Table of Contents

Mission and Vision
Editorial Board
Who We Are6-7
Transcriptions & Other Works
Concordia Ukraine Student Interviews by: Senior Editor Natalie Bodnar8-16
Taiwan—Security and Freedom (Dr. Lamont Colucci) by: Senior Editor Ben Dubke18-23
Review of "e Hong Konger" (Acton Institute) by: Publication Editor Harrison Hulse24-25
To the Students of Concordia (Yeonmi Park) by: Editor-in-Chief Isaiah Mudge27-32

Our Mission

Quaestus is a student-led journal presenting ideas about Liberty, Faith, and Economics from a Christian perspective in R U G H U W R S U R P R W H K X P

Our Vision

We aim to inspire the next generation of Christian thought and leaders by addressing global issues with sound PRUDO DQG HFRQRPLF

*RG EOHVVHG WKHP DQG VDLG '%H IUXLWIXO DO in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."

Genesis 1:22

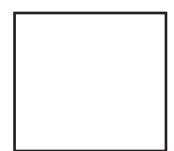
Editorial Board



Business and Marketing Editor

Anna Young Class of Fall 2024

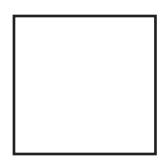
Business Scholar Marketing w/ MBA



Editor in Chief

Isaiah Mudge Class of 2023

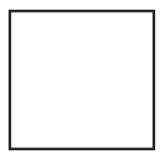
Philosophy & Theological Languages



Senior Editor

Ben Dubke Class of 2023

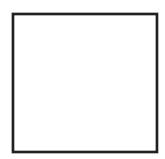
Secondary Education



Senior Editor

Natalie Bodnar Class of 2024

MD Candidate w/ MBA Chicago Medical School



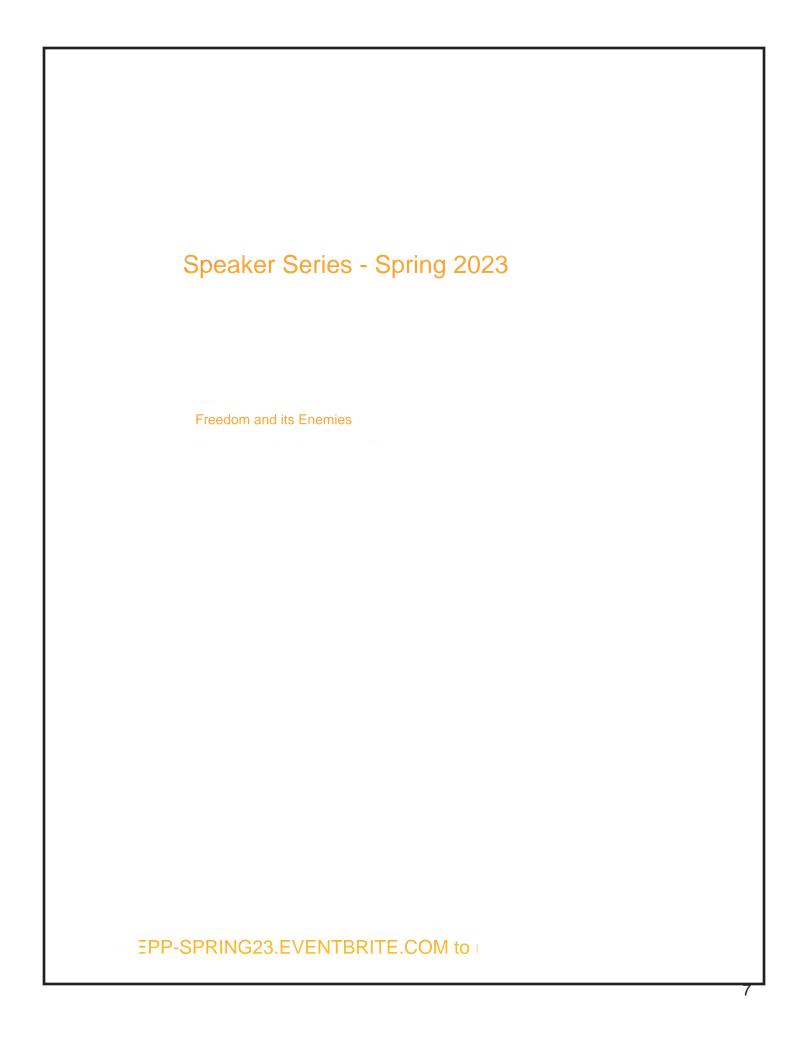
Publication Editor

Harrison Hulse Class of 2024

Applied Theology & Theological Languages

So... What is Quaestus?

Because it will be most conducive to clear communication, I'm going to take this opportunity to be somewhat informal. Quaes (Wesvay-stus) is basically a group for students who want to get people to



Quaestus Journal Interviews with Ukrainian-American Concordia University Students

Transcribed by: Natalie Bodnar

After introducing themselve&nton and Maksym discussed how their lives have change since the war began and how their families prepared for evacuation. Anton shared, "Being brutally honest, my life has...gone downhill since the beginning of the invasion...my personality changed to some degree...[and] life in general in 8NUDLQH KDV EHFRPH GLI;F KDYH FKDQJHG >GXH WR@ unemployment...is [a] reality right now...To give a little of my backstory, so before everything started, I got sick with COVID and I'm right now the war]...I recovered approximately February 20 but I faced another issue unfortunately, and reality is, I had a family dog. It was seventeen years old, and it died in the morning, so I had to bury it outside somewhere in Bucha. So that was...tough because I was sick: psychologically, I was exhausted and physically [exhausted] at the same time; but that was only...the tip of the LFHEHUJ \$ W \$0 > RQ)HEUXwas in my bed; my Mother [comes] barging into the room, and she is telling me, 'The war has started!' and I thought it was [all] a prank to be honest. It [sounded] like a joke so I went back to sleep because I didn't believe [what she was telling me]. Somewhere between 30 minutes and an hour passes by, and my parents come in and tell me that the war has actually started. I woke up, I [went] to the downstairs living room—we all gathered there—we were watching TV...and of course the headlines stated that the war had started, and that was one of the moments that came in shock because I wasn't expecting it... and it [said] 'breaking news'...and [that] this is reality. One hour passes by...[and] I see Russian helicopters—at least ten or twelve—[and] they're

MXVW À\LQJ ULJKW DERYH P\ KH couldn't understand who it was, but it turned out it was Russian helicopters...I saw missiles. They started shooting back and forth."

"I also lived near an airport...where the

largest airplane in the world, Mriya, was located

at that time...it got destroyed because of the

XbOnt/lbings an Et et l Eelbera. V. attem the lobbin bithgs, [my Lf@mAlyDn Mealized Ochad to is Swasts bribus Xand Wellran to our neighbors who had a cellar underground, and we hid there while there were bombings and...the Russian troops were landing in that airport...Three in Bucha and I've also been in Bucha [since befφrælays later it was living hell for me because I had VHHQ D GR]HQ 5XVVLDQ KHOLFR above my head and even drones. I saw one day a GURQH2>LW@ZDV A\LQJ RQ WRS [it] was scouting the area. The only good thing which I personally saw, which gave me hope and... [a] will to...live, was the aspect that I saw a [plane IURP@ .LHY ,W¶V D ¿JKWHU MHV PRPHQW , UHDOL]HG WKDW ZH K Didd his an@protecting list. OnDFOboulary,27...my EURWKHU DQG , SUHVVXUHG RXU because we knew that if we didn't run away...we could've died. That's reality. We could've been dead [right now]...we realized it's now or never... luckily, we packed our bags as quickly as possible. We left a lot of stuff [behind]...we rushed to the car, we sped through all the way to Lviv...it was a huge risk for us but at least we arrived late in the evening. Next morning I was on my feet and I decided to go to a volunteering center because I knew that was the right thing to do...we [Ukraine] need help right now, and [volunteering] was a dire need. It was [overall] a terrible experience, and I can't understand what people have gone through. So, this is my short story and background...maybe Maksym wants to add more."

Maksym added, "My answer will be shorter because for me, my life changed even before the war began, as I have a big family and in late Januar, we made the decision to leave Ukraine as we felt unsafe in the face of a possible originally from Donetsk. It's a big industrial city FRQÀLFW my peers' because I have never heard an air-raid in 2014...Still here in Germany, and from other siren actually; I've never been under a shelling, as [my family] left before [the war] started. However, my life has changed dramatically too as it's unusual and, in many ways, uncomfortable I was living in Donetsk, I [had] never heard to be detached from everything I know as home and from everything dear to me. Of course...I can supported...the [Ukrainian] government or no no longer go to a café in Kiev with my friends; of course, I can't go to my church; I [haven't slept] in my bed for over eight months now. In March I saw a video of the very place where essentially my entire childhood happened being shelled with missiles. So yes, I think that my life has changed the war started."

Arsenii and Maksym then shared more about Russia' past behavior and how the war appears to be an extension of Russia's attempt to eliminate Ukraine's sovereignty. Even though Ukraine exists as a culturally, politically, and linguistically separate state, Ukrainians understant ussian propaganda. Some of them...especially in WKDW 3XWLQ LV UHOHQWOH V th/e et/alsternHreigh/dHsUliReLDQnDet/skH-solvinks bif Ethenin I

that's what unity with Russia demands: clearly, residential areas are deliberate targets of this war.

\$UVHQLL ¿UVW V3K, DZUDHVG KLV living in Kiev when the war started, but I'm 0 \ VWRU\ LV TXL \W at the eastern uptan Qot/VUk tain ed low at Rock uptie or I [foreign countries] I always hear the question, 'Ukrainian, do you speak Russian or Ukrainian?,' and that's a tough one because back then [when Ukrainian because—it doesn't mean that no one one supported the course of our country: it's just [a] geographic peculiarity. While, for example, when I was in Lviv, in [this] big historically important city of western Ukraine, I saw no one speaking Russian...I think that's the main point... [how] the country, its whole history, and people very much even though I was not in Ukraine whencould be manipulated... As you may know, before 2014, our government was pro-Russian; it was OHG E\ 9LFWRU < DQXNRY\FK > Z kbecame a president...by a set of coincidences and by Russian support and their secret service support [bribing] the elections and of course...throughout four years people were bombarded with pro-

obviously it's not a real country. [Despite false] claims [of being] a 'democratic republic,' it's not a real country...I can say that throughout all our [historical] relations with Russia, the Soviet Union, the Russian Empire, that [particular] side of the globe was always trying to capture our country [Ukraine] through different ways—

of their claims—but it's a very weak argument, and it contradicts itself sometimes because all the people in Ukraine have the same exact rights, so it doesn't matter where you're located. In my opinion, it's a political issue...and Russia wants to see their leaders in Ukraine—and not the ones that we have chosen as the people. In my perspective, there are two lessons to be learned. I'll tell you one of them: genocide is not a form of tool to UHVROYH DQ\ FRQÀLFW2LW MXVW forbid anyone to ever see this—and the second lesson...is that not a single nation in the world should resolve other nations' political interests by >5HVROXWLRQ RI FRQÀLF SRZHU individually within the nation by themselves."

Maksym expanded on how he has witnessed religious freedom beingeafted by this war: "I have been working for the Institute of Religious Freedom in Ukraine for a little over a year now so everything that I am going to say now...is less of an opinion and more of a factual statement. I will provide material to back [up] what I am saying. I have a report that was released MXVW ODVW PRQWK DQG , ZLOO will be able to get [the report] by contacting the organizer of this event [Dr. Niederjohn]. This report...lists the attacks on religious freedom in Ukraine by Russia. I wanted to share a couple of facts and stories.

Ukraine is one of the most pluralistic and free countries in terms of religious freedom. No

before—it is happening on occupied territories such as Kherson, Zaporozhia, Donetsk, Luhansk right now—they are persecuting Jehovah's Witnesses, which are allowed to freely practice their religion in Ukraine—but if Russia takes over, of destroyed churches and religious sites as [they would be persecuted] and some of them would be sent to jail, just for their beliefs.

I can give you another personal example. So, people are being tortured...at this moment, EHIRUH WKDW 5 H O L J L R X V no exceptions. Nobody makes an exception for a pastorIn the report that I am sharing, there are center, he was imprisoned, tortured, and kept in a sewer pit for several days. This is...a man who is familiar to me...I don't know him personally, but my grandparents know him personally...so he I always knew that countries were inherently was sitting in that sewer pit; this is a very famous egoist... I didn't expect anyone to help... I've story. It has [reached] many Ukrainian outlets; andexperienced the same [thing] when we were again, it is in [my] report, along with his video testimony. [While in the pit] he [the pastor] heard people being tortured and executed on the surfacecountries] are all really concerned with the [above him]. He was left alive by a miracle. (VVHQWLDOO\ WKH 5XVVLDQ off; they left him in...a barn...This is just one of

A lot of pastors—they are tortured—to force them to cooperate with Russian authorities. So, Russians are trying to explicitly use faith and explicitly use churches and other religious LQVWLWXWLRQV DV WRROV forcing their leaders into submission. And this is all documented and proven; again, I am not mistaking anything...these stories aren't even [by] but still it's not that full support that could be ZRUG RI PRXWK LW¶V DOO you can personally see [and read] for yourself. I'm not going to list more brutal examples here but they're all [in] the report. Over 270 religious buildings and churches were damaged since the

beginning of the war—damaged or destroyed. Many...beautiful Orthodox churches, which were [standing] for centuries, were destroyed. An interesting fact is that the biggest number belonging to the Orthodox Church of...So Russians are destroying even their own churches of their RZQ UHOLJLRQ 7KH\ GRQ¶W FDU any faith cannot freely practice their religion; they [corrupt] Russians are torturing someone, and the pare persecuted by Russia...if they are just regular have been [doing so] since the war began and everactitioners, they will be probably restricted in JUKetir HowetingsHTDeer Houses of KodastipHm Dylbel XVHG DV D ¿ULQJ SRVLWLRQ D Q they will be subjected to death threats, torture... personal video testimonies of over ten people whosome of them have been...executed for refusing to testify on either how their church or their religious cooperate...you...break, and this strategy usually site was attacked, or how they [themselves] were has been used [for leaders] to sign documents for assaulted by Russian forces. [To share a persor al FRRSHUDWLRQ > ZKLFK@ WKHQ > example] my church...is based in a Kiev suburb, either break or you just never get out alive, and and we have our rehabilitation center in...a village that is a reality...and this has been happening not northeast of Kiev...The center was attacked at the only since February 24 but actually since 2014. very beginning of the war. It was late February dr It's just that the scale has been multiplied oneearly March, and the pastor, who is the head of the undredfold since the beginning of the full-scale invasion."

> Arsenii then spoke offimerica's position LQ WKH ZDU VD\LQJ 3,¶00 EH F ÀHHLQJ 'RQHWVN LQ LW ZD me to read all the stories that, ok, they [other situation, [that they] will impose some sanctions. BN/tUstr, Rheste senctions fire/just. Oto colver KhatP point that 'We at least did something.' That's the reason why I didn't expect anyone to act literally...maybe some Baltic countries because they are also interested in keeping...their borders safe...because as you can...understand, if Ukraine fell, I think no one would stop a power country... R MyLoQinÀoxilelf@h.E.W.SEandFoRnHeilghHisolniQqJ DQG countries changed a lot because although military expenses are super high, they are skyrocketing... Idilyet to IdsG.frbr@alRovePtDe/wbrRJ.cstill.Zikn L F K thankful for any drone, any vehicle, any dollar that is given to Ukraine, and that's why, yeah, my opinion dramatically changed.

> > As for NATO, obviously they are not

many stories.

make...certain standards, guidelines...economic regulations...lt doesn't mean that we shouldn't focus on that vision, or pursue it, or just neglect

deeper and more subtle ways that Russia affects safety at one of the coal mines...he still reads tons people's minds. There...is Russian propaganda that books...after the war started, obviously [the] doesn't look like Russian propaganda, and that's the most dangerous type of...Russian propagan da120%...I was just astonished at the statements because...there is propaganda that is manned to just make you question something, make you uncertain about some facts that are presented, for example, by the Ukrainian side...there can be articles or opinions, which say, 'Maybe Ukraine should just give Crimea away to Russia to end the war.' And this sounds like an opinion...like it is a brainstorming for peace...Not all people who spread Russian propaganda even know they are doing so.

a rhetoric which is heavily pro-Russian from our point of view as Ukrainians, in the past couple of days. And, of course, I'm not saying that Elon Musk is paid off by Russia, that would be ridiculous...what I'm saying is that people who spread it [the propaganda] with or without intent. For example, Elon Musk said, 'If Ukraine makes another referendum on the occupied territories, that's maybe the way to solve [the war],' and... this is Russian narrative. While [a statement like WKLV RQH@ PD\ VRXQG QHX|WNdevDosO-theyVVeKbleenhotulite EsceluCate yviEhlaDood for Russians. And again, it is a thin line; I'm not saying Elon Musk has been paid for by Russians, information was delivered by reporters right I'm not saying he consciously wants to support Russia; what I'm saying [is] that, unconsciously, by making this statement that to him and many he is spreading the Russian narrative...Many of not on...history...It's those subtle manipulations, ZKLFK PD\ VHHP in isolation, they [aren't]; but when you look at [these statements] and they come together, you see that Russia keeps...trying to control the narrative...They are successful even if they made just a couple people doubt, 'Well, is that really genocide?'—that's what they want, that's it."

Arsenii added, "I'm reallynto psychology; and also, one of the topics I'm really...interested [in] is propaganda...I have quite a personal story as I said, my grandparents lived in Donetsk. My grandad—he is one of the smartest men I've ever seen...if I'm not mistaken, he was...head of

Russian propaganda machine started working he was making...He was making to me—his grandson—these statements about Nazi people in Kiev, [also] that there are biochemical laboratories in Ukraine...this struck me to the deepest of my heart...and I started to research. So, how average propaganda works—there are three types of LQIRUPDWLRQ WKDW DQ\ SURSD. is a total lie; second, is...grayish information [such as] a half-lie, half-truth; the third type of information is truth...basically what they do is For example, Elon Musk has been tweetingthey take a semi-truth, they take truth, then they distribute it [and propose it] that way; and people believe in it...So [for example] if I take just these 20 photos [of 20 Neo-Nazis in a city of 5 million] and make one photo appear in one separate news article for 20 days in a row, then...[an audience is] believe in Russian propaganda...those people, the seeing for 20 days in a row, Neo-Nazis in that city, and that [is] how [a people can be] manipulated. So, [a] propaganda machine, unlike Russian military, is very good and is very intelligent, and we shouldn't underestimate it."

Anton related, "CNN, BBCABC the information being delivered...much of the RQ WKH EDWWOH; HOG WKHUH understand that what's going on—and I also watch and read international news, though mostly other people, [this] may seem like just an opinioh, I watch [and read] Ukrainian news...in U.S. and maybe other nations, [people] don't get more his statements are grounded on Russian narrativedetails. They get the overall story—and get some portions...of it—but the reality is there [are] QRW VLJQ LadditDoQaWdetaDsQthat dPnID the bitizens are going to know...because there's always censorship, that's one aspect you should understand but again, the coverage, was pretty spot on—it was accurate, it wasn't manipulated, it wasn't changed, it wasn't somehow...repackaged...We also have to understand that [the war] has been prolonged for D ORQJ SHULRG RI WLPH2WKH LQ of Russia on Ukraine—and international and Ukrainian mass media...keep getting insight regarding the current situation in Ukraine, which

is also a 'thank you' and a positive aspect which

should be taken into consideration."

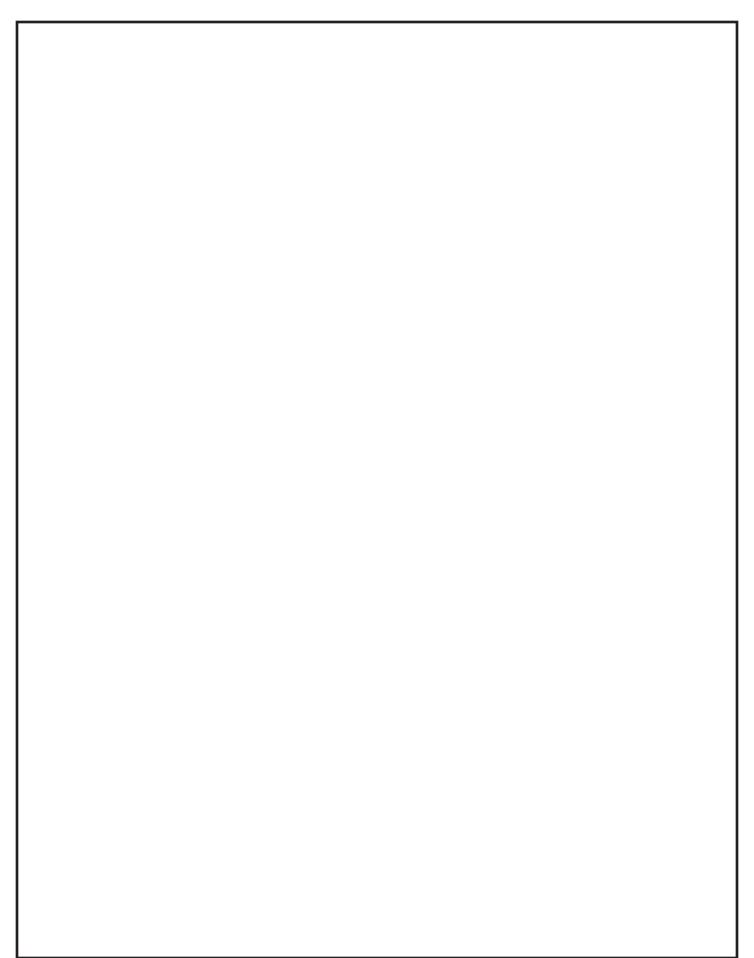
Arsenii spoke from his personal experiences living in Germansharing, "I media companies...give you the big overall picture...Two days ago, one...citizen or soldier... found a bucket full of teeth...that were just [torn] off by someone who was torturing the citizens or military, and obviously, such a moral disgust... would not be a part of [a] CNN article, for we moved to Germany, I [had] been living for one month in Hungary, and as you may know... Germany is...supportive...[A] statement that is tr for both Hungary and Germany is that...average citizens [in these nations] show tremendous support to anyone who is there and is Ukrainian [However] there is fake information that comes from the governmental control of media... it's mostly not what the people say but what governmental authorities say."

Maksym added, "I want to make just one exampleAs you know recently there have meant to show that it is the will of the people of the Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporozhia regions, to join Russia. And, of course, they were a joke, just like any election held under Russian control with their votes being...97, 98, 99%. I don't know why they didn't go over 100; probably their computer was broken. I want to give an to edit it. But this is how a lot of people got their ¿UVW LPSUHVVLRQ 'Big Majority Said To Favor Joining Russia in First Vote Results on Future Occupied Ukraine 5 H J L R Q V ¶ : K \ L V W K L V D S U R E O HMPaksynk Hike Owise greep banded a John Singi they have just ironically written in a headline of one of the biggest news outlets in the world without any notes that the referendums are fake, that they are not to be believed—they just throw that a big majority is said to favor joining Russia and they called it a vote. They didn't call it a socalled referendum or...worthless paper[s] being

wasted at gun-point, which it actually was. They called it a 'vote,' and this is what I mentioned GH; QLWHO\DJUHHZLWK \$QWarboout Scubitle Brussizani prophatopanhda; Ithis Est how it ZRUNV <RX MXVW >FRQYHQLHQW something; you just call fake referendums a 'vote;' you just say that people are really in favor, and this is all it takes. They edited it later, they deleted the Tweet, but...a lot of such mistakes can be seen that are made by Western media. Sometimes those example...When we were leaving Ukraine, before mistakes seem less of a mistake and more of an intention..."

,Q KLV ¿QDO VWDWHPHQWV is pro-Russian...and you may also have heard that Arsenii warned, "When I moved to Germany and ueobviously lost everything that I had because we were living in a host family with my familyfor a month. Living in someone's house, as you can understand...doesn't feel so good. I realized that my inner happiness level—it remained the same... In Kiev [before the war] I had everything but just didn't value it: the thing is, when everything is cool and everything is great...that is how our psychology works...What I still see in America from my point of view [is that] you [Americans] been...so-called referendums...referendums were are really concerned with some topics that come to the point of discussion just because everything is great in America...I compare that situation with my situation...[with] what we have in Ukraine, and I realize that...people in developed countries—like Germany, like America, like Canada—they have to embrace what they have right now—that they don't have a war on their landscapes, they have example of coverage. So, Reuters, which is one of good medical system...and just enjoy the state the biggest media outlets out there—they posted you have right now and embrace it; don't fall out this on September 27, and then they edited it, but inside the nation due to some small troubles that I saved the article because I knew they were goinguVRPHRQH WZHHWHG VRPHWKLQ to be concerned with more basic needs [such as] WKHDU WolleningOslaffe, VolDinlugOne bulkQv, Value libe inkg hind Digo God LQH country—and just...respect what we have right now."

WKLVKHDGOLQHRQ7ZLWWHIUstatement, udecharingu, HFDeeFolomLies soum etholongwyd KilV was maybe Reuters head...had a day off...because; JKW JRUW TV QRW DFWLYHO\ GH freedom will always decay and die out. With that, IUHHGRP LV QRW D WKLQJ \RX ¿. is a constant struggle. Our legendary heroes and defenders fought for freedom in the 14th century; our great-grandfathers fought for freedom in 1940s and 1950s; our parents fought for freedom ZH DUH ¿JKWLQJ IRU IUH



Taiwan—Security and Freedom

Transcribed by: Ben Dubke, Senior Editor

We'll talk today about Taiwan. I've spent time in China and Taiwan, and I'll bring you some of that perspective. The subtitle for this talk could be "How did we get into this mess?" The national security problem we have faced since 1949 is a policy the United States adopted called strategic ambiguity. The idea of strategic ambiguity is that

WKH 8QLWHG 6WDWHV FDQ PDLQWDLQ ÀH[LELOLW\ ZKLOH

WKH, QGLDQ 2FHDQ DQG SDU SAPEGUritRY SetWickethats in many ways, lowokz linkethe an incredible military-economic juggernaut. military.

:KHQKHUHWXUQHGWR&KLQDIUQAhipna kalleovhas eqognegat despire Dannoththey LW ZDV GHFLGHG WKDW WKH hogwe jado awwe ry leng tion ex to the color letate. I outside forces was too great, that it outweighed WKH EHQH¿WV down and closed the borders. Many people in top Chinese leadership today realize that was a mistake and are determined never to make that mistake again.

Another aspect of Chinese foreign policy is that China has an interesting ability to initially appear non-threatening in every statement and diplomatic action, and then they engage in some heavy doses of realismen, when there's a serious pushback from the United States or United Nations, they will try to convince the world that they are a victim of Western imperialists. It's a fascinating and genius method if you can pull

They think the buffer state should probably be in DQGWKHHPSquthqastAsia,uplacesclikenBurma,iVietnam, and North Korea. They have mapped out a policy they FDOO WKH 3; UVW LVODQG FKDLQ believe that region is Chinese sovereign territory. When they strategize, their goal is to push the United States (militarily primarily, but any \$PHULFDQ LQAXHQFH RXW RI WH One of China's policies that has been very

<RX ¿UVW DSSHDU QRQWKUHDWHQLQJ WKHQ \RX</pre> LW RII engage under the table with massive levels of aggression, and when pushed, you then claim to be the victim of the very people you engaged the aggression upon. So we are witnessing in China a very aggressive form of nationalism, especially

GXULQJ WKH DGPLQLVWUDWLRQ RI 3UHVLGHQW ;L

The problem the Chinese government KDVDQG WKLV FRXOG EH DPSOL; HG JUHDWO\ RYHU WKH Taiwan issue) is their ability to dial up the fury, rhetoric, and propaganda, and their tendency to unleash the Chinese people into rampages. We saw this, for example, when the United States mistakenly bombed the Chinese embassy in Serbia during the Clinton administration. The problem is that each time China does that, they dial it up. They've had very little success in dialing it down without the use of force. If you look at Taiwan, China could easily dial up the rhetoric to cause a furor in China about the Taiwan situation. I question whether on that issue they would be able to dial it back. One thing the news doesn't report is the massive amount of civil unrest in China. We don't even know the full extent of uprisings, especially in the interior. Inside the interior of China (roughly 70% of the country), the uprisings and unrest get so out of control that China must

call in what they call "the people's armed police." It's not the army or the police, but a militarized

Today, China is no longer asking the question, "Will the United States come to the aid of Taiwan?" but rather, "Can the United States beat us in the FRQALFW"

On the American side, there's an old debate: What is China? Is it an enemy, is it a competitor During the Clinton years, some tended to call it a "strategic partner." That policy was prevalent among both political parties. The theory was that if we could engage China at the corporate level, we could somehow change Chinese political culture to become more liberal, open, free, and democratic. For decades, that was the standard response of the center in American politics. When I was in the state department, some of us said, "That's insane. That will never work." Those of us in that era were seen almost as war hawks, trying to agitate for no reason. One of the leading lights on that side was a famous American prohibited other political parties, but then they household name, Ambassador Jim Lilley. He kept saying, "This can't work because there are strategic reasons that overcome business and economic reasons why China will never be able to accept that."

/HW¶VKLIW WR 7DLZDQ situation because both the Chinese and Taiwanese emainder of the 20th century, meaning they sides invoke history. From 1885 to 1895, Taiwan was part of the Qing empire, so some argue it was part of China during that period. But then from 1895 to 1945 it was a Japanese colony, so that relationship between Taiwan and China was severed. Then when World War II ended, the Republic of China declared that Taiwan was part of the Republic of China, and that remained the case until 1949. In 1949, the Nationalist defeated by the communists in mainland China. The nationalists moved en masse to Taiwan and declared Taiwan the rightful government of all of China as the Republic of China.

From that moment on, we have what some people call "two Chinas." One is the 3HRS/O5H¶SXEOLF RI &KLQD States in 1949 did not recognize as the legitimate attitudes. They are clearly the party that favors government of China but that de facto controlled

mainland China; the other is the Republic of China which the United States recognized as the legitimate government of all of China which was located at that moment in Taiwan. The United Nations shifted in 1971 to derecognize the Republic of China on Taiwan and to recognize WKH 3HRSOH¶V 5HSXEOLF RI &KL From 1949 onward, China has viewed Taiwan as a "renegade province" or, as some translate, a "province under the state of rebellion." Taiwan from 1949 onward as the Republic of China had an authoritarian, fascist-style regime under Chiang Kai-shek. So, from the United States perspective, both sides were dictatorships. One was a left-wing, communist dictatorship, and the other was a right-wing, militarized dictatorship that had been and remained an ally of the United States. This right-wing dictatorship in Taiwan began to soften in the 1990s, ultimately becoming a democracy. That's critical for our purposes today. Until 1986, the government of Taiwan began to legalize other parties.

Taiwan politics is divided into two major SROLWLFDO SDUWLHV 7KH ¿UVW WKH 1DWLRQDOLVW 3DUW\ China in 1949 and sought sanctuary in Taiwan. DTihis party ruled China for, almost the entire claimed to be the rightful government of all of China. The generalization about the KMT is that they tend to have an authoritarian mindset, and that lots of corruption exists related to links between politicians and corporations. In their opinion, Taiwan is already fairly independent, WKRXJK QRW RI¿FLDOO\ 7KH\ VE rifts in international politics or their relationship with China, so they tend to support the status quo. 3 DUW \ ZKLFK UDQ WKH 5 HSX ETO E KEMTE has strong support in urban centers and the business community, especially in the north and the capital of Taipei.

> The other party is the Democratic 3URJUHVVLYH73KDHU\WK\DG3BHHQ XQ suspicion, only legalized in 1986. They are the more liberal party, believing more in democratic Z Kreferm and kree mankets with less statist independence, or at least a trajectory toward

independence. Their base of support tends to be in the rural areas and the younger demographic. They do not believe the status quo is tenable. In their view, Taiwan must become an independent, democratic country that can make independent, democratic choices and ally itself with the West, in particular the United States.

7 K H ¿UVW FRQW MDVLWZHDQ HOHFWLRQ LQ was in 1996. That election was very interesting EHFDXVH & KLQD ¿JXUHG WKDW WKH 1DWLRQDOLVW 3DUW\candidate, Lee Teng-hui, would win. On the

systems" solution to Taiwan in 2017. They said to +RQJ .RQJ LQ 3 < R X DUH UHMRLQLQJ & KLQD EXW we will not alter your lifestyle, domestic political situation, press freedoms, or assembly freedoms for 50 years. On foreign policy and defense, you will acquiesce to us, but not in domestic affairs." Those of us who had an alternate view immediately said, "There is no way they're going to keep this promise," because how could they allow a free market, democratic Hong Kong within a totalitarian, communist dictatorship? It makes no sense, but dollar signs and yuan signs prevailed, and people said, "This is great, we have a formula now: one country, two systems." Then China went to Taiwan and said, "This can work. We're doing this with Hong Kong." For a few years people thought it might be true, so the 1DWLRQDOLVW 3DUW\ VDLG 3<HV WKLV LV WKH VROXWLRQ we'll hang our hat on." Then in the last few years, things in Hong Kong have gone off the rails, exactly how you could have predicted if you had a realistic view of Chinese policy. What could have

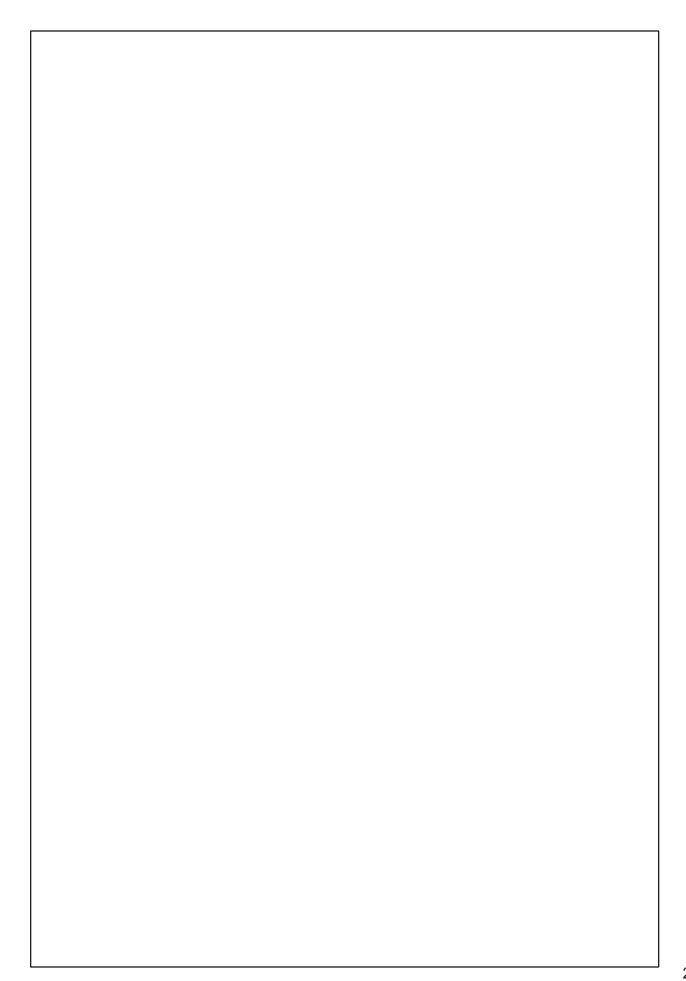
UHKLUHG LQWR WKH RI¿FLDO IRUHLJQ VHUYLFH ZKHQ WKH\

left the American Institute in Taiwan. To some degree, you could call this a game, but it was all part of the delicate dance to avoid problems with mainland China while maintaining a de facto relationship with Taiwan.

Another thing about the

An Indomitable Spirit: "The Hong Konger" % \ +DUULVRQ +XOVH 3XEOLFDWLRQ (GLWR

"We must show that liberty is not merely one particular value but that it is the source and condition of most moral values. What a free society offers to the individual is much more than what he would be able to do if only he were free. We can therefore not fully appreciate the value of freedom until we know how a



February 23, 2023 • 11:00am -3:00pm

BUSINESS MATTERS 2023



To the Students of Concordia (Yeonmi Park)

Transcribed by: Isaiah Mudge, Editor-in-Chief

D GHIHFWRU IURP WKH EUXWDO 1RUWK <HRQPL 3DUN</pre> communist state, has lived through experiences that few people of any age will ever know—and from which most

will never recover. In this speech she gave to the colou-

QLW\ RI &RQFRUGLD 8QLYHUVLW\ :LVFRQVLQ her story in gripping detail and cautions those listening against the different kinds of tyranny she witnessed in North Korea and the seeds of similar erosions of freedom that she sees here in the United States.

(adapted from In Order to LiveYeonmi Park's autobiography)

Hello everyone, good evening[...] I'm so honored that you came out here, few years ago and I remember evehursday I'd you're here it means so much to me [...] There's a saying I wrote [in my book] that there are two things that I'm most grateful for. First that I was born in North Korea, and number two, that I escaped [...]

The reason why I'm so grateful to have been born in North Korea is that if I was not born in that darkness, if I was not born in that oppression, I would not have known how unique, how amazing, how miraculous it is to be in this free countryAnd if I had stayed in North Korea, ¿UVW RI DOO ULJKW QRZ be dead by 2007, when I was just a mere 13 yearsmany bastards. But I was brainwashed to think old. I just turned 29 and people tell me I'm young, that if I saw them, I would have to kill them, but <RX NQRZ LQ 1RUWK .RUHD ending of my life. Most people do not make it to even after 50. So how can I not be grateful for being born there and coming here? I was hearing it went like this, "There are fourthmerican about how this forum is about civil discourse and freedom of speech, and that reminded me of the ¿UVW WKLQJ WKDW P\ RZQ ZDV JURZLQJ XS LQ 1RUWK remember [...] was my mom telling me, "Don't

me. She said that the most dangerous thing I have in my body was my tongue. If I said one thing to see me and hear my speech. I was in college a that was wrong in the eyes of the regime that was bad, they were not just going to kill me only. They be excited to get done with my classes. Now that were going to kill three generations of my entire family. What they say is, "kill the entire root." That's the cost of having a tongue and practicing the freedom of speech in North Korea.

.RUHD

3DUN UHWHOO

I was born in 1993, in the northern part of North Korea, and I went to school like you guys. I went to school, but I never even saw a map of the world. I did not hear about biology or anything, the only thing I heard about was how amazing my dear leader was, and how powerful he wAansd the other things they taught me was how horrible the American bastards were. So, it's so surreal for Z Rock rog/16s now/Rstraind+higLold this stage Rock row/Cof so Dnow I'm heffer I justible caronel annothed bastard; I became American this year.

I remember seeing my textbook in school, EDVWDUGV <RX NLOO WZR RI Wk American bastards are there left to kill?" So ReWerkattl@JyeVarsDolkd,J5KyVarsPoltd, ZevKerlytl@ng, RithelyHteach7ulk, letven thle Musle, letvenosports [...] Everything that education in North Korea does is even whisper," because birds and mice could hearto brainwash. And helping us to not realize what a

horrible, oppressed country [we] are really living in.

in North Korea. So, most of the days growing up

So, when I was 13 years old it came to WKH SRLQW WWK DJWH DZOHO FR XQOGG DQ \PRUH food. The reason why North Korea is poor is not because we're like Haiti or Africa, it's because the regime chose to starve us. So, for instance, there are a lot of people saying, "Why are these North Koreans so poor?" The reason is, if our tummy is full, we're going to start thinking about what the meaning of life is, what's out there, why our lives are not better. But if we are constantly starving, the only thing that we are allowed to think about is ¿QGLQJ WKH QH[W PHDO ,I meal, you're going to die. Hunger means death

guys so much I'm giving you my son," that's Kim Jong-un—he's like Jesus Christ—his body dies but his spirit returns forever. And that's how he

university [students] who were wearing like I don't know \$100 yoga pants and drinking these green juice cups detox things, I don't even know. And they're vegans! They chose to eat like North a therapist." So of course, as a North Korean, in Korean people [...] I was so offended. They were eating this rabbit food, like salad. I ate this plant in North Korea because I was starving, and they were eating this plant and paying like ten to twenty bucks and they're telling me how they're so oppressed. And I was really shocked, like maybe there's some mental disease spreading in freedom, human rights," it's exactly America you know? I cannot fathom, and then I was starting [to tell] them my story, you know, actually maybe with all the problems America DV KXPDQLW\ \$QG WKH\ ZHUHightHowothatthene's se Roxughuherce in brainwashed." Telling a North Korean that I'm brainwashed by white men again.

And then of course thesea constant threat we cannot say. that I have to respect the students [by] conducting in the code we have, I need to make sure that students can have a safe place. Safe places not from being raped or being hit by other people, it's emotional safe space. Like where people cannot hear anything that upsets them or offends them. And then in class, like I just learned English a few years ago before coming to America by watching Friends TV show, and then suddenly in this lecture room every single class the professors were asking our pronouns. Some of them are Ze, like, I mean there are 50 something different pronouns. I just learned English by watching friends, there's no "they" in there, right? There's only "she" and "he." So of course I messed that up, it's not bad intention, I just don't know how to incorporate "they" as a pronoun yet back then. And then there was a "they," Justin, I called him, "him," even WKRXJK KH¶V WKH\ know what he is. And then I called "him," so they

at this point, I mean, if you cannot pick that one word, and you think your life is ending nd WKHQ OLYLQJ LQ WKLV ¿QDQFLDO KXE RI ODQKDWWDQ P\ IULHQGV ZRUNLQJ IRU WKH ¿QDQFLDO LQVWLWXWLRQV they're the investment bankers [...] they're having a very, very good career and they're winning in this free market system and they all go to therapy 30

come after me crying, I make they feel not safe. I feel like, this is the end of civilization

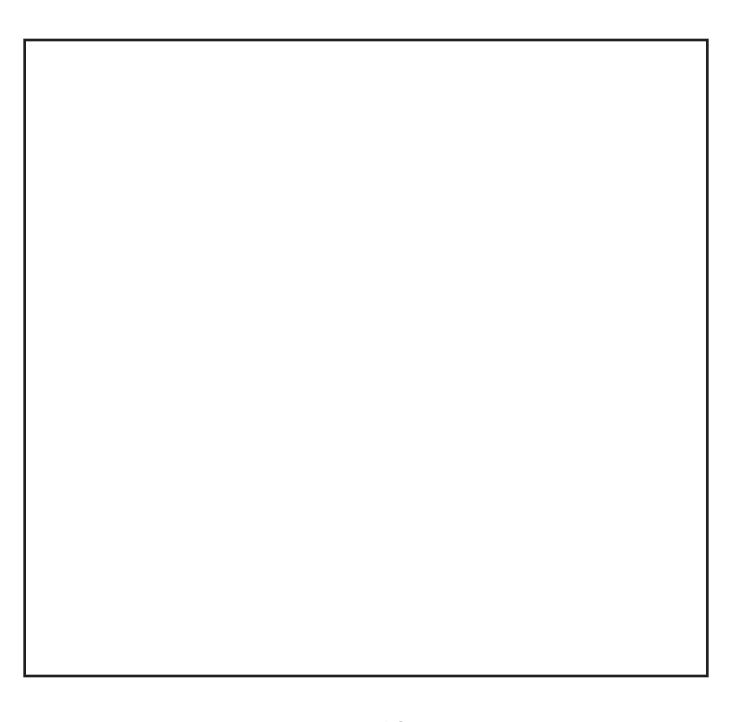
DOO GD\ ORQJ \$00 WKH\\UH VH the best therapist, and my agent was telling me 3<HRQPL\RX¶UH WUDXPDWL]HG North Korea by the way we don't have word for stress. Do you know why? Because how can you EH VWUHVVHG LQ D VRFLDOLVW

The regime simply [removed] words like "oppression, stress, gay, what George Orwell writes in his book: doublespeak. If you do not know the word that means you do not understand has, still, this is the best country we've ever gottenthe concept. And that's why it scares me America trying to control the speech and what words we can say and what words

37KH\´LV JHQGHU ÀXLG GRHV QRW

often I get this question from people: "Why do I have to care about human rights? Why do I have to care about people [...] suffering in China and North Korea?"

I actually work with a lot of animal rights activists people at the UN, and a lot of other SODFRW NQRZ ZKHQ \RX ; JKW IR \RX ¶UH D KHUR : KHQ \RX ; JKW I



e editors and publication advisors of Quaestus would like to thank Acton Institute for sponsoring the Liberty, Faith, and Economics Summit and this issue of Quaestus.