

TABLE OF APPRAISAL

Sentence	ATTITUDE (Asian Times)															
	Affect		Judgement				Appreciation									
			Social Esteem		Social Sanction		Reaction (impact)		Reaction (quality)		Composition (Balance)		Composition (complexity)		Valuation	
	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)
Weekend of <u>rage</u> ends with clashes, tear gas and tense standoffs between protesters and riot police in now familiar scenes of chaos												√				
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<u>Riot police</u> cordoned off Des Voeux Road to prevent restive marchers from reaching the building.						√										
Demonstrators, most of whom dressed in black and hid their identity with goggles and face masks, simmered with <u>anger</u> as they erected makeshift barricades a half-block from police lines outside the area's Western Police Station		√ disat isfac tion														
Both sides exchanged messages in Cantonese and English over loudspeakers before police put on												√				

their gas masks and charged toward the protesters as <u>chaotic scenes</u> unfolded.																		
Territories, using their batons on protesters and leaving the building's tiled floors stained with blood, events that have <u>raised fears</u> of an unyielding pattern of violence.		√ Disinclination																
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Police had issued a rare denial of permission for that gathering to go ahead over fears of <u>violent clashes</u> and deemed the mass assembly as "unlawful."										√								
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Superintendent of Police Public Relations Yolanda Yu explained in an evening press conference on Saturday that the <u>elite riot police</u> unit had entered the station after protesters began throwing fire extinguishers at officers from the West Rail line bridge.						√												
"We entered the station and got the scene <u>under control</u> ," she said.										√								
<u>Violent clashes</u> broke out at various locations in Yuen Long as some protesters removed fences from the kerbside and used metal barriers to block roads.											√							

A spokesman for Beijing's liaison office in Hong Kong on Thursday strongly condemned " <u>malicious rumors</u> " that the Chinese government was behind the bloody episode						√											
adding that the office has " <u>firmly opposed and reprimanded</u> " any form of violent act			√														
The situation has been <u>spiraling downward</u> and, in many people's view, has reached a point of no return												√					
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Carrie Lam's administration is now <u>de facto dysfunctional</u>				√													
AMOUNT	0	2	3	3	1	10	0	0	0	0	2	12	0	1	0	0	

TOTAL APPRAISING ITEMS: 34

Sunday's rally was convened as a <u>"non-violent" demonstration</u> , according to organizers the Civil Human Rights Front.											√						
China's propaganda apparatus <u>has seized</u> on the weeks of violence				√													
Analysts say any intervention by Chinese security forces would be a <u>reputational and economic disaster</u> for China.						√											
A Hong Kong government spokesperson praised the police for <u>handling "illegal acts with tolerance"</u> and appealed to the protesters to "express their views in a peaceful and rational manner."			√														
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Opinions among the protesters have diverged over the billowing violence, which has seen <u>hardcore protesters</u> using rocks, Molotov cocktails and slingshots against the police.						√											
Some say the violence has driven the pro-democracy movement in <u>an uncomfortable direction</u>												√					
"But we have tried many times with <u>peaceful approaches</u> ... I really hope the government can listen to us."			√														
Hong Kong's <u>unprecedented political crisis</u> was sparked by opposition to a plan to allow extraditions to the Chinese mainland													√				

Under a deal signed with Britain, authoritarian China agreed to allow Hong Kong to keep <u>its unique freedoms</u> when it was handed back in 1997.							√										
But many Hong Kongers feel those freedoms <u>are being chipped away</u> , especially since China's hard-line president, Xi Jinping, came to power.							√										
Beyond suspending the extradition bill, Beijing and Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam have shown no desire to meet key demands such as an inquiry into <u>police violence</u>							√										
Beijing has <u>turned the screws</u> on Hong Kong's businesses, pressuring them to toe the line and condemn the protesters.							√										
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On Friday, Cathay Pacific announced the shock resignation of CEO Rupert Hogg after the carrier <u>was excoriated</u> by Beijing because some staff supported the pro-democracy protests.							√										
AMOUNT	0	1	3	1	1	14	1	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	

TOTAL APPRAISING ITEMS: 28

Hong Kong police confirmed that an 18-year-old protester was shot near shoulder in Tsuen Wan at around 4pm after he seriously <u>threatened</u> officers' life during police operations.						√										
Video clips showed that the protester <u>assaulted</u> the police officer next to him with a baton, prompting the officer to engage with self-defense.						√										
The Sha Tin branch office of Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong <u>has also been vandalized</u> by protesters, local media said.						√										
In order to deal with Tuesday's <u>chaotic situation</u> , about 6,000 police officers were deployed, as the police warned of "very, very dangerous" plans by protesters and described their actions over the weekend as being "one step closer to terrorism."												√				
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AMOUNT	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0

TOTAL APPRAISING ITEMS: 22

<p>The mass demonstration was one of the largest in the city's history and a stunning display of <u>rising fear</u> and anger over the erosion of the civil liberties that have long set this former British colony apart from the rest of the country.</p>	<p>√ Disinclination</p>													
<p>The mass demonstration was one of the largest in the city's history and a stunning display of <u>rising fear</u> and <u>anger</u> over the erosion of the civil liberties that have long set this former British colony apart from the rest of the country.</p>	<p>√ disatisfaction</p>													
<p>The crowd of protesters, which stretched more than a mile, represented a <u>dramatic rebuke</u> of the Communist leadership and a potential political crisis for Beijing and Carrie Lam, the leader it selected to govern Hong Kong.</p>					<p>√</p>									
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<p>The police estimated there were 240,000 protesters at the peak of the demonstration, but organizers said it was the biggest rally since more than one million residents gathered in 1989 in support of the student-led democracy movement that was <u>crushed</u> in Tiananmen Square.</p>									<p>√</p>					
<p>The crowd that poured through the canyons of downtown skyscrapers was so vast that many people said they had been stuck in subway stations waiting to join the protest, and some trains skipped stations because of <u>overcrowding</u>.</p>									<p>√</p>					

The immediate goal is to enable the government to send a Hong Kong man to Taiwan, where he <u>is accused of having killed</u> his girlfriend.						√										
But many <u>fear</u> that the Chinese authorities could use charges such as bribery to target people who have angered mainland officials.		√ Disinclination														
But many fear that the Chinese authorities could use charges such as bribery to target people who have <u>angered</u> mainland officials.		√ Dissatisfaction														
The Communist Party had promised a “high degree of autonomy” before Britain returned the territory to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, but many <u>feel</u> that the city’s freedoms are steadily being worn down under Beijing’s rule.		√ Disinclination														
Hong Kong’s courts are far more <u>transparent</u> and independent than those in the mainland.					√											
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“Their judicial system is <u>not good</u> ,”																√
He said the Hong Kong government <u>was rushing</u> the legislation through without properly consulting the public.													√			
Young people and families <u>were prominent</u> in the crowd, with parents bouncing toddlers on their hips and leading young children by the hand. One child clutched a sign saying, “Protect my future.”									√							

“This law is <u>dangerous</u> , and not just for activists,”												√				
“We are not activists. Even as regular citizens, we can’t stand to see China <u>eroding away</u> our freedom.”						√										
Business associations have expressed <u>fear</u> that the measure would harm Hong Kong’s reputation as a commercial center.		√ Disi nclin ation														
That legislation, known as Article 23, was shelved after so many people mobilized against it, arguing that it <u>threatened</u> civil liberties enshrined in Hong Kong’s version of a constitution.						√										
AMOUNT	0	7	2	0	1	7	3	1	0	0	2	5	0	2	0	2

TOTAL APPRAISING ITEMS: 32



The government had argued the proposed extradition bill would "plug the loopholes" so that the city <u>would not be a safe haven</u> for criminals												√				
Critics have said the legislation would expose people in Hong Kong to China's <u>deeply flawed justice system</u>				√												
Many <u>fear</u> the law could be used to target political opponents of the Chinese state.		√														
There were <u>clashes</u> and 22 police and 60 protesters were injured.												√				
The police have been accused by some rights groups of <u>excessive force</u> .							√									
Much of the public <u>anger</u> has been directed at Ms Lam, the region's elected chief executive - who is firmly supported by Beijing.		√														
Part of that <u>anger</u> comes from a tearful address after Wednesday's violence in which she labelled the protests "organised riots" – a label rejected by the hundreds of thousands of peaceful protesters.		√														
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On Sunday, she followed this up with a statement apologising for "her government's work that has led to substantial controversies and disputes in society, <u>causing disappointment</u> and grief among the people".		√ Disa tisfa ction														
AMOUNT	1	6	0	4	3	4	0	1	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0

TOTAL APPRAISING ITEMS: 25



in now on <u>police violence</u> , Carrie Lam’s response, and protestors’ actions across the city.																
However, Thae’s analysis serves as a reminder that China’s domestically legal extradition policies have long <u>violated international norms</u> , such as the principle of non-refoulement, and human rights in their treatment of North Korean escapees.											√					
AMOUNT	0	0	1	3	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0

TOTAL APPRAISING ITEMS: 21



TABLE OF ENGAGEMENT APPRAISAL SYSTEM

ENGAGEMENT - APPRAISER (Asian Times)					
Sentence	Resources				
	Monogloss (The Journalist)	Heterogloss (External Sources)			
		Dialogic Contraction		Dialogic Expansion	
		Disclaim	Proclaim	Entertain	Attribute
Riot police cordoned off Des Voeux Road to prevent restive marchers from reaching the building.	√ (Police Attitude)				
Demonstrators, most of whom dressed in black and hid their identity with goggles and face masks, <u>simmered with anger</u> as they erected makeshift barricades a half-block from police lines outside the area's Western Police Station	√ (The protests)				
Both sides exchanged messages in Cantonese and English over loudspeakers before police put on their gas masks and charged toward the protesters as <u>chaotic scenes</u> unfolded.	√ (The protests)				
Fresh unrest in Hong Kong's western districts on Sunday follows clashes on Saturday (July 27) evening as police stormed a metro station in Yuen Long, a small northwestern town in the New Territories, using their batons on protesters and leaving the building's tiled floors stained with blood, events that <u>have raised fears of an unyielding pattern of violence</u> .	√ (The protests)				
Police had issued a rare denial of permission for that gathering to go ahead over fears of <u>violent clashes</u> and deemed the mass assembly as " <u>unlawful</u> ."	√ (Police Attitude)				
Superintendent of Police Public Relations Yolanda Yu <u>explained</u> in an evening press conference on Saturday that the elite riot police unit had entered the station after protestors began throwing fire extinguishers at officers from the West Rail line bridge. "We entered the station and got the scene under control," she said.					√ Yolanda Yu (Appraiser) Police Attitude (Appraised)

<p>“Violent clashes broke out at various locations in Yuen Long as some protesters removed fences from the kerbside and used metal barriers to block roads. Some hurled bricks and hard objects at police officers and charged cordon lines,” <u>a separate police statement read</u>. Asia Times witnessed protesters engaging in those described actions.</p>				<p>√ Police Statement (Appraiser) Police Attitude (Appraised)</p>
<p>Ho-fung Hung, a political-economy professor at Johns Hopkins University, <u>told Asia Times</u> that the majority of protesters were peaceful and that <u>he believed</u> police escalated the situation by using “indiscriminate violence” that <u>he claimed</u> resembled the actions committed by triad-linked thugs in Yuen Long days earlier</p>				<p>√ Mr. Ho, Political-Economy Professor (Appraiser) Police Attitude (Appraised)</p>
<p>“They are basically using maximum violence short of real bullets to intimidate protesters, chasing and attacking protesters, and even journalists, and social workers. This time they even chased the protesters, who were already leaving, into the MTR station to beat them up,” <u>said the academic</u>.</p>				<p>√ The Academic (Appraiser) Police Attitude (Appraised)</p>
<p>Hong Kong police, however, did order additional train services to allow protesters, who travelled to the town by MTR from various parts of the territory, time to leave Yuen Long to avoid a repeat of past bloody confrontations that have become increasingly frequent as <u>unyielding demonstrations</u> by pro-democracy activists reach their eight week.</p>	<p>√ (The protests)</p>			
<p>“Whoever is supporting this police action must think police violence can deter further protests. But that is obviously not working, as protesters are becoming ever more audacious and determined,” Hung <u>noted and stated his belief</u> that “protests will continue.”</p>				<p>√ Mr. Hung (Appraiser) Police Attitude (Appraised)</p>
<p>Despite the increasingly bold and sometimes violent tactics adopted by some segments of the protest movement, Hong Kong’s radical young protesters are “still rational,” <u>believes</u> Joseph Cheng, a political scientist at City University of Hong Kong.</p>				<p>√ Joseph Cheng, political scientist (Appraiser)</p>

					Police Attitude (Appraised)
“They have their logic, which is that peaceful protests are going to be ineffective, so there must be a further element of mildly violent actions to exert pressure on the Carrie Lam administration and show that it is ineffective. I do not agree with this, but this is what they believe,” <u>he said</u> .					√ Joseph Cheng, political scientist (Appraiser) The Protests (Appraised)
Hong Kong police, who have been widely criticized for their <u>heavy-handed response</u> to the protests that have occurred intermittently since early June, are accused of turning a blind eye to last Sunday’s (July 21) attack by triad-linked assailants, and even of colluding with the white-shirted gang that wielded bamboo sticks and iron bars.	√ (Police Attitude)				
Police officials and the city’s government have strongly denied those allegations, though the city’s top cop, Commissioner of Police Stephen Lo, <u>admitted that</u> law enforcement officers arrived to the scene 35 minutes late due to manpower being overstretched as officers were deployed across elsewhere in the territory to deal with various mass protests.			√ Commissioner of Police, Mr. Lo (Appraiser) Police Attitude (Appraised)		
“This is one of the entrances to go to the underworld,” Mike, a 27-year-old customer service agent wearing a face mask, <u>told Asia Times</u> as he pointed to the village, which was cordoned off and protected by several formations of riot police.					√ Mr. Mike (Appraiser) Police Attitude (Appraised)
“You see the police? They are using the best of the best to protect the underworld. The police are working together [with them] and not protecting the Hong Kong people,” <u>he claimed</u> , a view echoed by every demonstrator interviewed on the scene by Asia Times.					√ Mr. Mike (Appraiser) Police Attitude (Appraised)
“The government are devils. They are joined together with the underground triads, the black power. They are just trying to threaten people with opposite opinions to be silenced, but the Hong Kong people are not threatened by their					√

dirty tricks,” said Aida, a 60-year-old retiree. “It should be the police’s responsibility to protect the people.”					Mrs.Aida, The Protester (Appraiser) The HK government (Appraised)
Some analysts <u>have claimed</u> that the shadowy groups find employment as hired muscle tasked with targeting Beijing’s opponents, though a clear chain of evidence to substantiate such a link in the latest instance has not surfaced.					√ Analyst (Appraiser) Chinese government (Appraised)
A spokesman for Beijing’s liaison office in Hong Kong on Thursday <u>strongly condemned</u> “malicious rumors” that the Chinese government was behind the bloody episode, adding that the office has “firmly opposed and reprimanded any form of violent act.”	√ (HK government)				
Cheung Yiu-Leung, a barrister and member of the China Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group, <u>told Asia Times</u> that heavy pressure is mounting on embattled Chief Executive Carrie Lam to accede to protester’s demands for her resignation and the formation of an independent enquiry committee into alleged police misconduct.					√ Mr. Cheung, Lawyer (Appraiser) HK government (Appraised)
“The situation has been spiraling downward and, in many people’s view, has reached a point of no return. Carrie Lam’s administration is now de facto dysfunctional,” <u>he said</u> . “It is now a mainstream public opinion that [an independent enquiry] is the only way to restore order and a sense of justice. Carrie Lam’s time is up.”					√ Mr. Cheung, Lawyer (Appraiser) HK government (Appraised)
AMOUNT	7	0	1	0	13

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT ITEMS: 2

ENGAGEMENT - APPRAISER
(The Japan Times)

Sentence	Resources				
	Monogloss (The Journalist)	Heterogloss (External Sources)			
		Dialogic Contraction		Dialogic Expansion	
		Disclaim	Proclaim	Entertain	Attribute
Tens of thousands of protesters flood Hong Kong streets in <u>'peaceful' march</u>	√ (Police Attitude)				
Ten weeks of demonstrations have plunged the financial hub into crisis, with images of masked black-clad protesters engulfed by tear gas during street battles against <u>riot police</u> stunning a city once renowned for its stability.	√ (Police Attitude)				
Sunday's action, which continued into the night, was billed by organizers as a return to <u>the "peaceful" origins</u> of the leaderless protest movement.	√ (The protests)				
Yet <u>anger</u> remains sharp among protesters over perceived police <u>heavy-handedness</u> for responding to demonstrations with tear gas, baton charges and rubber bullets — incidents that have pinballed across social media.	√ (Police Attitude)				
"The police are doing things that are totally unacceptable," <u>said</u> Yim, who like many of the protesters gave only one name. "They are hurting citizens, they aren't protecting us."					√ Mr. Yim, Protester (Appraiser) Police Attitude (Appraised)
Communist-ruled mainland China has taken an increasingly hard-line tone toward the protesters, decrying <u>the "terrorist-like" actions</u> of a violent <u>hardcore minority among the demonstrators</u> .	√ (The protests)				
Despite the <u>near-nightly clashes</u> with police, the movement has won few concessions from Beijing or the city's unelected leadership.	√ (The protests)				
<u>The spiralling violence</u> , which last week saw protesters paralyze the city's airport, has tarnished a campaign that had taken pride in its <u>peaceful intent</u> and	√ (The protests)				

<u>unpredictability</u> — which demonstrators have tagged with the slogan “Be Water.”					
Sunday’s rally was convened as a “non-violent” demonstration, <u>according to</u> organizers the Civil Human Rights Front.					√ The organizer (Appraiser) The protests (Appraised)
“We have our gear with us, but we hope not to use it,” <u>said a 30-year-old</u> <u>identifying himself only as Man.</u>					√ Protester (Appraiser) Police Attitude (Appraised)
China’s propaganda apparatus <u>has seized</u> on the weeks of violence, with state media churning out a deluge of damning articles, pictures and videos.	√ (Chinese government)				
<u>Analysts say</u> any intervention by Chinese security forces would be a reputational and economic disaster for China.					√ Analyst (Appraiser) Chinese government (Appraised)
A Hong Kong government spokesperson praised the police for handling “illegal acts with tolerance” and appealed to the protesters to “express their views in a <u>peaceful and rational manner.</u> ”	√ (Police Attitude)				
Opinions among the protesters have diverged over the billowing violence, which has seen <u>hardcore protesters</u> using rocks, Molotov cocktails and slingshots against the police.	√ (The protests)				
<u>Some say</u> the violence has driven the pro-democracy movement in an uncomfortable direction.					√ The protester (Appraiser) Police Attitude (Appraised)
“There are some expressing extreme views,” rally-goer <u>Ray Cheng, 30, said.</u> “But we have tried many times with peaceful approaches ... I really hope the government can listen to us.”					√ Mr. Cheng, Protester (Appraiser) HK government (Appraised)

Hong Kong's <u>unprecedented political crisis</u> was sparked by opposition to a plan to allow extraditions to the Chinese mainland.	√ (HK government)				
Under a deal signed with Britain, authoritarian China agreed to allow Hong Kong to keep <u>its unique freedoms</u> when it was handed back in 1997.	√ (HK government)				
But many Hong Kongers feel those freedoms <u>are being chipped away</u> , especially since China's hard-line president, Xi Jinping, came to power.	√ (The Extradition Bill)				
Beyond suspending the extradition bill, Beijing and Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam have shown no desire to meet key demands such as an inquiry into <u>police violence</u> , the complete withdrawal of the bill and an amnesty.	√ (Police Attitude)				
Beijing has turned the screws on Hong Kong's businesses, pressuring them to toe the line and <u>condemn</u> the protesters.	√ (Chinese government)				
On Friday, Cathay Pacific announced the shock resignation of CEO Rupert Hogg after the carrier <u>was excoriated</u> by Beijing because some staff supported the pro-democracy protests.	√ (Chinese government)				
AMOUNT	16	0	0	0	6

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT ITEMS: 22

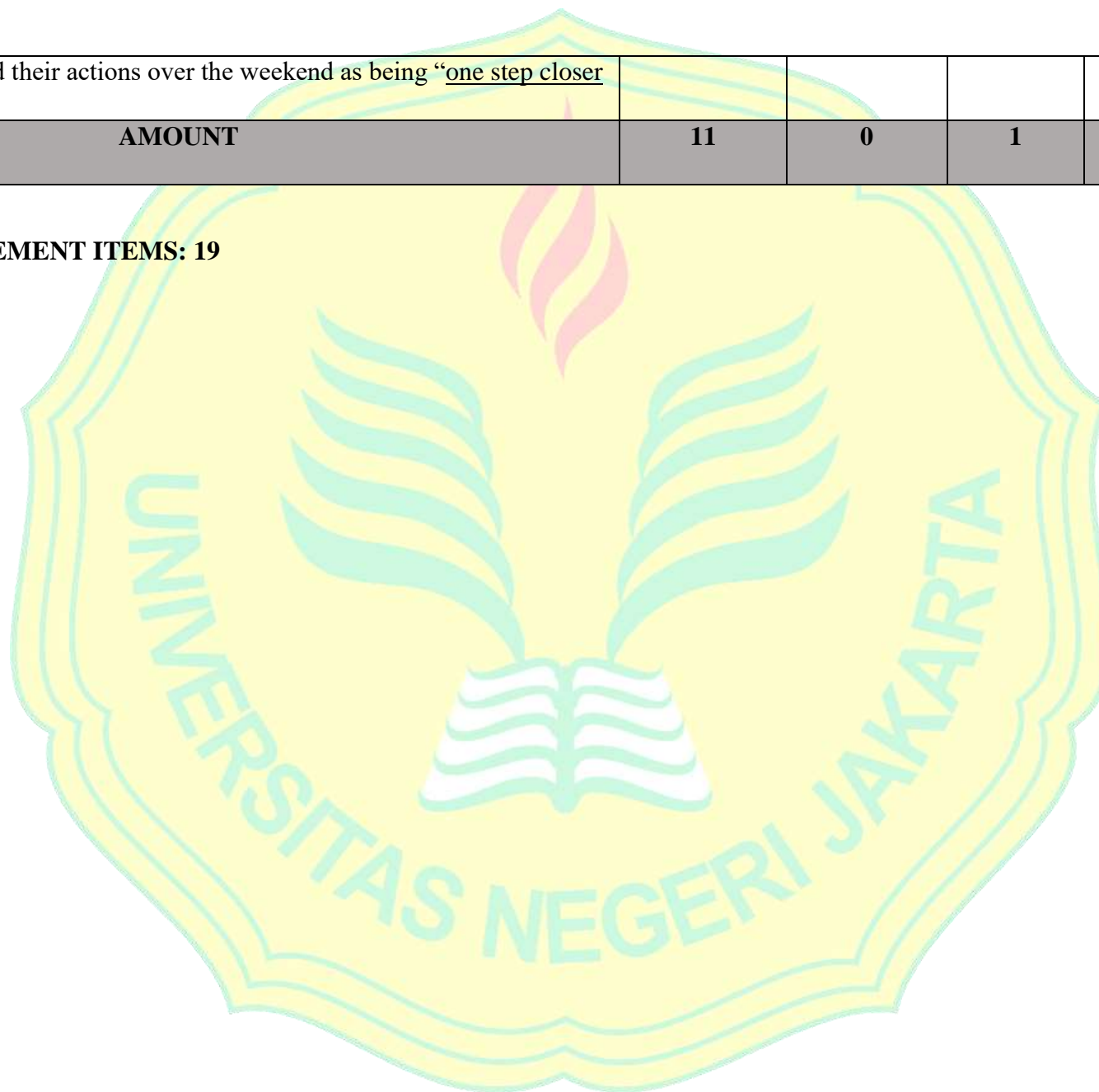
ENGAGEMENT - APPRAISER
(Global Times)

Sentence	Resources				
	Monogloss (The Journalist)	Heterogloss (External Sources)			
		Dialogic Contraction		Dialogic Expansion	
		Disclaim	Proclaim	Entertain	Attribute
Violence leaves over 100 injured, 2 in critical condition in 18th week of <u>HK riots</u>	√ (The protesters)				
<u>Rioters</u> have thrown a corrosive fluid that has injured police and reporters in the Tuen Mun area.	√ (The protesters)				
Police <u>have strongly condemned the violent act</u> and are warning the public to mind their personal safety.	√ (Police Attitude)				
Violent protests injured over a hundred people and left two in critical condition from various parts of Hong Kong Tuesday, <u>hospital sources said</u> Wednesday, as the city was engulfed by 18 consecutive weeks of riots that again descended into lawlessness.					√ Hospital Sources (Appraiser) The protests (Appraised)
<u>Radical protesters</u> scattered around 1 pm Tuesday in different places including Wan Chai, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan, all dressed in black.	√ (The protesters)				
They <u>illegally occupied</u> the streets and disrupted the public transit	√ (The protesters)				
They also <u>violently attacked</u> police officers.	√ (The protesters)				
Police reacted quickly by deploying a water cannon to disperse <u>violent protesters</u> .	√ (The protesters)				
In Tuen Mun, <u>rioters</u> used corrosive fluid, injuring multiple police officers and reporters.	√ (The protesters)				
In Yau Ma Tei, rioters <u>attacked</u> a police officer and <u>smashed</u> police vans, <u>forcing</u> the police to fire two warning shots.	√ (The protesters)				

The Hong Kong Hospital Authority <u>told the Global Times</u> around 10:30 am on Wednesday that 104 people were injured.					√ Hospital Authority (Appraiser) The protests (Appraised)
<u>The authority said</u> on Tuesday night that two were in serious condition, two in critical condition.					√ Authority (Appraiser) The protests (Appraised)
A group of protesters <u>attacked</u> a police van with sticks and other projectiles at the junction of Waterloo Road and Nathan Road.	√ (The protesters)				
A few officers got out of the van to try to chase them away, but one fell to the ground and was assaulted by protesters, <u>local media reported</u> .					√ Local Media (Appraiser) The protesters (Appraised)
<u>Hong Kong police confirmed</u> that an 18-year-old protester was shot near shoulder in Tsuen Wan at around 4pm after he seriously threatened officers' life during police operations					√ HK Police (Appraiser) The protesters (Appraised)
The protester was later sent to the Princess Margaret Hospital, <u>sources from the police said</u> .					√ Protester (Appraiser) The protesters (Appraised)
<u>Video clips showed</u> that the protester assaulted the police officer next to him with a baton, prompting the officer to engage with self-defense.			√ Video Clips (Appraiser) The protesters (Appraised)		
The Sha Tin branch office of Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong has also been vandalized by protesters, <u>local media said</u> .					√ Local Media (Appraiser) The protests (Appraised)
In order to deal with Tuesday's <u>chaotic situation</u> , about 6,000 police officers were deployed, as the police warned of " <u>very, very dangerous</u> " plans by	√ (The protests)				

protesters and described their actions over the weekend as being “ <u>one step closer to terrorism.</u> ”					
AMOUNT	11	0	1	0	7

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT ITEMS: 19



ENGAGEMENT - APPRAISER
(The New York Times)

Sentence	Resources				
	Monogloss (The Journalist)	Heterogloss (External Sources)			
		Dialogic Contraction		Dialogic Expansion	
		Disclaim	Proclaim	Entertain	Attribute
Hong Kong March: Vast Protest of Extradition Bill Shows <u>Fear</u> of Eroding Freedoms	√ (The protests)				
Hundreds of thousands of people filled the sweltering streets of Hong Kong on Sunday in an <u>immense protest</u> against a government plan to allow extraditions to mainland <u>China</u> that <u>culminated after midnight in clashes</u> with the police.	√ (The protests)				
The mass demonstration was one of the largest in the city's history and a <u>stunning display of rising fear and anger</u> over the erosion of the civil liberties that have long set this former British colony apart from the rest of the country	√ (The protests)				
<u>Organizers said</u> they counted more than one million on the streets, or nearly one in seven Hong Kong residents.					√ Organizer (Appraiser) The protests (Appraised)
The crowd of protesters, which stretched more than a mile, represented a <u>dramatic rebuke of the Communist leadership and a potential political crisis</u> for Beijing and Carrie Lam, the leader it selected to govern Hong Kong.	√ (The protests)				
"I think this law will take away our freedoms if it is implemented," <u>said Peter Lam</u> , a 16-year-old high school student, referring to the extradition law that Ms. Lam is trying to push through with Beijing's support. "We will not have the right to express ourselves. So we must stand up and express ourselves today."					√ Peter Lam, Protester (Appraiser) HK Government (Appraised)

The police estimated there were 240,000 protesters at the peak of the demonstration, but <u>organizers said</u> it was the biggest rally since more than one million residents gathered in 1989 in support of the student-led democracy movement that was crushed in Tiananmen Square.					√ Organizer (Appraiser) The protests (Appraised)
The crowd that poured through the canyons of downtown skyscrapers was so vast that <u>many people said</u> they had been stuck in subway stations waiting to join the protest, and some trains skipped stations because of overcrowding.					√ Protesters (Appraiser) The protests (Appraised)
Despite the large numbers, neither Beijing nor the Hong Kong government showed any willingness to back down, and <u>officials confirmed</u> that a second legislative reading of the bill would proceed as scheduled on Wednesday.					√ Officials (Appraiser) HK Government (Appraised)
A draft law that <u>punishes disrespect</u> for the Chinese national anthem has raised concerns about free speech in a place where soccer fans have been known to boo when the song is played.	√ (The Extradition Bill)				
For most of the day, Sunday's demonstration was <u>peaceful</u> .	√ (The protests)				
About 1 a.m., long after most protesters had left, <u>riot police</u> with helmets and shields moved in to remove a few hundred who were trying to occupy an area in front of the legislature.	√ (Police Attitude)				
Some protesters pushed metal barriers and tossed bottles and sticks at the police, shouting, " <u>Communist dogs!</u> "	√ (Police Attitude)				
The police charged, firing pepper spray, striking people with batons and <u>pushing</u> the protesters away from the government complex.	√ (Police Attitude)				
<u>The clashes</u> continued into early Monday morning, with both protesters and police injured.	√ (The protests)				
Despite the size of the protests, the government was unlikely to be swayed, <u>said Ivan Choy</u> , a senior lecturer in the department of government and public administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.					√ Mr. Choy, Protester (Appraiser)

					HK Government (Appraised)
“The major problem is that Xi Jinping holds power in China, and he is a strongman,” <u>Mr. Choy said</u> , referring to China’s top leader.					√ Mr. Choy, Protester (Appraiser) Chinese Government (Appraised)
At public events elsewhere in the city, Ms. Lam declined to answer questions about the protests. But the huge public outcry puts her in <u>a difficult spot</u> ahead of a vote on the bill expected later this month.	√ (HK Government)				
Late Sunday, <u>the government</u> , responding to the protests, said the bill would prevent Hong Kong from becoming a haven for fugitives.					√ The government (Appraiser) Extradition Bill (Appraised)
The immediate goal is to enable the government to send a Hong Kong man to Taiwan, where he <u>is accused of having killed</u> his girlfriend.	√ (HK Government)				
But many <u>fear</u> that the Chinese authorities could use charges such as bribery to target people who have <u>angered</u> mainland officials.	√ (Chinese Government)				
The Communist Party had promised a “high degree of autonomy” before Britain returned the territory to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, but many <u>feel</u> that the city’s freedoms are steadily <u>being worn down</u> under Beijing’s rule.	√ (Chinese Government)				
Hong Kong’s courts are far more <u>transparent and independent</u> than those in the mainland.	√ (HK Government)				
<u>Organizers said</u> more than a million people joined the protest, though the police said the figure was 240,000 at its peak					√ Organizers (Appraiser) The Protests (Appraised)

<p>“Their judicial system is not good,” <u>George Wan, 31, a freelance tour guide and writer at the protest, said of mainland China.</u></p>					<p>√ Mr.Wan, Protester (Appraiser) HK Government (Appraised)</p>
<p><u>He said</u> the Hong Kong government was rushing the legislation through without properly consulting the public.</p>					<p>√ Mr.Wan, Protester (Appraiser) HK Government (Appraised)</p>
<p>“We want to use our footsteps to tell the government we want more time,” <u>Mr. Wan said</u> as he waved a folding fan painted with characters that read “Oppose sending to China.”</p>					<p>√ Mr.Wan, Protester (Appraiser) HK Government (Appraised)</p>
<p>Young people and families <u>were prominent</u> in the crowd, with parents bouncing toddlers on their hips and leading young children by the hand. One child clutched a sign saying, “Protect my future.</p>	<p>√ (The protests)</p>				
<p>The protest also drew people who normally stay on the sidelines. <u>Lee Kin-long, 46, said</u> he and his wife felt they needed to attend.</p>					<p>√ Mr.Long, Protester (Appraiser) The Protests (Appraised)</p>
<p>“This law is dangerous, and not just for activists,” <u>he said.</u> “We are not activists. Even as regular citizens, we can’t stand to see China eroding away our freedom.”</p>					<p>√ Mr.Long, Protester (Appraiser) HK Government (Appraised)</p>
<p>Business associations <u>have expressed fear</u> that the measure would harm Hong Kong’s reputation as a commercial center</p>	<p>√ (HK Government)</p>				
<p>In Washington, <u>the State Department noted that</u> it had documented “rights violations and abuses carried out by China’s legal system, as well as general deterioration of respect for the rule of law.”</p>					<p>√ State Department (Appraiser)</p>

					Chinese Government (Appraised)
“Continued erosion of the ‘One country, two systems’ frameworks puts at risk Hong Kong’s established special status in international affairs,” the department said in a statement.					√ State Department (Appraiser) HK Government (Appraised)
<u>Lawyers in Hong Kong</u> responded to the legislation on Thursday by dressing in black for a silent protest march. A high court judge who signed a petition organized by University of Hong Kong alumni was reprimanded by the city’s chief justice.					√ Lawyers (Appraiser) The Protests (Appraised)
That legislation, known as Article 23, was shelved after so many people mobilized against it, arguing that it <u>threatened</u> civil liberties enshrined in Hong Kong’s version of a constitution	√ (HK Government)				
But <u>pro-democracy lawmakers</u> have said that unless the government backs down, the measure is likely to pass in the local legislature, where pro-Beijing lawmakers hold 43 of 70 seats.					√ Lawmakers (Appraiser) HK Government (Appraised)
AMOUNT	18	0	0	0	18

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT ITEMS: 36

**ENGAGEMENT - APPRAISER
(BBC News)**

Sentence	Resources				
	Monogloss (The Journalists)	Heterogloss (External Sources)			
		Dialogic Contraction		Dialogic Expansion	
		Disclaim	Proclaim	Entertain	Attribute
Nearly two million people have taken part in a mass protest in Hong Kong against a controversial extradition bill, <u>organisers say</u> .					√ Organisers (Appraiser) The Protests (Appraised)
If confirmed, it would be the largest protest in Hong Kong's history. <u>Police said</u> turnout was 338,000 at its peak.					√ Police (Appraiser) The Protests (Appraised)
Many protesters, who <u>fear</u> increased Chinese influence over Hong Kong, are calling on her to resign over the unrest.	√ (The protests)				
"Today's march we had almost two million people," <u>Jimmy Sham, from the Civil Human Rights Front protest group, told reporters</u> late on Sunday evening.					√ Protester (Appraiser) The Protests (Appraised)
The protest was <u>mainly peaceful</u> , with police officers reportedly holding back to allow the throngs of people to slowly pass through the city.	√ (The protests)				
This contrasted to scenes at the last previous major demonstration on Wednesday, which saw <u>clashes</u> between protesters and police that injured dozens.	√ (The protests)				
The progress of the march was <u>slow</u> , as the large numbers of people blocked many streets and crowded train stations.	√ (The protests)				

They carried placards that read " <u>The students did not riot</u> ", in response to police labelling last Wednesday's student protests <u>a riot</u> - an offence punishable by up to 10 years in jail.	√ (The protesters)				
"Carrie Lam has ignored the feelings of Hong Kongers," <u>Mr Ma, a 67-year-old protester, told the BBC</u> . He said Ms Lam had "acted like it was no big deal" after a reported million people marched last week.					√ Mr. Ma, Protester (Appraiser) HK Government (Appraised)
"Secondly, we are marching for the students who were <u>brutally treated</u> by the police. We need to get justice for them."			√ (Police Attitude)		
Chloe Yim, 20, who had <u>joined the protests for the first time, said</u> : "If Carrie sees so many people come out, and still doesn't listen - she's being an autocrat who doesn't listen to people. Hong Kong people can't accept that."					√ Mr. Yim, Protester (Appraiser) HK Government (Appraised)
The government had hoped to reduce public <u>anger</u> by announcing a pause in the legislation on Saturday.	√ (HK Government)				
That has patently failed, as even bigger numbers - close to two million, <u>according to the organisers</u> , took to the streets.					√ Organisers (Appraiser) The Protests (Appraised)
The government is now trying to strike a conciliatory tone - <u>in a statement, it said</u> it understood the protesters' views "have been made out of love and care for Hong Kong". It promised the chief executive would adopt a more "sincere and humble attitude" towards public criticism.					√ Protester Statement (Appraiser) The Protests (Appraised)
But this is <u>too little, too late</u> for many protesters, who insist they won't settle for anything less than the bill being completely withdrawn.	√ (HK Government)				
But even if Ms Lam resigns, there's no guarantee that protesters will be <u>satisfied</u> with whoever replaces her - especially as, under Hong Kong's political system, the leader is elected by a small panel filled with allies of the Beijing government.	√ (HK Government)				

The government had argued the proposed extradition bill would "plug the loopholes" so that the city would not be a safe haven for criminals, following a murder case in Taiwan.					√ Government (Appraiser) Extradition Bill (Appraised)
Critics have said the legislation would expose people in Hong Kong to China's deeply flawed justice system and lead to further erosion of the city's judicial independence.					√ Critics (Appraiser) Extradition Bill (Appraised)
Many fear the law could be used to target political opponents of the Chinese state.	√ (Extradition Bill)				
There were clashes and 22 police and 60 protesters were injured.	√ (The protests)				
The police have been accused by some rights groups of excessive force.	√ (Police Attitude)				
Much of the public anger has been directed at Ms Lam, the region's elected chief executive - who is firmly supported by Beijing.	√ (The protests)				
Part of that anger comes from a tearful address after Wednesday's violence in which she labelled the protests "organised riots" – a label rejected by the hundreds of thousands of peaceful protesters.	√ (The protests)				
On Sunday, she followed this up with a statement apologising for "her government's work that has led to substantial controversies and disputes in society, causing disappointment and grief among the people".	√ (HK Government)				
AMOUNT	14	0	1	0	9

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT ITEMS: 24

**ENGAGEMENT - APPRAISER
(NK News)**

Sentence	Resources				
	Monogloss (The Journalist)	Heterogloss (External Sources)			
		Dialogic Contraction		Dialogic Expansion	
		Disclaim	Proclaim	Entertain	Attribute
The first is that Hong Kong’s anti-ELAB movement is the fault of Western countries. In July, a DPRK Today article <u>described</u> the protests – or “riots” as it names them – as carried out by “dishonest forces, instigated by the Western countries.”					√ DPRK Today (Appraiser) The Protests (Appraised)
The articles <u>specifically name</u> the United States as one of these countries, which have banded together to destroy China.					√ DPRK Today (Appraiser) Western Countries (Appraised)
A Rodong Sinmun article published in August <u>alleged that</u> the West was not only “outright [interfering]” but also “fussing over the issue of Hong Kong as if it is now or never.”					√ Rodong sinmun (Appraiser) Western Countries (Appraised)
North Korean articles have honed in on this issue, <u>proclaiming that</u> the protests are a domestic Chinese affair and thus within China’s sovereign right to manage.					√ North Korean articles (Appraiser) The Protests (Appraised)
A Rodong Sinmun article from July also <u>highlighted that</u> China’s capacity to respond was strong: ‘China has all sorts of methods and powerful forces enough to quickly quell every upheaval according to the rules of its main law.’					√ Rodong Sinmun (Appraiser)

					Chinese Government (Appraised)
The third theme is that the protests have been <u>chaotic and threatening to peace</u> .	√ (The protests)				
DPRK state media <u>has described</u> the protests as ‘destabilizing the social and political situation,’ ‘extremely violent,’ and alleging that protesters have beat policemen and innocent bystanders.					√ DPRK Today (Appraiser) The Protests (Appraised)
Stability is a concern highlighted in articles, such as a statement from a DPRK foreign ministry spokesperson that <u>outlined</u> the aforementioned “foreign forces” attempts “to destroy the security and order of the society of Hong Kong and do harm to the life and properties of the citizens.”					√ DPRK Today (Appraiser) Western Countries (Appraised)
A DPRK Today article <u>described</u> the protests... as carried out by “dishonest forces, instigated by the Western countries.”					√ DPRK Today (Appraiser) Western Countries (Appraised)
The articles <u>paint</u> a scene of a chaotic, volatile life for ordinary Hong Kongers.					√ DPRK Today (Appraiser) The Protests (Appraised)
China is depicted as a protector in an August Rodong Sinmun article, which <u>describes</u> Beijing as “ensuring rights and freedom of inhabitants according to the basic law and handling hooligans through legal actions.”					√ Rodong Sinmun (Appraiser) Chinese Government (Appraised)
Through these three themes, a narrative emerges where Hong Kong protesters, though unruly and in need of punishment through Chinese legal mechanisms, are not the core source of <u>destruction and ire</u> .	√ (Chinese government)				
Instead, foreign forces are depicted as the <u>root cause and main instigator of chaos</u> , intended to destabilize and weaken China.	√ (Western Countries)				

He <u>explained</u> that growing knowledge of the situation in South Korea is spread through things like small media drives with media from south of the DMZ, and that this may instigate North Koreans to question why they don't have the same situation as those in the south.					√ Mr. Thae (Appraiser) Protest response (Appraised)
Thae <u>posited that</u> this could lead to something like what is happening in Hong Kong.					√ Mr. Thae (Appraiser) The Protests (Appraised)
These comments were situated in the context of reunification, because he <u>believes</u> the push for reunification will come from North Korean and not South Korea.					√ Mr. Thae (Appraiser) Protest response (Appraised)
He <u>opined that</u> this experience taught Kim Jong Un to be more flexible in regards to capitalist elements, but in balance to take a harsher stance towards the spread of South Korean cultural content.					√ Mr. Thae (Appraiser) Protest response (Appraised)
Under this law, China regularly arrests and extradites North Korean defectors who flee to China to escape poverty and oppression, <u>referring</u> to them as “illegal economic migrants.”					√ Mr. Thae (Appraiser) Extradition Bill (Appraised)
primarily looking at the implications of the extradition bill, honing in now on <u>police violence</u> , Carrie Lam's response, and protestors' actions across the city.	√ (Police Attitude)				
However, Thae's analysis serves as a reminder that China's domestically legal extradition policies have <u>long violated international norms</u> , such as the principle of non-refoulement, and human rights in their treatment of North Korean escapees.	√ (Chinese government)				
But <u>according to</u> Thae's perspective, this potential will only grow as North Koreans learn more about the outside world and about South Korea in particular.					√ Mr. Thae (Appraiser)

					Protest response (Appraised)
The regime has survived three generations of Kim leadership and a famine, but if the potential for media is as transformative as Thae believes, the DPRK may one day face their own situation of defiance to an authoritarian regime.					√ Mr. Thae (Appraiser) Protest response (Appraised)
AMOUNT	5	0	0	0	17

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT ITEMS: 22

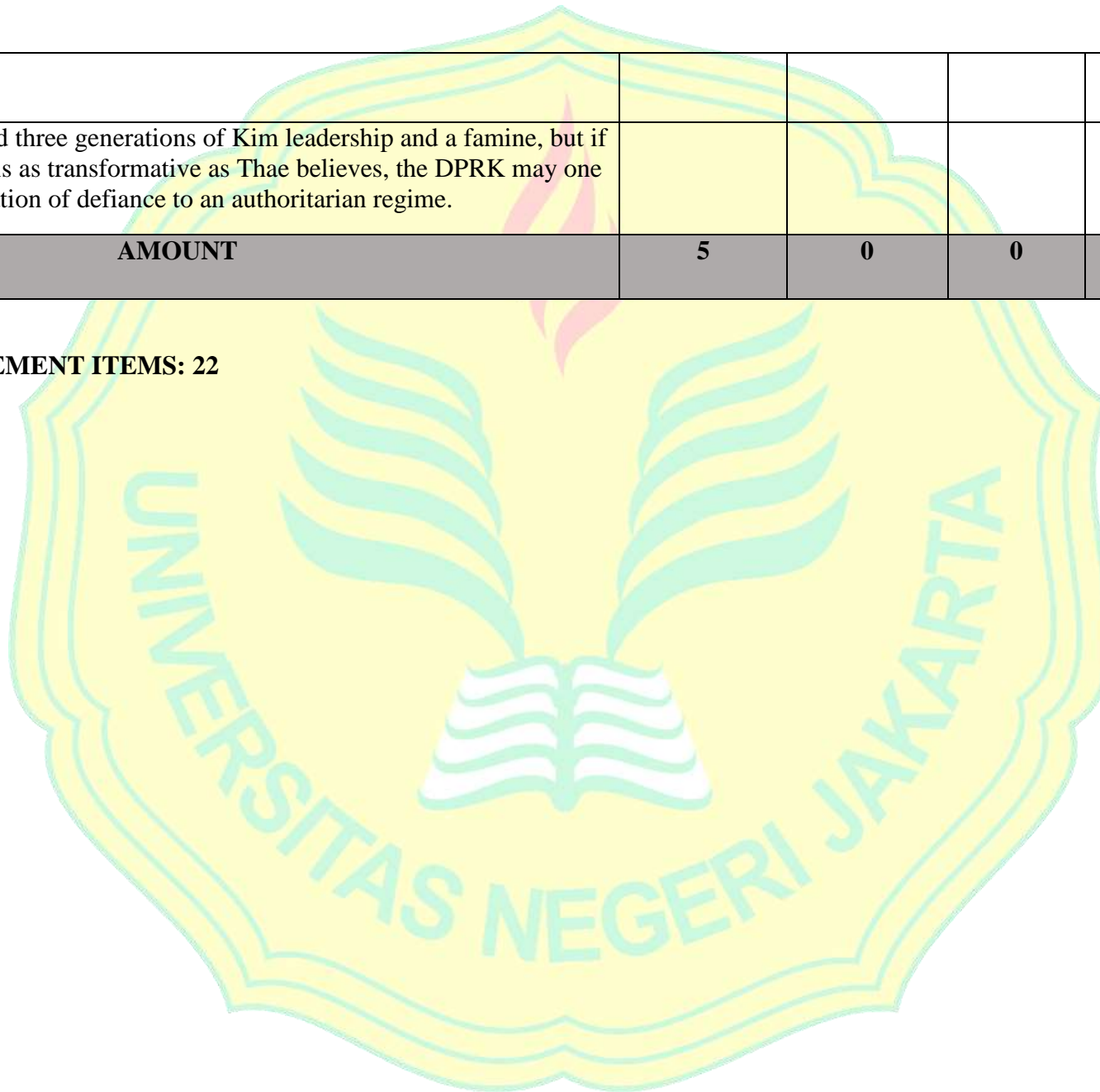


TABLE OF APPRAISAL

GRADUATION (Asian Times)								
Sentence	Force						Focus	
	Intensity			Quantification			Up-Scale	Down-Scale
	Over Quality	Over Process	Modality	Number	Mass	Extent		
a day after black-clad activists descended on the northwestern town of Yuen Long in their <u>thousands</u> .					√			
as protesters are becoming ever <u>more</u> audacious and determined,”	√							
so there must be a further element of <u>mildly</u> violent actions to exert pressure on the Carrie Lam administration and show that it is ineffective.		√						
Hong Kong police, who have been <u>widely</u> criticized for their heavy-handed response to the protests that have occurred intermittently since early June		√						
Hong Kong police, who have been widely criticized for their <u>heavy</u> -handed response to the protests that have occurred intermittently since early June	√							
Police officials and the city’s government have <u>strongly</u> denied those allegations		√						

“It <u>should</u> be the police’s responsibility to protect the people.”			√					
A spokesman for Beijing’s liaison office in Hong Kong on Thursday <u>strongly</u> condemned “malicious rumors” that the Chinese government was behind the bloody episode,		√						
adding that the office has “ <u>firmly</u> opposed and reprimanded any form of violent act.”		√						
Cheung Yiu-Leung, a barrister and member of the China Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group, told Asia Times that <u>heavy</u> pressure is mounting on embattled Chief Executive Carrie Lam	√							

TOTAL GRADUATION ITEMS: 10

GRADUATION (The Japan Times)								
Sentence	Force						Focus	
	Intensity			Quantification			Up-Scale	Down-Scale
	Over Quality	Over Process	Modality	Number	Mass	Extent		
Yet anger remains <u>sharp</u> among protesters over perceived police heavy-handedness	√							

Yet anger remains sharp among protesters over perceived police <u>heavy-handedness</u>	√							
“The police are doing things that are <u>totally unacceptable</u> ,”		√						

TOTAL GRADUATION ITEMS: 3

GRADUATION (Global Times)								
Sentence	Force						Focus	
	Intensity			Quantification			Up-Scale	Down-Scale
	Over Quality	Over Process	Modality	Number	Mass	Extent		
Police have <u>strongly</u> condemned the violent act and are warning the public to mind their personal safety.		√						
They also <u>violently</u> attacked police officers.		√						
In order to deal with Tuesday’s chaotic situation, about 6,000 police officers were deployed, as the police warned of “ <u>quites</u> , very dangerous” plans by protesters	√							

In order to deal with Tuesday's chaotic situation, about 6,000 police officers were deployed, as the police warned of "quites, <u>very dangerous</u> " plans by protesters	√							

TOTAL GRADUATION ITEMS: 4

GRADUATION (The New York Times)								
Sentence	Force						Focus	
	Intensity			Quantification			Up-Scale	Down-Scale
	Over Quality	Over Process	Modality	Number	Mass	Extent		
The mass demonstration was one of the <u>largest</u> in the city's history and a stunning display of rising fear and anger over the erosion of the civil liberties					√			
Since then, China's ruling Communist Party has been <u>gradually</u> exerting more influence over Hong Kong.		√						
The crowds were <u>so large</u> on Sunday in Hong Kong that many protesters said they had been stuck in subway stations					√			

Despite the <u>large</u> numbers, neither Beijing nor the Hong Kong government showed any willingness to back down					√			
The protesters had set off from Victoria Park in the afternoon, with temperatures in the mid-80s and scattered rains providing <u>little</u> relief from the humidity.					√			
They directed <u>much</u> of their ire toward Ms. Lam, shouting slogans for her to resign and booing as they passed a large screen				√				
But the <u>huge</u> public outcry puts her in a difficult spot ahead of a vote on the bill expected later this month.					√			
Hong Kong's courts are <u>far</u> more transparent and independent than those in the mainland.						√		
Hong Kong's courts are far <u>more</u> transparent and independent than those in the mainland.	√							
"Their judicial system is <u>not good</u> ,"	√							
The last time residents of Hong Kong turned out in such <u>large</u> numbers over a single issue was in 2003					√			

TOTAL GRADUATION ITEMS: 11

**GRADUATION
(BBC News)**

Sentence	Force						Focus	
	Intensity			Quantification			Up-Scale	Down-Scale
	Over Quality	Over Process	Modality	Number	Mass	Extent		
If confirmed, it would be the <u>largest</u> protest in Hong Kong's history. Police said turnout was 338,000 at its peak.					√			
The protest was <u>mainly</u> peaceful		√						
'Too <u>little</u> too late'					√			
' <u>Too</u> little too late'	√							
'Too little <u>too</u> late'		√						
That has <u>patently</u> failed, as even bigger numbers - close to two million, according to the organisers, took to the streets.		√						
It promised the chief executive would adopt a <u>more</u> "sincere and humble attitude" towards public criticism.		√						

A <u>large-scale</u> march, which organisers said drew more than one million people, was held last Sunday.					√			
<u>Much</u> of the public anger has been directed at Ms Lam					√			
Much of the public anger has been directed at Ms Lam, the region's elected chief executive - who is <u>firmly</u> supported by Beijing.		√						
It is what China calls a special administrative region - enjoying a <u>great</u> deal of autonomy that has made it a key business and media hub in the region.	√							

TOTAL GRADUATION ITEMS: 11

GRADUATION (NK News)								
Sentence	Force						Focus	
	Intensity			Quantification			Up-Scale	Down-Scale
	Over Quality	Over Process	Modality	Number	Mass	Extent		
Predictably, North Korean sources have been <u>wholly</u> supportive of China.		√						

'China has all <u>sorts of</u> methods and powerful forces enough to quickly quell every upheaval according to the rules of its main law.'								√
DPRK state media has described the protests as 'destabilizing the social and political situation,' ' <u>extremely</u> violent,'	√							
The articles paint a scene of a chaotic, volatile life for ordinary Hong Kongers. North Korean media does not focus the blame on local protesters for destroying society at <u>large</u> ,					√			
He opined that this experience taught Kim Jong Un to be <u>more</u> flexible in regards to capitalist elements		√						
However, Thae's analysis serves as a reminder that China's domestically legal extradition policies have <u>long</u> violated international norms						√		
The potential for a Hong Kong-style revolution to blossom in the DPRK seems, at the moment, <u>far</u> -fetched.						√		

TOTAL GRADUATION ITEMS: 7

- **ASIAN TIMES**

JULY 29, 2019

A protester is seen holding up an umbrella while he walks through tear gas during a protest in Hong Kong on July 28, 2019, Photo: AFP Forum via NurPhoto/Vernon Yuen

Hong Kong reaches a protest point of no return

Weekend of rage ends with clashes, tear gas and tense standoffs between protesters and riot police in now familiar scenes of chaos

By NILE BOWIE, HONG KONG

Tens of thousands of protesters in Hong Kong peacefully assembled at the city's central business district on June 28 for the weekend's second mass demonstration and began marching in different directions, a day after black-clad activists descended on the northwestern town of Yuen Long in their thousands.

Police denied permission for both marches to be held, though umbrella-wielding protesters still turned out in force.

Police, in a now-familiar cycle of events, fired repeated volleys of tear gas at groups of protesters who marched both to Causeway Bay and westward to Sai Ying Pun near the Central Government Liaison Office, which was vandalised with ink and graffiti one week earlier. Riot police cordoned off Des Voeux Road to prevent restive marchers from reaching the building.

Demonstrators, most of whom dressed in black and hid their identity with goggles and face masks, simmered with anger as they erected makeshift barricades a half-block from police lines outside the area's Western Police Station. Both sides exchanged messages in Cantonese and English over loudspeakers before police put on their gas masks and charged toward the protesters as chaotic scenes unfolded.

Fresh unrest in Hong Kong's western districts on Sunday follows clashes on Saturday (July 27) evening as police stormed a metro station in Yuen Long, a small northwestern town in the New Territories, using their batons on protesters and leaving the building's tiled floors stained with blood, events that have raised fears of an unyielding pattern of violence.

Protesters face off against police outside Yuen Long Plaza mall before retreating to other areas of the town, July 27, 2019. Photo: Nile Bowie

Twenty-three people were reportedly injured in clashes a day ago, with two in serious condition according to reports. Police had issued a rare denial of permission for that gathering to go ahead over fears of violent clashes and deemed the mass assembly as "unlawful." Organizers estimated 288,000 people had attended.

Superintendent of Police Public Relations Yolanda Yu explained in an evening press conference on Saturday that the elite riot police unit had entered the station after protestors began throwing fire extinguishers at officers from the West Rail line bridge. "We entered the station and got the scene under control," she said.

"Violent clashes broke out at various locations in Yuen Long as some protesters removed fences from the kerbside and used metal barriers to block roads. Some hurled bricks and hard objects at police officers and charged cordon lines," a separate police statement read. Asia Times witnessed protesters engaging in those described actions.

Anti-riot police fired tear gas at protesters during a demonstration in Hong Kong's Yuen Long district on July 27, 2019. Photo: Anthony Wallace / AFP

Ho-fung Hung, a political-economy professor at Johns Hopkins University, told Asia Times that the majority of protesters were peaceful and that he believed police escalated the situation by using “indiscriminate violence” that he claimed resembled the actions committed by triad-linked thugs in Yuen Long days earlier.

“They are basically using maximum violence short of real bullets to intimidate protesters, chasing and attacking protesters, and even journalists, and social workers. This time they even chased the protesters, who were already leaving, into the MTR station to beat them up,” said the academic.

Hong Kong police, however, did order additional train services to allow protesters, who travelled to the town by MTR from various parts of the territory, time to leave Yuen Long to avoid a repeat of past bloody confrontations that have become increasingly frequent as unyielding demonstrations by pro-democracy activists reach their eighth week.

“Whoever is supporting this police action must think police violence can deter further protests. But that is obviously not working, as protesters are becoming ever more audacious and determined,” Hung noted and stated his belief that “protests will continue.”

Despite the increasingly bold and sometimes violent tactics adopted by some segments of the protest movement, Hong Kong’s radical young protesters are “still rational,” believes Joseph Cheng, a political scientist at City University of Hong Kong.

A demonstrator spray-paints “Reclaim Hong Kong, Revolution Of Our Time” as thousands of black-clad demonstrators march westward in the city, July 28, 2019. Photo: Nile Bowie

“They have their logic, which is that peaceful protests are going to be ineffective, so there must be a further element of mildly violent actions to exert pressure on the Carrie Lam administration and show that it is ineffective. I do not agree with this, but this is what they believe,” he said.

Hong Kong police, who have been widely criticized for their heavy-handed response to the protests that have occurred intermittently since early June, are accused of turning a blind eye to last Sunday's (July 21) attack by triad-linked assailants, and even of colluding with the white-shirted gang that wielded bamboo sticks and iron bars.

Police officials and the city's government have strongly denied those allegations, though the city's top cop, Commissioner of Police Stephen Lo, admitted that law enforcement officers arrived to the scene 35 minutes late due to manpower being overstretched as officers were deployed across elsewhere in the territory to deal with various mass protests.

Hundreds of protesters in face masks and goggles carried umbrellas and hiking sticks yesterday as they gathered outside Nam Pin Wai village, the area believed to home to some of the more than 100 men involved in last Sunday's mob attack targeting anyone wearing black or other identifiers of the protest movement.

Defiant protesters in their thousands advance toward police on Des Voeux Road after being forced back by police, July 28, 2019. Photo: Nile Bowie.

"This is one of the entrances to go to the underworld," Mike, a 27-year-old customer service agent wearing a face mask, told Asia Times as he pointed to the village, which was cordoned off and protected by several formations of riot police.

"You see the police? They are using the best of the best to protect the underworld. The police are working together [with them] and not protecting the Hong Kong people," he claimed, a view echoed by every demonstrator interviewed on the scene by Asia Times.

“The government are devils. They are joined together with the underground triads, the black power. They are just trying to threaten people with opposite opinions to be silenced, but the Hong Kong people are not threatened by their dirty tricks,” said Aida, a 60-year-old retiree. “It should be the police’s responsibility to protect the people.”

Organized crime societies or triads have a long history in the area that can be traced back to 19th-century Chinese fraternal organizations, with gangs thought to recruit youths from the indigenous Cantonese and Hakka communities that live within the area’s low-rise and rustic walled villages, some of which date back to the Song dynasty.

Village heads who control the rural Yuen Long communities wield political sway and are known to hold pro-China views. Some analysts have claimed that the shadowy groups find employment as hired muscle tasked with targeting Beijing’s opponents, though a clear chain of evidence to substantiate such a link in the latest instance has not surfaced.

Demonstrators and emergency aid workers flee from a barrage of tear gas fired by police, July 28, 2019. Photo: Nile Bowie


The gangs implicated are the 14K and Wo Shing Wo, the city’s oldest criminal organizations. A spokesman for Beijing’s liaison office in Hong Kong on Thursday strongly condemned “malicious rumors” that the Chinese government was behind the bloody episode, adding that the office has “firmly opposed and reprimanded any form of violent act.”

Cheung Yiu-Leung, a barrister and member of the China Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group, told Asia Times that heavy pressure is mounting on embattled Chief Executive Carrie Lam to accede to protester’s demands for her resignation and the formation of an independent enquiry committee into alleged police misconduct.

“The situation has been spiraling downward and, in many people’s view, has reached a point of no return. Carrie Lam’s administration is now de facto dysfunctional,” he said. “It is now a mainstream public opinion that [an independent enquiry] is the only way to restore order and a sense of justice. Carrie Lam’s time is up.”



- **THE JAPAN TIMES**



Anti-extradition bill protesters stand behind "Free Hong Kong" graffiti during a march to demand democracy and political reforms in Hong Kong on Sunday. | REUTERS

Tens of thousands of protesters flood Hong Kong streets in 'peaceful' march

HONG KONG – A sea of democracy activists flooded the streets of Hong Kong on Sunday in a defiant show to the city's leaders that their movement still pulls wide public support, despite mounting violence and increasingly stark warnings from Beijing. Tens of thousands of protesters carrying umbrellas marched through the heart of Hong Kong Island despite torrential rain, closing key roads and flouting a police order not to march from a park where they had gathered earlier for a rally.

Ten weeks of demonstrations have plunged the financial hub into crisis, with images of masked black-clad protesters engulfed by tear gas during street battles against riot police stunning a city once renowned for its stability.

Sunday's action, which continued into the night, was billed by organizers as a return to the "peaceful" origins of the leaderless protest movement.

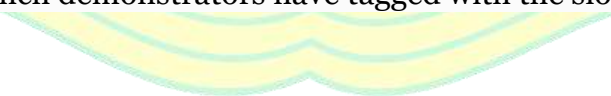
Yet anger remains sharp among protesters over perceived police heavy-handedness for responding to demonstrations with tear gas, baton charges and rubber bullets — incidents that have pinballed across social media.

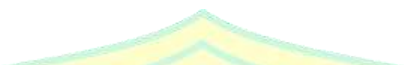
"The police are doing things that are totally unacceptable," said Yim, who like many of the protesters gave only one name. "They are hurting citizens, they aren't protecting us."

Communist-ruled mainland China has taken an increasingly hard-line tone toward the protesters, decrying the "terrorist-like" actions of a violent hardcore minority among the demonstrators.

Despite the near-nightly clashes with police, the movement has won few concessions from Beijing or the city's unelected leadership.

The spiralling violence, which last week saw protesters paralyze the city's airport, has tarnished a campaign that had taken pride in its peaceful intent and unpredictability — which demonstrators have tagged with the slogan "Be Water."





Sunday's rally was convened as a "non-violent" demonstration, according to organizers the Civil Human Rights Front.

Yet many among Sunday's rally-goers carried rucksacks stuffed with protest paraphernalia — laser pens, gas masks, goggles and helmets.

"We have our gear with us, but we hope not to use it," said a 30-year-old identifying himself only as Man.

China's propaganda apparatus has seized on the weeks of violence, with state media churning out a deluge of damning articles, pictures and videos.

State media also ran images of military personnel and armored personnel carriers across the border in Shenzhen, prompting the United States to warn Beijing against sending in troops.

Analysts say any intervention by Chinese security forces would be a reputational and economic disaster for China.

But Hong Kong's police force is under intense pressure, stretched by flashmob protests.

A Hong Kong government spokesperson praised the police for handling "illegal acts with tolerance" and appealed to the protesters to "express their views in a peaceful and rational manner."

Opinions among the protesters have diverged over the billowing violence, which has seen hardcore protesters using rocks, Molotov cocktails and slingshots against the police.

Some say the violence has driven the pro-democracy movement in an uncomfortable direction.

"There are some expressing extreme views," rally-goer Ray Cheng, 30, said. "But we have tried many times with peaceful approaches ... I really hope the government can listen to us."

There was no immediate estimate of Sunday's crowd size from the organizers or police.

Hong Kong's unprecedented political crisis was sparked by opposition to a plan to allow extraditions to the Chinese mainland.

But protests have since morphed into a wider call for democratic rights in the semi-autonomous city.



Under a deal signed with Britain, authoritarian China agreed to allow Hong Kong to keep its unique freedoms when it was handed back in 1997.

But many Hong Kongers feel those freedoms are being chipped away, especially since China's hard-line president, Xi Jinping, came to power.

Beyond suspending the extradition bill, Beijing and Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam have shown no desire to meet key demands such as an inquiry into police violence, the complete withdrawal of the bill and an amnesty.

Beijing has turned the screws on Hong Kong's businesses, pressuring them to toe the line and condemn the protesters.

On Friday, Cathay Pacific announced the shock resignation of CEO Rupert Hogg after the carrier was excoriated by Beijing because some staff supported the pro-democracy protests.



- GLOBAL TIMES

Violence leaves over 100 injured, 2 in critical condition in 18th week of HK riots

By Chen Qingqing in Hong Kong and Zhao Yusha in Beijing Source:Global Times Published: 2019/10/1 20:50:36

Rioters have thrown a corrosive fluid that has injured police and reporters in the Tuen Mun area. Police have strongly condemned the violent act and are warning the public to mind their personal safety.

Violent protests injured over a hundred people and left two in critical condition from various parts of Hong Kong Tuesday, hospital sources said Wednesday, as the city was engulfed by 18 consecutive weeks of riots that again descended into lawlessness.

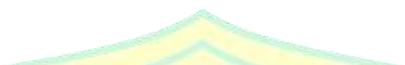
Radical protesters scattered around 1 pm Tuesday in different places including Wan Chai, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan, all dressed in black. They illegally occupied the streets and disrupted the public transit. They dismantled road railings, dug out the bricks and stones on the ground, and set fire to trash bins. They also violently attacked police officers.

Around 4 pm, a group of rioters gathered along the Harcourt Road in front of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government complex, and prepared to throw bricks and other objects toward the building. Police reacted quickly by deploying a water cannon to disperse violent protesters.

In Tuen Mun, rioters used corrosive fluid, injuring multiple police officers and reporters. In Yau Ma Tei, rioters attacked a police officer and smashed police vans, forcing the police to fire two warning shots.

The Hong Kong Hospital Authority told the Global Times around 10:30 am on Wednesday that 104 people were injured. The authority said on Tuesday night that two were in serious condition, two in critical condition.

A group of protesters attacked a police van with sticks and other projectiles at the junction of Waterloo Road and Nathan Road. A



few officers got out of the van to try to chase them away, but one fell to the ground and was assaulted by protesters, local media reported.

Hong Kong police confirmed that an 18-year-old protester was shot near shoulder in Tsuen Wan at around 4pm after he seriously threatened officers' life during police operations. The protester was later sent to the Princess Margaret Hospital, sources from the police said.

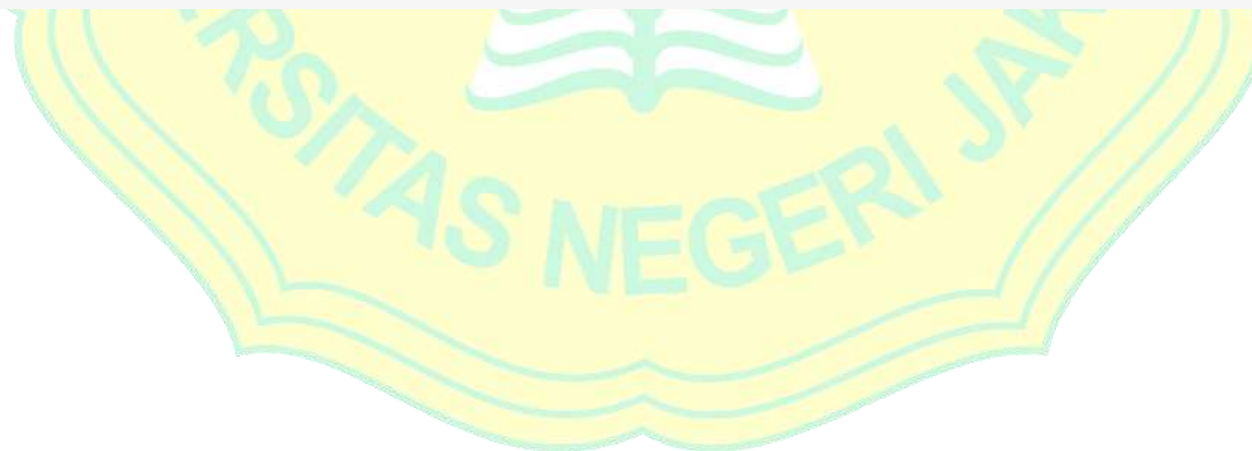
Video clips showed that the protester assaulted the police officer next to him with a baton, prompting the officer to engage with self-defense.

Reporters from local media, including TVB and Oriental Daily News, were also hurt in Tuen Mun by acid sprayed by protesters.

The Sha Tin branch office of Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong has also been vandalized by protesters, local media said.

In order to prevent violence, a total of 28 MTR stops suspended service.

In order to deal with Tuesday's chaotic situation, about 6,000 police officers were deployed, as the police warned of "very, very dangerous" plans by protesters and described their actions over the weekend as being "one step closer to terrorism."



- THE NEW YORK TIMES

Hong Kong March: Vast Protest of Extradition Bill Shows Fear of Eroding Freedoms

Demonstrators marched on Sunday against a government proposal to allow extraditions to mainland China. Critics fear it could be used to send dissidents to face trial in mainland courts, which are controlled by the Communist Party. IMAGE BY LAM YIK FEI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

By Austin Ramzy

- June 9, 2019

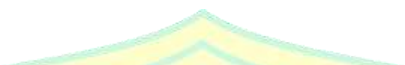
HONG KONG — Hundreds of thousands of people filled the sweltering streets of Hong Kong on Sunday in an immense protest against a government plan to allow extraditions to mainland China that culminated after midnight in clashes with the police.

The mass demonstration was one of the largest in the city's history and a stunning display of rising fear and anger over the erosion of the civil liberties that have long set this former British colony apart from the rest of the country. Organizers said they counted more than one million on the streets, or nearly one in seven Hong Kong residents.

The protest recalled the pro-democracy Umbrella Movement five years ago, which paralyzed several of the city's main commercial districts but failed to persuade the government to make any concessions. Since then, China's ruling Communist Party has been gradually exerting more influence over Hong Kong.

The local authorities have rejected demands for free elections and ousted opposition lawmakers, and critics say Beijing's supporters are chipping away at the independence of the territory's courts and news media. The pressure on Hong Kong reflects a broader tightening of controls across China under President Xi Jinping, the party's general secretary

The crowds were so large on Sunday in Hong Kong that many protesters said they had been stuck in subway stations waiting to join. Credit Lam Yik Fei for The New York Times



The crowd of protesters, which stretched more than a mile, represented a dramatic rebuke of the Communist leadership and a potential political crisis for Beijing and Carrie Lam, the leader it selected to govern Hong Kong.

“I think this law will take away our freedoms if it is implemented,” said Peter Lam, a 16-year-old high school student, referring to the extradition law that Ms. Lam is trying to push through with Beijing’s support. “We will not have the right to express ourselves. So we must stand up and express ourselves today.”

The police estimated there were 240,000 protesters at the peak of the demonstration, but organizers said it was the biggest rally since more than one million residents gathered in 1989 in support of the student-led democracy movement that was crushed in Tiananmen Square.

The crowd that poured through the canyons of downtown skyscrapers was so vast that many people said they had been stuck in subway stations waiting to join the protest, and some trains skipped stations because of overcrowding.


The immediate focus of the protest was a proposal to allow extradition to mainland China, which critics are worried the authorities will use to send dissidents, activists and others in Hong Kong, including foreign visitors, to face trial in mainland courts, which are controlled by the party.

Despite the large numbers, neither Beijing nor the Hong Kong government showed any willingness to back down, and officials confirmed that a second legislative reading of the bill would proceed as scheduled on Wednesday.

Some protesters pushed metal barriers at the police, who responded with pepper spray. Credit Lam Yik Fei for The New York Times

But the turnout also exposed the depth of frustration with Beijing’s growing encroachment on the autonomy it promised Hong Kong when it resumed sovereignty over the territory in 1997.

In recent years, mainland Chinese police officers have been allowed to operate in a section of a new train station linking Hong Kong to China’s high-speed-rail network. A draft law that punishes disrespect for the Chinese national anthem has raised concerns about free speech in a place where soccer fans have been known to boo when the song is played. And many bookstores have stopped selling publications critical of the leadership in Beijing.





For most of the day, Sunday's demonstration was peaceful. But tempers began to flare in the evening near the offices of the central government as the protesters, whose march had slowed to a standstill on some streets, urged the police to free up more lanes.

About 1 a.m., long after most protesters had left, riot police with helmets and shields moved in to remove a few hundred who were trying to occupy an area in front of the legislature. Some protesters pushed metal barriers and tossed bottles and sticks at the police, shouting, "Communist dogs!"

The police charged, firing pepper spray, striking people with batons and pushing the protesters away from the government complex.

Some demonstrators then temporarily blocked part of Gloucester Road, a major thoroughfare that was occupied during the Umbrella Movement. The clashes continued into early Monday morning, with both protesters and police injured.



Many wore white as a symbol of justice and also mourning in Chinese culture. Credit Lam Yik Fei for The New York Times

Despite the size of the protests, the government was unlikely to be swayed, said Ivan Choy, a senior lecturer in the department of government and public administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"The major problem is that Xi Jinping holds power in China, and he is a strongman," Mr. Choy said, referring to China's top leader. "He will back up Carrie Lam's decision to push forward."

"Most people know this reality," he continued, "but they have come out to show the world that this legislation is not the will of the Hong Kong public."

The protesters had set off from Victoria Park in the afternoon, with temperatures in the mid-80s and scattered rains providing little relief from the humidity. Many wore white as a symbol of justice and also mourning in Chinese culture, and held signs saying, "No China Extradition" and "No Evil Law."

They directed much of their ire toward Ms. Lam, shouting slogans for her to resign and booing as they passed a large screen displaying footage of her at a news conference.



At public events elsewhere in the city, Ms. Lam declined to answer questions about the protests. But the huge public outcry puts her in a difficult spot ahead of a vote on the bill expected later this month.

The proposed legislation would allow for some criminal suspects to be turned over to jurisdictions with which Hong Kong has no formal extradition agreement, such as mainland China. Credit Lam Yik Fei for The New York Times ADVERTISEMENT

Late Sunday, the government, responding to the protests, said the bill would prevent Hong Kong from becoming a haven for fugitives. While pledging to “continue to engage, listen and allay concerns,” the statement indicated the government was pushing ahead with the bill.

The proposed legislation would allow suspects in some criminal cases to be turned over to jurisdictions with which Hong Kong has no formal extradition agreement. The immediate goal is to enable the government to send a Hong Kong man to Taiwan, where he is accused of having killed his girlfriend.

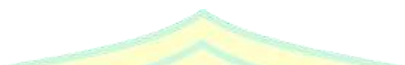
But the legislation would also allow extraditions to mainland China for the first time, with few avenues for appeal.

The legislation excludes political crimes, and the Hong Kong government has promised to monitor cases for human rights concerns. But many fear that the Chinese authorities could use charges such as bribery to target people who have angered mainland officials.

The Communist Party had promised a “high degree of autonomy” before Britain returned the territory to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, but many feel that the city’s freedoms are steadily being worn down under Beijing’s rule.

Hong Kong’s courts are far more transparent and independent than those in the mainland. Worries about Beijing’s reach have been made worse by the disappearance of people from Hong Kong into mainland custody, including a Chinese billionaire and men associated with a company that published books unflattering to mainland political leaders.

Organizers said more than a million people joined the protest, though the police said the figure was 240,000 at its peak. Credit Lam Yik Fei for The New York Times



“Their judicial system is not good,” George Wan, 31, a freelance tour guide and writer at the protest, said of mainland China. He said the Hong Kong government was rushing the legislation through without properly consulting the public.

“We want to use our footsteps to tell the government we want more time,” Mr. Wan said as he waved a folding fan painted with characters that read “Oppose sending to China.”

Young people and families were prominent in the crowd, with parents bouncing toddlers on their hips and leading young children by the hand. One child clutched a sign saying, “Protect my future.”

The protest also drew people who normally stay on the sidelines. Lee Kin-long, 46, said he and his wife felt they needed to attend.

“This law is dangerous, and not just for activists,” he said. “We are not activists. Even as regular citizens, we can’t stand to see China eroding away our freedom.”

Opposition to the legislation has been building for weeks, including a scuffle among lawmakers and an April demonstration that was the city’s biggest in five years.

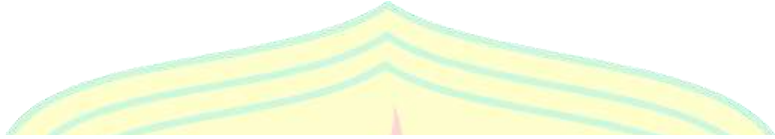
Hong Kong, a former British colony, returned to Chinese control in 1997 under a “one country, two systems” arrangement that allows it to keep its own local institutions. China’s hold has tightened under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. Credit Lam Yik Fei for The New York Times

Worries about the proposal have inspired hundreds of petitions from student and alumni associations, religious organizations and trade groups. Business associations have expressed fear that the measure would harm Hong Kong’s reputation as a commercial center. Press freedom groups have objected too, citing the frequent jailing of journalists in the Chinese mainland.

Foreign governments including the United States, Britain and Canada have also expressed concerns.

In Washington, the State Department noted that it had documented “rights violations and abuses carried out by China’s legal system, as well as general deterioration of respect for the rule of law.”





“Continued erosion of the ‘One country, two systems’ frameworks puts at risk Hong Kong’s established special status in international affairs,” the department said in a statement.

An official Chinese newspaper, the China Daily, defended the extradition measure in an editorial and accused “foreign forces are seizing the opportunity to advance their own strategy to hurt China by trying to create havoc in Hong Kong.”

Lawyers in Hong Kong responded to the legislation on Thursday by dressing in black for a silent protest march. A high court judge who signed a petition organized by University of Hong Kong alumni was reprimanded by the city’s chief justice.

The last time residents of Hong Kong turned out in such large numbers over a single issue was in 2003, when half a million marchers expressed their opposition to proposed national security legislation prohibiting sedition, subversion and treason against the Chinese government.

That legislation, known as Article 23, was shelved after so many people mobilized against it, arguing that it threatened civil liberties enshrined in Hong Kong’s version of a constitution. Polling by the University of Hong Kong has indicated that opposition to the extradition plan is even higher.

But pro-democracy lawmakers have said that unless the government backs down, the measure is likely to pass in the local legislature, where pro-Beijing lawmakers hold 43 of 70 seats. Only half the seats are elected by popular vote.



- BBC News

Hong Kong protest: 'Nearly two million' join demonstration

17 June 2019

Nearly two million people have taken part in a mass protest in Hong Kong against a controversial extradition bill, organisers say.

If confirmed, it would be the largest protest in Hong Kong's history. Police said turnout was 338,000 at its peak.

The masses turned out despite the suspension of the bill - which would allow extradition from Hong Kong to mainland China - on Saturday.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam on Sunday apologised for proposing the bill.

Many protesters, who fear increased Chinese influence over Hong Kong, are calling on her to resign over the unrest.

They are also demanding that the bill be scrapped, not just suspended.

Meanwhile, supporters of Joshua Wong - the student leader who became the face of Hong Kong's "Umbrella Movement" democracy protests five years ago - say he will be released from prison later on Monday.

What happened at the protest?

"Today's march we had almost two million people," Jimmy Sham, from the Civil Human Rights Front protest group, told reporters late on Sunday evening.

The protest was mainly peaceful, with police officers reportedly holding back to allow the throngs of people to slowly pass through the city. This contrasted to scenes at the last previous major demonstration on Wednesday, which saw clashes between protesters and police that injured dozens.

The demonstration began early in the afternoon in Victoria Square, with many wearing black.

Many held white flowers to mourn a protester who fell to his death on Saturday from a ledge, where hours earlier he had unfurled an anti-extradition banner.

The progress of the march was slow, as the large numbers of people blocked many streets and crowded train stations.

As darkness fell, protesters started to take over major roads and crossings and surrounded the legislative council building.

They carried placards that read "The students did not riot", in response to police labelling last Wednesday's student protests a riot - an offence punishable by up to 10 years in jail.

There was scepticism among some protesters about Ms Lam's decision to suspend the bill.

"Carrie Lam has ignored the feelings of Hong Kongers," Mr Ma, a 67-year-old protester, told the BBC. He said Ms Lam had "acted like it was no big deal" after a reported million people marched last week.

"Secondly, we are marching for the students who were brutally treated by the police. We need to get justice for them."

Chloe Yim, 20, who had joined the protests for the first time, said: "If Carrie sees so many people come out, and still doesn't listen - she's being an autocrat who doesn't listen to people. Hong Kong people can't accept that."

'Too little too late'

Analysis by Helier Cheung, BBC News, Hong Kong

The government had hoped to reduce public anger by announcing a pause in the legislation on Saturday.

That has patently failed, as even bigger numbers - close to two million, according to the organisers, took to the streets.

For the chief executive, the demonstrations will have taken on a particularly personal bent, as protesters chanted "Carrie Lam - resign!" throughout during the day.

The government is now trying to strike a conciliatory tone - in a statement, it said it understood the protesters' views "have been made out of love and care for Hong Kong". It promised the chief executive would adopt a more "sincere and humble attitude" towards public criticism.

But this is too little, too late for many protesters, who insist they won't settle for anything less than the bill being completely withdrawn.

The scenes are reminiscent of 2003 - when half a million people protested against proposed national security legislation. The unpopular chief executive at the time, Tung Chee-hwa, resigned months later.

But even if Ms Lam resigns, there's no guarantee that protesters will be satisfied with whoever replaces her - especially as, under Hong Kong's political system, the leader is elected by a small panel filled with allies of the Beijing government.

What is the controversy about?

Hong Kong is a former British colony, but was returned to Chinese rule in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" deal that guarantees it a level of autonomy.

The government had argued the proposed extradition bill would "plug the loopholes" so that the city would not be a safe haven for criminals, following a murder case in Taiwan.

Critics have said the legislation would expose people in Hong Kong to China's deeply flawed justice system and lead to further erosion of the city's judicial independence.

Many fear the law could be used to target political opponents of the Chinese state. A large-scale march, which organisers said drew more than one million people, was held last Sunday.

On Wednesday tens of thousands gathered to blockade streets around government headquarters to try to stop the second reading, or debate, of the extradition bill.

There were clashes and 22 police and 60 protesters were injured. Authorities say 11 people were arrested. The police have been accused by some rights groups of excessive force.

Why the anger at Carrie Lam?

Much of the public anger has been directed at Ms Lam, the region's elected chief executive - who is firmly supported by Beijing.

Part of that anger comes from a tearful address after Wednesday's violence in which **she labelled the protests "organised riots"** – a label rejected by the hundreds of thousands of peaceful protesters.

Ms Lam remained hidden from public view for days, until her announcement on Saturday she had heard the calls for her government to "pause and think". But she stopped short of saying the bill would be permanently shelved.

On Sunday, she followed this up with a statement apologising for "her government's work that has led to substantial controversies and disputes in society, causing disappointment and grief among the people".

There has been speculation among analysts about Ms Lam's future amid the continued protests, but China's foreign ministry publicly backed her on Saturday.

Is Hong Kong part of China?

Hong Kong was a British colony from 1841, when China ceded the island to the British after the First Opium War - **which had erupted over British traders smuggling opium into China.** It remained a colony until sovereignty was returned to China in 1997.

It is now part of China under a "one country, two systems" principle, which ensures that it keeps its own judicial independence, its own legislature and economic system.

It is what China calls a special administrative region - enjoying a great deal of autonomy that has made it a key business and media hub in the region.

But it remains subject to pressure from mainland China, and Beijing remains responsible for defence and foreign affairs.

- NK NEWS

Add oil!” North Korean perspectives on protests in Hong Kong

State media has sought to emphasize stability and sovereignty in the face of growing instability

Nazanin Zadeh-Cummings September 16, 2019

North Korea has had a diverse range of interactions with Hong Kong in the past few years.

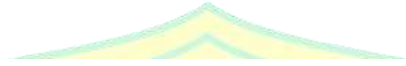
In 2016, a North Korean student sought asylum at the South Korean consulate while Hong Kong, raising questions about the territory would handle the defection.

A recent interview with Stephanie Kleine Ahlbrandt, former Finance and Economics Expert on the United Nations Panel of Experts Established Pursuant to Resolution 1874 highlighted the role of Hong Kong-based front companies in skirting sanctions.

Most recently, North Korean English-language state media has been releasing statements on China’s response to the anti-extradition law amendment bill (anti-ELAB) protests in Hong Kong.

Predictably, North Korean sources have been wholly supportive of China. DPRK media reminded readers of Hong Kong’s status even before the protests, referencing Hong Kong in conjunction with China – i.e. ‘Hong Kong of China’ or China’s Hong Kong.

THE VIEW FROM PYONGYANG



State media covering Hong Kong has focused on three major themes.

The first is that Hong Kong's anti-ELAB movement is the fault of Western countries. In July, a *DPRK Today* article described the protests – or “riots” as it names them – as carried out by “dishonest forces, instigated by the Western countries.”

The articles specifically name the United States as one of these countries, which have banded together to destroy China.

A *Rodong Sinmun* article published in August alleged that the West was not only “outright [interfering]” but also “fussing over the issue of Hong Kong as if it is now or never.”

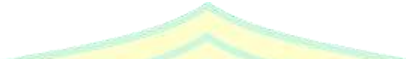
State media covering Hong Kong has focused on three major themes

Linking to this focus on outside interference, another common thread is sovereignty. North Korean articles have honed in on this issue, proclaiming that the protests are a domestic Chinese affair and thus within China's sovereign right to manage.

A *Rodong Sinmun* article from July also highlighted that China's capacity to respond was strong: ‘China has all sorts of methods and powerful forces enough to quickly quell every upheaval according to the rules of its main law.’

The third theme is that the protests have been chaotic and threatening to peace. DPRK state media has described the protests as ‘destabilizing the social and political situation,’ ‘extremely violent,’ and alleging that protesters have beat policemen and innocent bystanders.





Stability is a concern highlighted in articles, such as a statement from a DPRK foreign ministry spokesperson that outlined the aforementioned “foreign forces” attempts “to destroy the security and order of the society of Hong Kong and do harm to the life and properties of the citizens.”

A DPRK Today article described the protests... as carried out by “dishonest forces, instigated by the Western countries.”

The articles paint a scene of a chaotic, volatile life for ordinary Hong Kongers. North Korean media does not focus the blame on local protesters for destroying society at large, but places the fault squarely with foreign states.

China is depicted as a protector in an August *Rodong Sinmun* article, which describes Beijing as “ensuring rights and freedom of inhabitants according to the basic law and handling hooligans through legal actions.”

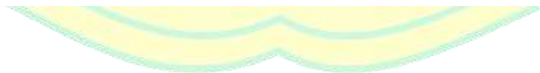
Through these three themes, a narrative emerges where Hong Kong protesters, though unruly and in need of punishment through Chinese legal mechanisms, are not the core source of destruction and ire.

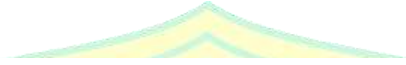
Instead, foreign forces are depicted as the root cause and main instigator of chaos, intended to destabilize and weaken China.

Stability is a concern highlighted in articles

A HIGH-PROFILE DEFECTOR WEIGHS IN

On September 4, former North Korean diplomat and defector Thae Yong Ho spoke at the University of Melbourne on his first visit to Australia.





Among the many topics Thae touched upon was reunification. He explained that growing knowledge of the situation in South Korea is spread through things like small media drives with media from south of the DMZ, and that this may instigate North Koreans to question why they don't have the same situation as those in the south.

Thae posited that this could lead to something like what is happening in Hong Kong. These comments were situated in the context of reunification, because he believes the push for reunification will come from North Korean and not South Korea.

Later in the session, Thae spoke about one case of North Korean popular uprising having an impact — in response to the 2009 currency reforms.

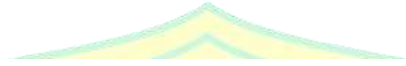
North Korean articles have honed in on the issue of sovereignty

He opined that this experience taught Kim Jong Un to be more flexible in regards to capitalist elements, but in balance to take a harsher stance towards the spread of South Korean cultural content.

This was not Thae's first time speaking about the Hong Kong protests. In [a Daily NK video](#), he unpacks the protests in line with their root cause – the extradition bill. “North Korea's support for the extradition bill can be seen in the context of an existing agreement currently in place between North Korea and China permitting the extradition of criminals between the two countries.”

Under this law, China regularly arrests and extradites North Korean defectors who flee to China to escape poverty and oppression, referring to them as “illegal economic migrants.”





Thae's comments on Hong Kong have two strands: the importance of extradition in the DPRK-China relationship, and the potential for mass revolutionary protest against an authoritarian regime.

Much of the global coverage of the Hong Kong protests has shifted focus from primarily looking at the implications of the extradition bill, honing in now on police violence, Carrie Lam's response, and protestors' actions across the city.

North Korean officials have repeatedly stressed their support for China's position in Hong Kong

However, Thae's analysis serves as a reminder that China's domestically legal extradition policies have long violated international norms, such as the principle of non-refoulement, and human rights in their treatment of North Korean escapees.

The potential for a Hong Kong-style revolution to blossom in the DPRK seems, at the moment, far-fetched.

But according to Thae's perspective, this potential will only grow as North Koreans learn more about the outside world and about South Korea in particular.

One can only imagine that the Kim regime is watching intently to see how China will respond to — and in its perspective, hopefully quell — the anti-ELAB protests.

The regime has survived three generations of Kim leadership and a famine, but if the potential for media is as transformative as Thae believes, the DPRK may one day face their own situation of defiance to an authoritarian regime.

