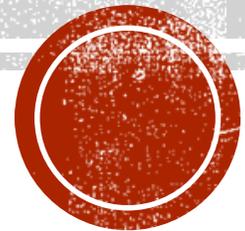


THE MEDIA CENSORSHIP IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA--

How and why does the Chinese government achieve the control of media outlets that published in the People's Republic of China?



College: APS

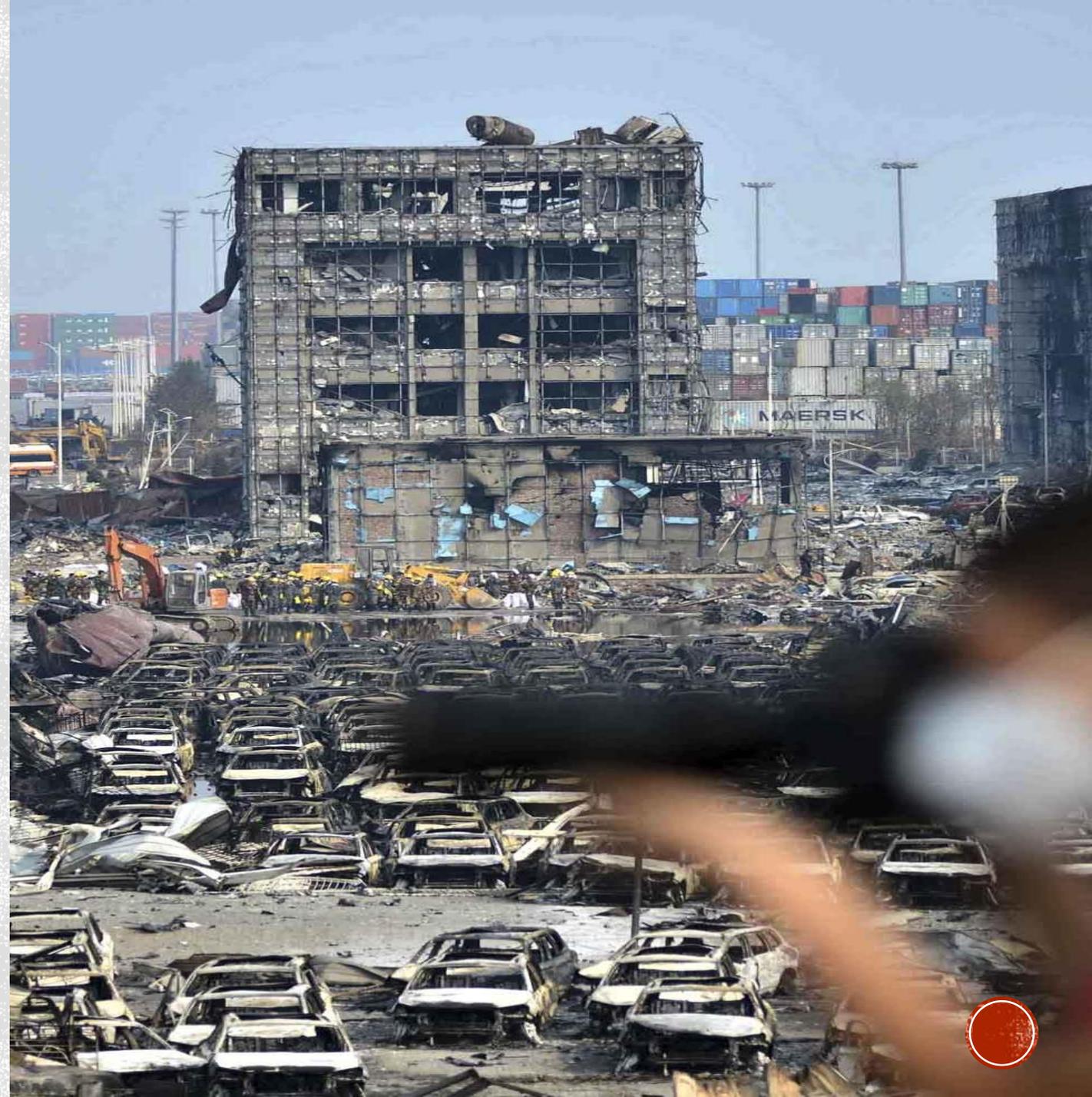
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OUTLINE

- Research objectives and questions
- Background of the research topic
- Literature Review and Methodology
- Printed media
- Broadcasting media
- Internet media
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- References



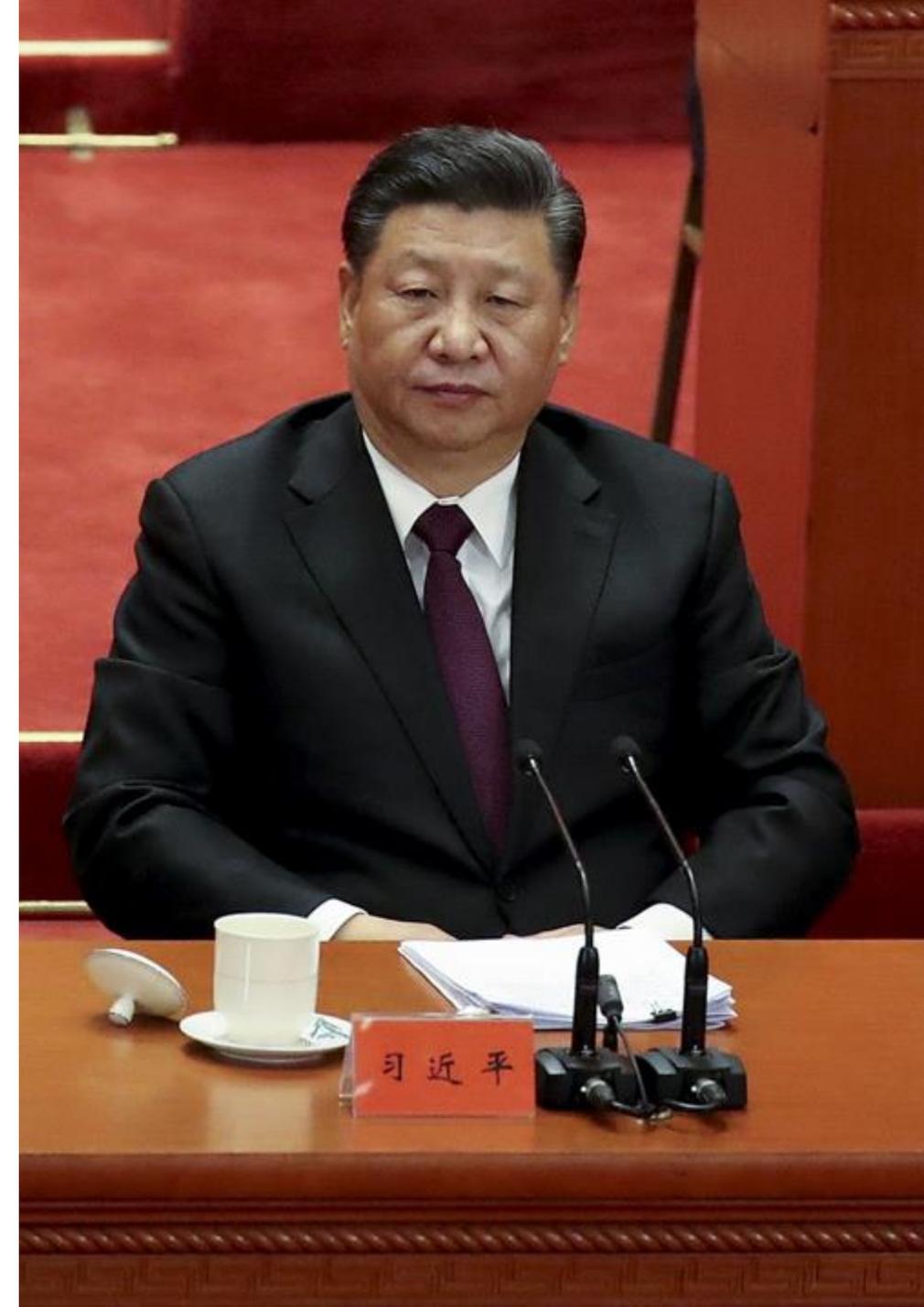
RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

- The research objective of this volume is to answer the question that what are the major ways and strategies that the Communist Party of China using to control the media outlets and main motivations behind that.
- How and why does the Chinese government achieve the control of media outlets that published in the People's Republic of China?
- Printed media-Southern Weekend and Internal Document System
- Broadcasting media-Du Xian and Zhang Hongmin
- Internet media-"Internet commentators" and "Little Pink"



BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH TOPIC

- “The fourth estate”
- One-party dictatorship
- “All repressive states choose policies designed to keep the population ignorant, and, thus, more easily manipulated.”-He
- “Its dominant status is a complex historical and cultural tradition, but the absence of equivalent political powers in China to challenge the CCP fundamentally guarantees its monopoly of political power.”-Chin



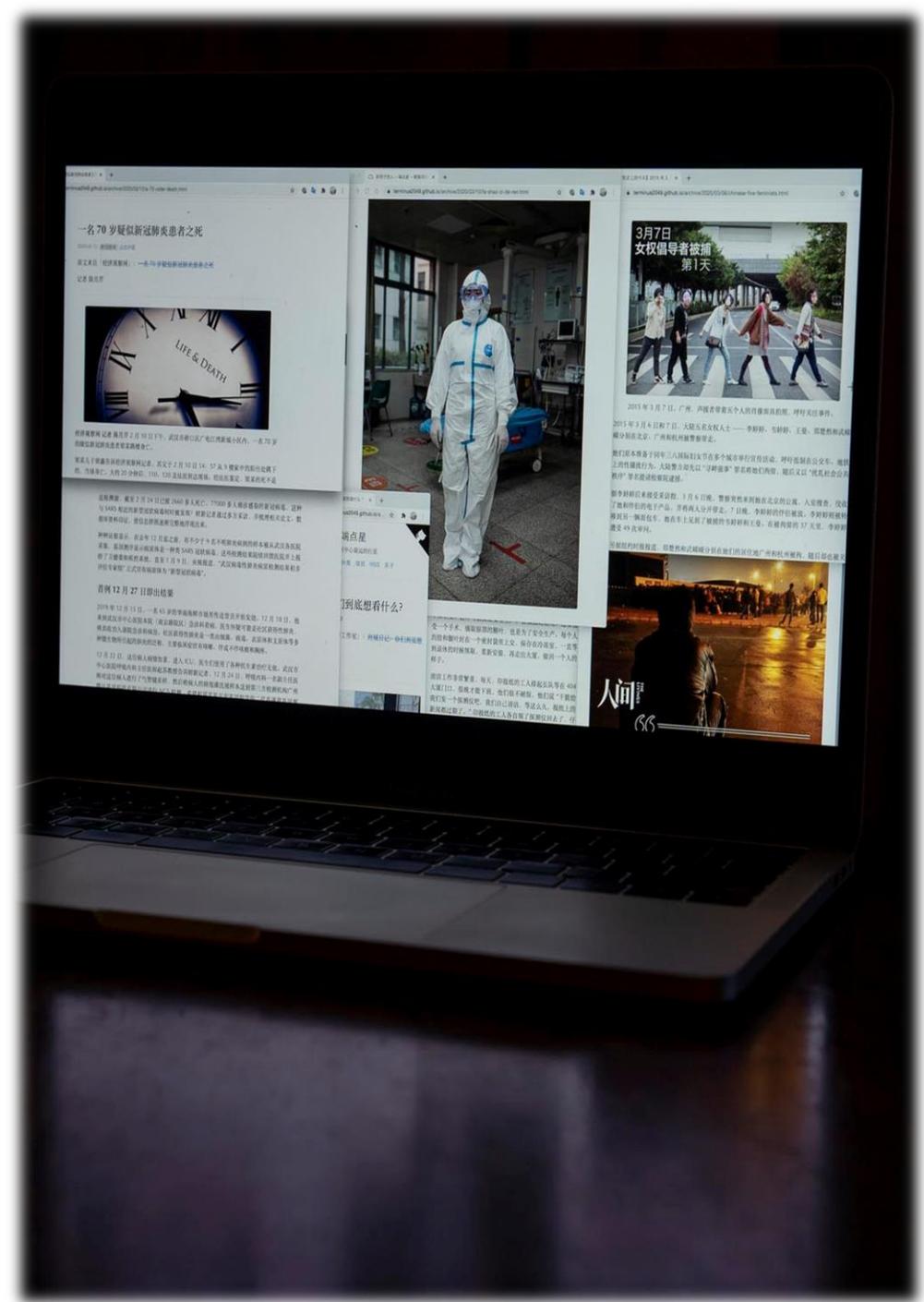
LITERATURE REVIEWS AND METHODOLOGIES

- **Soviet Communist Theory**
- In the soviet communist theory, the media is used to contribute to the success and continuance of the socialist system and the dictatorship of the party.
- **Social Responsibility Theory**
- As an Anglo-American concept, the social responsibility theory includes a lot of key and traditional factors and characteristics of the western society, such as liberal democracy, separation of powers, and check of balance.
- Southern Weekend



LITERATURE REVIEWS AND METHODOLOGIES

- **Investigative Journalism (in China)**
- Investigative Journalism is a type of journalism that requires journalists make a deep and comprehensive investigation on a certain topic of public interest, such as political corruptions, government wrongdoings or series crimes.
- “Investigative journalism is thought of as standing opposite to the powerful, obliged to ensure that political authorities to watch out for the public interest and do their job well.”-Tong
- In other words, the investigative journalism has the duty and responsibility to restrict the power of the authority, oversee the administration, and timely check whether the government is abusing its power.



LITERATURE REVIEWS AND METHODOLOGIES

Civil Society (in China)

- 1989 Tiananmen Square Protest
- “Civil society plays an important role in this learning process and has created more collaborative relationships with authoritarian regimes than liberal theories predicted.”-Teets
- “The Chinese leadership has not politically liberalized toward a hybrid regime as many authoritarian regimes have, but it continues to suppress most political participation by society.”-Teets



LITERATURE REVIEWS AND METHODOLOGIES

- **Chinese nationalism (online)**
- Marx-Leninism party
- 1989 Tiananmen Square Protest
- “The declining faith in socialism and the subsequent student-led pro-democracy protest in 1989 taught the CCP that the official doctrine of Marxism-Leninism was no longer effective in mobilizing loyalty and legitimizing the state.”-Ma



LITERATURE REVIEWS AND METHODOLOGIES

- **Qualitative research method**
- **Thematic approach**
- **Chronological method**



PRINTED MEDIA

- **Southern Weekend**
- One of the most representative and unique cases in the Chinese journalism because of its editing style and its comparative independence.
- “Many in China and in the West insist that Southern Weekend is amongst the boldest, most outspoken and forthright example of watchdog journalism in China.”-Cho
- “The ups and downs experienced by Southern Weekend during its decade of existence provide a glimpse into the limits of journalism in a China under strict official control. The history of Southern Weekend also exemplifies how long and arduous is the path toward freedom of the press in China” –He
- 2013 Southern Weekend Incident



PRINTED MEDIA

- **Internal Documents System**
- In the People's Republic of China, only the high-level government officials have the clearance to read them because the authority afraid the widespread of some negative events might be harmful to the public images of the party and its leadership.
- In the case of “internal documents”, the communist party shares the detailed analysis and investigations about China with its high-level officials, who are the privileged class of this country. At the same time, they used close media censorship to restrict and ban the information that might cause potential or direct damages to the communist party and its one-party rule system in the People's Republic of China. This means that one of the main motivations of using media censorship in China is to defend communist party's interests and eliminate the media reports and investigations might weaken its authoritarian regime.



BROADCASTING MEDIA



- **1989 Du Xian and Zhang Hongmin incident**
- Du Xian and Zhang Hongmin were the announcers of the 7:00 news program of the predominant state television broadcaster of the People's Republic of China that is called as China Central Television. On June 4, 1989, both wore black clothes, and their voices were deeply different from usual when they were reporting the news about the process of Chinese military suppressed thousands of peaceful demonstrators in the Tiananmen Square. Eventually, both were forced to resign from the China Central Television for expressing sympathy to the protestors and demonstration.



INTERNET MEDIA

- **Arab Spring**
- Digital media played a much longer-term role in creating favorable conditions for uprisings, helped to publicize key igniting events, and then facilitated those uprisings and their diffusion.
- “New media have altered the fabric of China’s civil society, legal affairs, politics, and foreign relations. Policy debates and public discourse regularly occur through-and sometimes focus on-the Internet and social media to an extent unimaginable a decade or two ago” - deLise, Goldstein, and Yang



INTERNET MEDIA

- Different from the authoritarian regimes that were removed by the democratized demonstrations during the Arab Spring, Chinese authority successfully turned the Internet, which supposed be an innovation that could facilitate the progress of opening and democratization, into an implement that used for the party to transmit its political ideologies and propaganda to the public.
- **“Internet commentators” and “Little Pink”**



HYPOTHESIS

1. The main motivation of the Chinese government achieve the strong control of Chinese media outlets is to defend its one-party-dictatorship and ruling legitimacy of the Communist Party of China. The media is one of the most significant and decisive factors that can directly influence the status and stabilities of the current regime because of its huge influences on people's values and ideologies, which are the main elements that can decide citizens' images and attitudes to the nation and regime.
2. The Chinese government successfully inherited the Soviet Communist theory from the Soviet Union and tried to improve this type of regulations according to the changes of eras. However, the growth of technologies are bringing more and more challenges to the media censorship that launched by the Chinese government. So far, according to my researches, it seems like the Chinese government is developing its own media censorship strategy based on the previous experiences from the Soviet Communist theory and Authoritarian theory.



HYPOTHESIS

3. The battle between Internet users who are trying to criticize, challenge or even remove the authority, and communist regime's censorship and its Internet commentators is continuously going on. Thus, the result of this battle might become the key factors and turning point of the future of Chinese media industry, journalism and political development.
4. Different from cases of printed and broadcasting media, which both belong to the legacy press, the party and its regime are facing massive and various challenges in the censorship of the new media outlets. In other terms, the Internet and social media seems like the only battleground that communist party did not win all of the initiatives and gain the completely control of it yet.



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