



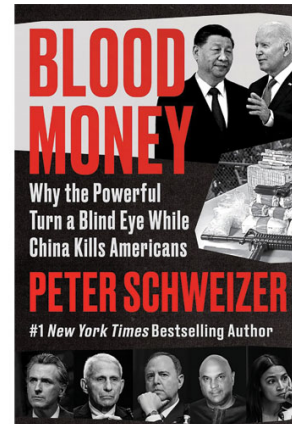
Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on April 9, 2024

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America Is in China's Crosshairs

In times of war, it is often said, truth is the first casualty. It's more dire during this time of shielded conflict, when many of our putative leaders are so economical with the truth that they seldom acknowledge that there are hostilities.

Chinese President Xi Jinping can certainly be devious, but behind his Great Wall the message he gives his military officers is blunt: "Our struggle and contest of power with the West cannot be moderated. It will inevitably be long, complex, and at times extremely sharp."



As we read in *Blood Money: Why the Powerful Turn a Blind Eye While China Kills Americans*, the Communist Chinese military still studies the work of ancient strategist Sun Tzu, with his well-known maxim that "all warfare is based on deception." The problem for the unprepared is that this is not a *Jeopardy* game — it's real life and death.

What comes after duplicity are not "points," but potentially pain, blood, and defeat. "The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting," according to Sun Tzu in *The Art of War* — or else it could get gory. Here's another strategy recommended by Sun Tzu: After you use "humility" to make your enemies "haughty," cause "division among them." And then? "Attack when they are unprepared, make your move when they do not expect it."

The old stratagems do have some new terms — such as "unrestricted warfare" and "disintegration warfare," as this book observes — but the actions and intentions haven't changed appreciably.

It's happening right now, with more casualties in the United States than we suffered in "war in the last fifty years." During just the last five years, says the author, "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."

When one side is looking for conquest and the other is paying little heed, the outcome is not likely to be pretty for the latter.

We have already met one of the big players. Here's another, as introduced by the author: He's an American president "who rarely challenges Beijing on anything, including the fentanyl poisoning of Americans, 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."



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Covert Operations of the CCP

Peter Schweizer, the author of *Blood Money*, is one of the few who can pen exposés that shake the establishment and still hit the *New York Times* bestseller list. He is the president of the Government Accountability Institute and the former William J. Casey Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. As in previous books (we reviewed his valuable *Red-Handed*, published in early 2022, in these pages), Schweizer and his team have dug deep; there are almost 90 pages of footnotes, pinpointing his references. He's clearly proud to say that there are no unnamed or anonymous sources in this volume.

Well edited with a comprehensive index, *Blood Money* has four major parts, each with an appropriate proverb from a Chinese strategic text: "Murder with a Borrowed Knife," "Watch a Fire from Across the River," "Hide a Dagger in a Smile," and "Loot a Burning House." If that sounds too cute or forced, it is not. It works. (Covered in the respective sections are the use of cartels for the fentanyl crisis in this country; employing criminal gangs and social-media bots to accelerate social chaos here; investing in TikTok in particular, as well as Hollywood and video games, to capture young Americans; and maximizing the spread of Covid, then locking down the nation.)

While many of the charges may be startling, context is also supplied. There would be nothing wrong with just blasting Xi's actions, for instance, but it is more effective when readers are reminded (in "The New Opium War" chapter) of China's complicity in the drug trade over the years, and the U.S. reaction. Back in the 1960s, Chinese Foreign Minister Chou En-Lai boasted directly to Egypt's president that his government was growing the "best quality opium especially for them [American servicemen]." While that wasn't a secret, the subject was not accentuated; it became an "unsubject" with the Nixon/Kissinger push for better relations with China. It was accompanied with quiet, though very serious, orders on the U.S. side not to talk about the continuing heroin trafficking — a subject that we wrote about decades ago in our predecessor magazines.



Peter Schweizer (*Blood Money*)



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Now the prime drug threat is the even-more-potent fentanyl, which is trafficked via the Chinese triads and their Mexican cartel partners, under the protection of both the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and government leaders. Schweizer has plenty of names, dates, and locations — including specific ports serving as conduits for fentanyl and methamphetamine precursors into Mexico (and then to the United States). The ports are, as we learn, run by a Chinese company whose ownership has ties with the triads and a working relationship with China's military and government.

If you want a closer look, check out (for example) China's city of Shijiazhuang, the home of the chemical companies churning out the precursors. This of course is for export. This "highly militarized" city has at least 11 "military facilities including several command schools, military hospitals, and medical facilities"; it is also "a government-designated national development zone. So the companies producing the fentanyl chemical get tax credits."

The complex web of shady (and worse) characters does include the Biden family. Members of the Biden family get money from a tycoon called Chairman Ye, who also is business partners with a former triad leader (Zhang Anle), commonly known as "White Wolf," whose gang (UBG) works with Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel. UBG, in the words of a Mexican investigator, helps to turn "the Sinaloa Cartel into the King of Fentanyl." This is not a den of Cub Scouts. There's much more in that vein.

The other part of the equation in Schweizer's book — particularly a chapter called "Willful Blindness" — covers those who look the other way, and includes (among other U.S. politicians) California Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom for his downplaying, if not ignoring, of the fentanyl crisis. Another mentioned is Representative Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), who is now running for the U.S. Senate. The author calls Schiff's lack of interest in the fentanyl crisis a "mystery," but then wonders if this subject might draw "undue attention" to his "financial connections to individuals involved with criminal networks in Southern California, many of whom are tied to money laundering and the drug trade." Again, names and amounts are included.

TikTok: Trojan Horse

One of the key topics in this book, and one that is very hot these days, is the social-media app TikTok, which is owned by Chinese parent company ByteDance. Some politicians and observers have called its popularity and perils a contest between free-speech rights and national-security concerns. It's more complicated than that, but the book isn't focused on legislation now in play as much as what the author uncovered in his research. This includes CCP and Chinese military officials referring to TikTok as a "modern day Trojan Horse" and "information-driven mental warfare" aimed squarely at American teenagers.

For his part, Schweizer terms the addictive app a "digital dopamine supermachine." Whether you think the First Amendment covers the CCP or not, keep in mind, as we read in *Blood Money*, that "ByteDance is not simply an entertainment company; it is wedded to the Chinese Communist Party military-intelligence-industrial complex."

Beijing doesn't allow TikTok to be used by its youth (ByteDance has a separate app called Douyin, with its own restrictions, for domestic consumption). But here's a twist that is less known:

According to the Chinese Propaganda Ministry, the algorithm that powers TikTok has the same source code as apps offered in mainland China that are used to control and monitor



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the domestic population. “TikTok’s algorithmic design makes it an ideal tool for disseminating CCP propaganda,” said law professor David Sloss [footnoted to his book *Tyrants on Twitter*, published by Stanford University Press].

The powerful algorithm, designed to keep audiences glued to their phones, is not only a company secret — it is a *state* secret. The Chinese government has designated it as a “national security asset.” [Emphasis in original.]

This is not a minor matter. Keep in mind that, according to Chinese law, ByteDance is required to adhere to CCP ideology. TikTok has, among other actions, censored the news about Beijing’s genocide against the Uyghurs and even the crackdown in Tiananmen Square. And, as the editors of *The Wall Street Journal* have recounted, “Reams of evidence show how the Chinese government can use the platform for cyber-espionage and political influence in the U.S.”

Is this warfare? The Communist Chinese certainly believe it is — and *Blood Money* presents the case, as made by key Chinese authorities and restricted military journals. Schweizer calls the evidence clear, finding that “Chinese psychological war strategists have Americans, particularly young Americans, in their crosshairs. They believe that not only are young people easier to influence but the effects of the propaganda messaging are longer lasting.”

Dissecting a Pandemic

The author has kept some of the best parts for the end. Some earlier chapters, inevitably, are more effective than others. It would have been nice to see more about China’s influence on Hollywood, but we do get a bit of coverage about how big names changed their work to please (or appease) the CCP.

Nor would it be a surprise to find out that the Biden administration and its progressive allies misuse information found in the “Arming Criminals” chapter. The evidence is on target, but leftists have different aims. *Blood Money* does not miss the facts: China has a huge role in putting illegal weapons into the hands of felons and criminal gangs by producing and exporting illegal auto switches that convert Glock handguns into illegal machine guns. The number of such switches seized by law enforcement skyrocketed 570 percent between 2017-2021, compared to the previous five years. To his credit, Schweizer does recognize that many American political leaders are more concerned about cracking down on legal American gun manufacturers and law-abiding Americans than “cracking down on Chinese companies catering to and further weaponizing criminal gangs in the United States.”

The final two chapters (“Social Engineering a Pandemic” and “A Cover-Up for China and Themselves”) discuss China’s role in the Covid pandemic (though admitting that some aspects will never be completely revealed) and the disastrous reactions of too many of our leaders.

Schweizer’s exceptional work describes physical casualties (via fentanyl, Covid manipulation, and illegal gun modifications); mental casualties (from TikTok and Hollywood exploitation); and a defined objective (undermining and defeating our country). If that sounds like a real conflict, as the author says, that is because “it is a war — an unrestricted war that has redefined the weapons and battlefields.” This is even more challenging when you often can’t tell friends from enemies.



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