

**EDITORIAL: 25 years after Tiananmen, China must heed calls for democracy**

- 1) "Remember June 4" is a slogan that is banned in China. But in Hong Kong, Tokyo and other cities around the world, Chinese citizens and their supporters are chanting this **mantra**.
- 2) On June 4 exactly 25 years ago, China's Communist Party regime ordered the military to suppress pro-democracy students who had gathered in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.
- 3) We must never forget this date because the students' demands were absolutely **spot on**. Another reason is that Beijing is set on erasing the Tiananmen Square **bloodbath** from history.
- 4) Around the time of the crackdown, socialist countries around the world were undergoing painful restructuring of their systems. But the Chinese regime of the time survived the transition, and later **spearheaded** the country's rapid economic rise.
- 5) Probably **emboldened** by this, President Xi Jinping said in a speech during his visit to Europe in April, "Constitutional monarchy, imperial restoration, parliamentarism, a multiparty system and a presidential system, we considered them, tried them, but none worked," adding, "Finally, China took on the path of socialism."
- 6) But this assertion is nothing more than a simplistic perception of history from the Communist standpoint.
- 7) Now that China has abandoned a planned economy to allow market forces to rule, Xi's brand of socialism **comes down to** a system that does not **tolerate** any criticism against single-party rule by the Chinese Communist Party. The ranks of the oppressed do not consist only of political activists and **intellectuals**. All over China, ordinary citizens are unable to speak out against administrative and judicial corruption involving senior party members.
- 8) But Wang Dan, a leader of the democracy movement who played a prominent role in the Tiananmen Square protest, points out that, as a result of the bloody crackdown, Beijing can no longer ignore the public's awareness for human rights. According to a provision written into the Constitution in 2004, the state "respects and guarantees human rights."
- 9) Former Premier Wen Jiabao used to **reiterate** that Beijing would gradually expand the public's participation in politics and seek to promote individual freedoms through education.
- 10) But the direction seems to have been reversed since Xi came to power. Beijing certainly did not act "normal" when it began clamping down **rigorously** on activists and their supporters prior to June 4, and even applied pressure on foreign media.
- 11) Over the last 25 years, citizens groups have kept alive their resolve to change politics. The popularization of the Internet has promoted solidarity among citizens, enabling them to keep speaking out despite censorship and oppression. And in urban areas, citizens movements are being organized against factory construction and other issues.
- 12) Steadily and surely, the ranks of politically and socially aware Chinese citizens are growing. It has been argued that the intellectual level of the public is still too low for democracy and that democracy is not the right system for China. But such arguments are no longer **tenable**.
- 13) The Xi regime must heed the voices of the people seeking freedom. It is simply wrong to send people to jail for just criticizing the regime.
- 14) Beijing must allow free speech and accept the people's right to form associations to encourage healthy dissent. By skipping such phases of gradual democratization, China will never become a stable nation.
- 15) The shouted demands of students of 25 years ago are even more legitimate today. They must never be forgotten. 【June 4, 2014/ The Asahi Shimbun】



↑Participants in a remembrance gathering for the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown light candles in Hong Kong on June 4, 2013.

heed:注意を払う mantra:スローガン be spot on:(英語)完全に正しい bloodbath:大殺戮、大量殺人 spearhead: ~の先頭に立つ embolden: 大胆にする、勇気づける comes down to :結局~になる tolerate:大目に見る、寛大に扱う the oppressed:弾圧された人々 intellectual:知識人、文化人 reiterate:繰り返して述べる rigorously :厳格に tenable:持ちこたえる、攻撃に耐える

☆Ice breaker for active discussion☆

1. Have you ever been to China? If you have, please share your experience during the time you were in China. If you have not, what is your image about China and why?
2. Please explain about the Tiananmen Square incident. Do you remember the incident?
3. What were the reasons behind and how was the result?
4. Have you ever participated in any kind of demonstrations?
5. What is your definition of Freedom?
6. Do you think Chinese people today are enjoying their freedom?
7. Make sentences using the following words: heed, mantra, be spot on, bloodbath, spearhead, embolden, comes down to, tolerate, reiterate, rigorously and tenable.

**NEWS de TALK by PHILOS**

学生が主導した抗議運動を中国共産党の軍であり党の中央軍事委員会の指揮下にある人民解放軍が弾圧した 天安門事件。無差別発砲や戦車による轢き殺しが起きた。中国は 319 人の死亡を公表しているが実際にはわからない。しかし中国外務省は事件について「中国政府は既に結論を出している。事件の再評価を行う考えはない」としている。