As one who has lived daily on the political scene in the run-up to Hong Kong's reunification with the Motherland, China, I feel compelled to put on record some of the struggles and the momentous decisions of the last decade of colonial rule.

For a hundred and fifty years Britain had invented excuses for stalling on democracy, yet after every method of retaining colonialism after 1997 had failed, the British Conservative Government decided to make a pretence of bringing in democracy to cover up her recalcitrance of the past. In that, the British Government found a ready supporter among those who were prepared to struggle against the ruling party in China.

China had been through nearly two centuries of foreign interference, first by European colonials, then by Japan which had learned aggression from Europe. After World War II, China finally freed herself from her aggressors, with the exception of Hong Kong, which remained in the hands of foreign colonials.

The only country that had profited from World War II was the United States of America. With at least half the wealth of the world in her hands, the United States had founded a new American economic empire, and began to spread her tentacles throughout the world, hiding her colonial purposes under the cloak of freedom, democracy and human rights, none of which ideals had been achieved even within her own states, in particular, among non-whites and aborigines, who remained second-class citizens for at least another generation and who are not free of discrimination even today.

However, the ideals of the Founding Fathers became the propaganda machine of post-war America, a machine that used soothing words when possible to attract disciples, but a machine that used bombs and chemical weapons when propaganda failed to convince and subdue. Most countries eventually submitted to the United States as world police. When some countries began to put up resistance at the United Nations, the United States overruled their decisions, and today the President of that country wields dictatorial power, giving orders when to invade, whom to bomb.

I mention this role of the United States war machine in the hope that our young people will open their eyes and see that some of them have been led to bow to icons of stone, statues of the goddess of democracy that never perform the miracles that their worshippers claim to believe in.

It is less than a decade ago since hope was raised in the hearts of the Russian people. But where are they now? They have a broken empire; many of their former compatriots have been killed in the struggle; multitudes of them cannot afford the buy the plentiful goods on their open market; and their Government is crippled, their president a useless ornament.
Other countries besides Russia have fallen for the financial packages offered to them, or to the bait of "democracy and human rights" propagated by the Voice of America as the panacea for all economic woes. Politicians have been quick to seize the chance of power and wealth, but what is in it for the "demos", the people? Yugoslavia has gained a broken empire and a revival of old religious and ethnic feuds that have brought untold suffering to people who once lived as neighbours in peace with each other. The struggle continues. The countries of Central America have been ravaged by the Contras, trained and armed by the United States and by the proceeds of the drug trade. Elected leaders have been overthrown or even murdered and replaced by dictators, as in Chile, all with the goodwill of the United States where they were trained. All that is required of these military dictators is that they submit to the United States economy, hold elections however corrupt they may be, and allow the American companies to exploit their land and people.

This does not mean that I uphold the communist regimes of some of those countries, but it does mean that I believe that every country should be left to seek its own solutions to its own problems. I consider it is the duty of every citizen, not to overthrow his government, but to seek ways to improve it. On no account should he call for the assistance of a foreign power to change his government. I feel very sad when I see young people seeking assistance from abroad against their own country. They too will be sad if they succeed in their mission and find their people and their land being exploited by foreign powers.

According to a report in the Hong Kong STANDARD (2 September 1998), Mr. Lau San-ching accepted a donation of $300,000 from George Soros to buy equipment intended to "undermine Beijing's rule on the mainland". Does Mr. Lau not know that the whole of South East Asia is pointing the finger at Soros (and, so I read, Soros is working with other American speculators), for the biggest economic crisis this region has suffered in decades? How does he feel when he sees the unemployment rate in Hong Kong rise? How does he feel when people commit suicide because they have been ruined financially? How many others take the name "democrat" and serve the interests of foreign powers? Were those same people not prepared to put conditions on the MFN without a care that 70,000 workers in Hong Kong would lose their jobs, and damage unknown done to their own country at the same time? What is their real purpose? If their purpose is to bring down their own government by seeking foreign aid, would it not be necessary to implement Article 23 of the Basic Law that deals with subversion and treason? How much blood would they be prepared to shed to achieve their purpose?

On Page 74 of this report, I quoted Ngai Shiu Kit who used the words of Sun Tzu. They are worth re quoting:

"Know the enemy, and know yourself." The person who cannot differentiate between his friend and his enemy needs to look within and begin to know himself first. Enemies used to come with guns and bombs. Now they come with dollar notes. We should beware of the enemy who offers us dollar notes. His deadly missiles may not be far behind.

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