health.<sup>14</sup>

Jim Crotty, a former deputy chief of staff at the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), calls fentanyl “the most pernicious, the most devastating drug that we have ever seen.”<sup>15</sup>

Even the Mexican drug cartels, hardened and seemingly indifferent to human suffering, have a fearful respect for fentanyl. They call it El Diablo,



“The Devil.”<sup>16</sup>

It’s little wonder that in 2019, some senior officials at the US Department of Homeland Security asked for fentanyl to be classified as a “weapon of mass destruction.”<sup>17</sup>

How did the most dangerous drug ever created become a household word, and scourge, in America?

Not by accident, but by deliberate design. Beijing’s hand can be found in every stage of the poison’s spread in North America.

Some people might be aware that the precursor chemicals of fentanyl come from China. But, as we will see in the next three chapters, Beijing’s complicity in America’s fentanyl crisis is far more strategic than the mere export of chemicals. Our national leaders have access to materials that would make them fully aware of this. Based on leaked US national security documents, Mexican government hacked emails or correspondence, and Chinese corporate records, we know that the fentanyl operation is under Chinese control from start to finish, including:

- Production of the basic chemicals needed to make it (precursors)
- Creation of fentanyl and counterfeit pills in both Mexico and the United States
- Distribution of the deadly drug within the United States
- Facilitation of drug cartel financial transactions, and even money laundering
- Facilitation of communications networks used by the cartels to operate without detection in the United States

Indeed, we will show that some of the people involved in running these drug networks have positions of considerable power in the Chinese government or the CCP. Fentanyl shipped through Mexico is a “borrowed knife” for China that can be wielded against Americans while the country claims that it is not their weapon.

What makes this story even more troubling is that many politicians in the highest ranks of *our* government have access to this evidence but have remained strangely silent about China’s deep and direct involvement in unleashing this menace. They have chosen to be willfully ignorant—complicit by indifference. They have what Churchill called “vacant eyes.”

Many of their names will be familiar: President Joe Biden, Senator Mitch McConnell, Congressman Adam Schiff, former president Barack Obama, and California governor Gavin Newsom, among others. Despite the easily available, compelling evidence of Beijing's involvement, most of our leaders carefully avoid holding China to account.

Our investigation shows that some US political and business leaders are working or investing with known members of the drug networks poisoning Americans. Apparently, the money is just too good. Compromised by commercial opportunities that benefit them or their close allies and hiding behind the excuse of not wanting to "disrupt" the US-China relationship, they effectively allow open season on Americans and sabotage our future generations.

Chinese military officers have acknowledged using drug warfare against the United States for *decades*, pushing first heroin, then methamphetamine, and currently fentanyl into the United States with ever-increasing lethality. And consistent with military escalation, there are plans to deploy even more potent drugs as weapons.

In the 1990s, two senior Chinese military officers analyzed the power of the US military extensively and concluded that it was futile for Beijing to try to match it. Instead, in a book called *Unrestricted Warfare*, they suggested the use of creative strategies to defeat the United States. Just weeks after it was released in 1999, CCP officials seized all copies of the book and removed it from circulation. Apparently, they were not angry with the authors, who would go on to have stellar careers, one retiring as a high-ranking general, the other as an influential professor in Beijing. Rather, the officials must have preferred that the contents of the book not be publicly acknowledged. *Unrestricted Warfare* might have disappeared completely from the public eye but for the fact that a copy was smuggled out of China and translated into English.<sup>18</sup>

*Unrestricted Warfare* proposed that Beijing deploy a series of nonmilitary weapons that would reimagine the tools of warfare and redefine the battlefield with "out of the box" strategies. Nothing was too extreme as far as the authors were concerned. As they revealed, "The first rule of unrestricted warfare is that there are no rules, with nothing forbidden."<sup>19</sup>

One of the more shocking ideas was using illegal drugs as "drug warfare."<sup>20</sup> The authors described a plan to export and distribute illicit drugs in America, cause death, a health crisis, and social mayhem, and generally

tear at the country's social fabric.<sup>21</sup> A few US military strategists have noted the threat. In 2014, the United States Army Special Operations Command issued a "Counter-Unconventional Warfare: White Paper" declaring that China's method of conducting warfare against the United States included "drug warfare."<sup>22</sup> Others in the US government have drawn the connection as well. One report from the Naval War College stated, "China is complicit in pushing fentanyl into the United States in an effort to destabilize, undermine and weaken the fabric of America's social and political systems."<sup>23</sup>

"America could be attacked without anyone realizing the attacks were happening," another former military officer observed. The strategy would be "Death by a thousand razor cuts (with some looking self-inflicted)." In 2014, John Poole, a Marine combat veteran and security consultant, essentially predicted the fentanyl crisis that was about to hit the country. "The internal 'disaster' that some PRC officers have advocated through drug warfare correlates with U.S. law enforcement concerns of what might follow a narcotics deluge," he wrote in a journal for intelligence and special forces professionals. "Basically, an influx of illicit drugs would result in an increased number of addicts who would engage in theft to secure the money for their next 'fix.' Street combat would intensify as gangs vied for neighborhood control, and larger payoffs would further compromise the political and criminal justice systems."<sup>24</sup>

Sound familiar? America's total number of overdoses would reach a new high nearly every year after that prediction.<sup>25</sup>

Most lawmakers in Washington have chosen to ignore the frightening implications of *Unrestricted Warfare*. Reframing Communist China as a commercial and global "partner" has been too enticing—and lucrative.

Drug warfare has a special resonance among Chinese leaders. During the nineteenth-century Opium Wars, Imperial China was the target and the Chinese people the victims. Introduced to China during the seventh century, opium contributed to a national tragedy for the country more than a millennium later. British merchants, including the British East India Company, commercialized opium in China, making it inexpensive and readily accessible to Chinese people. The company became "the world's first drug cartel."<sup>26</sup> The company soon controlled nearly all of world production.<sup>27</sup> One American involved in the poisonous trade was Warren Delano, Jr., the grandfather of future president Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

As far as Delano was concerned, it was a “fair, honorable, and legitimate trade.”<sup>28</sup>

Opium addiction devastated the Chinese people: at one point, an astonishing 25 percent of the population was using, if not hooked on, opium.<sup>29</sup> Chinese officials tried several times to halt the trade, but Great Britain always responded with force, sending in the powerful Royal Navy to keep the Chinese market open to opium. Many critics in Great Britain, including William Gladstone, later a Conservative British prime minister, regarded the so-called Opium Wars as “unjust and iniquitous.”<sup>30</sup>

Communist Chinese officials today believe that the opium trade was not just about British merchants making money but was in fact an “attack by stratagem” designed to drug their country into submission.<sup>31</sup> There is no question that the drug trade had a deleterious effect on China: at the beginning of the nineteenth century, before the opium arrived in large quantities, China was the largest economy in the world. After decades of opium addiction, the country found itself “on its last legs.”<sup>32</sup>

The damage done by the opium trade casts a long shadow in China. Even today, military officials express outrage about the way Great Britain’s Opium Wars reduced China to a minor power. They regard the opium trade as “national drug trafficking activity on probably the grandest scale in recorded history.”<sup>33</sup> Communist Party officials insist that this history never be forgotten. Shortly after Xi Jinping became the country’s leader, he led fellow members of the Politburo to a cultural exhibit exploring Chinese progress since the Opium Wars called “The Road to Revival.”

“Every Chinese schoolchild knows that the modern drive for wealth and power is, at root, a means of avenging the Opium Wars and what followed,” noted the *Economist*. “How the conflict is remembered still matters very much.”<sup>34</sup>

From the perspective of President Xi and the Communist Party, what better means of rising to power and avenging the Opium Wars than by turning the tables against the Western world that it blames?

For Xi, advancing one’s national interests—to the detriment of others’—with a poisonous weapon is not only legitimate, but also patriotic. A few years ago, he had a sixty-ton granite statute, complete with surrounding gardens, built to honor his father. Barbara Demick compared it to the Kim Jong Un cult of personality. “The optics look straight out of North Korea,” she reported in the *Los Angeles Times*.<sup>35</sup> Xi’s erecting the monument was to