Selden Tenzing

Professor Carr

English 110

November 24th, 2020

**Human Rights Violations**

Are you enraged by how humans are treated all over the world? You should be because people are being thrown in internment camps and jails just for doing simple things like talking in their native tongue or expressing their culture. Expressing ourselves through culture is a normal thing for us but for people in China it has become a death sentence. They must conceal who they are to survive. China’s complete disregard for human rights has left the world in awe. Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world, regardless of your race, color, gender, religion and ethnicity. Thus, as humans it is our duty to protect and defend it for people who are denied these rights. China needs to be held accountable for the abuse of its power because they exploit their citizens through no freedom of speech/press, unlawful detention and continue to use their status as a global power to do what they want.

It is our basic right to express how we feel regardless if it is right or wrong. We are given this right at birth. In the US Department of State article “China’s Disregard for Human Rights” they explain how this right is suppressed by the government. To begin, they describe it as “The PRC government strictly controls what information is available on the internet within China. Further, the PRC controls all domestic news reporting through direct ownership of news outlets. Daily CCP directives compel Chinese media to report on specific issues and perspectives, ensuring that only information matching the government’s desired narrative is shared. Government control of the telecommunications infrastructure enables the blocking of websites, and mass deletion of microblog posts, instant messages, and user accounts that touch on banned political, social, economic, and religious topics. Thousands of websites are blocked in China, including major news and social media hubs like Google, YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook. The Chinese people lack access to dissenting views, and the fear of severe punishment deters those who want to speak out, imposing a nationwide culture of self-censorship". This gives us proof about how strict they are about the information that gets in and gets out. They know that if their citizens find out what is going on all around the world, they might have mass protest. They want to keep their citizens in the dark and feed them the information to brainwash them into thinking what they want. This is a complete abuse of their power. No government should have the right to control their citizens they way China does. They are denying the right for them to speak and those who do want to speak are afraid because they know what will happen to them if they do. This just goes to show how if they cannot respect your opinion how will they ever see you as a person. They want robots who follow their every command. It is ridiculous to even imagine how if you say something the government does not like you are going to be arrested. The power is corrupted, and it needs to be changed because if one country can do this other will follow as well. This will only start a domino effect if not dealt with sooner.

This is one of the most controversial topics of this year unlawful detention camps. China has been throwing Uyghurs Muslims into internment camps just like the Americans did with Japanese. China has been denying claims that they have thrown them into cages but pose a different argument that they voluntary went to these camps. In John Sudworth’s article “China Uighurs: A model's video gives a rare glimpse inside internment”, he describes the horrible things that occur within these so-called camps. He begins to describe “Over the past few years, credible estimates suggest, more than one million Uighurs and other minorities have been forced into a network of [highly secure camps](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/China_hidden_camps) in Xinjiang that [China has insisted](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-parliament-xinjiang/china-says-xinjiang-has-boarding-schools-not-concentration-camps-idUSKBN1QT1E4) are voluntary schools for anti-extremism training. Thousands of children have been [separated from their parents](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-48825090) and, recent research shows, women have been [forcibly subjected to methods of birth control](https://apnews.com/269b3de1af34e17c1941a514f78d764c)" (Sudworth 1). This shows us the real reality of these camps were people are “voluntary” going to. Nobody wants to be tortured voluntarily it is all a lie that the government has made to hide the fact that they are exploiting them. They see Muslims as less than compared to the other citizens in their country. Thus, why they are being tortured into being ethnically cleansed, so they follow what the government wants them to follow. They are being persecuted by the law because of the religion they follow but why is that a factor in determining if they get treated equally or not. This is very ironic because according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights it states that people will have the freedom of religion meaning they can follow any religion and China has signed this document. According to the article “Facing Criticism Over Muslim Camps, China Says: What’s the Problem?” it states “At a [news conference in Beijing](http://www.scio.gov.cn/xwfbh/xwbfbh/wqfbh/39595/42206/index.htm) on Monday, Shohrat Zakir, the chairman of the Xinjiang government, dismissed the congressional bill as “crude meddling in China’s internal affairs. He sought to foil the criticism by saying that the facilities — which Beijing calls vocational training centers — were now holding only people who were there voluntarily. Others who were previously in the facilities had “graduated,” he said, providing no specifics and declining to say whether they had been released”. They try to hide the truth by saying that those who came have left after “graduating”. They use this excuse to hide the number of people who have been trapped by the government. This goes back to the main argument of abuse of power since they know nobody is going to do anything about it, they continue to kill people. How can we as humans stand by and not say anything. Especially America who claims to be the land of the free and the home of the brave. Where is their bravery when it comes down to fighting for peoples whose only crime is their religion. It is our responsibility to stop this atrocity from continuing because it will have detrimental effects on everyone. People might start to think it is okay to prosecute people just based on their religion. No one in the streets will be safe if this mentality spreads. By stopping China, we will be able to show others that this is not okay and set an example.

There is some truth in argument that human rights definition should be subject to the varying development stages and traditions of the specific country being considered. This is addressed by Mr. Lui Hauqui, the head of the Chinese delegation he states “The concept of human rights is a product of historical development It is closely associated with specific social, political, and economic conditions and the specific history, culture, and values of a particular country. Different historical development stages have different human rights requirements. Countries at different development stages or with different historical traditions and cultural backgrounds also have different understanding and practice of human rights. Thus, no one should and cannot think of the human rights standard and model of certain countries as the only proper ones and demand all countries to comply with them”. This shows that different countries may have different requirements since they are not at the level of other developed nations. This may change what they can provide for their citizens depending on what they have access too. They mean to say they will not be able to cope with the political and social reforms and continue their development since stability is a key factor for their economic development. However, on the other hand they can still provide their citizens with basic rights regardless of economic standing. They have the resources to change their ways, yet they do not. They use the fact that they are mass producers who supply other countries with cheap labor as a tactic to get what they want. Since money is involved countries get greedy and only think about the business opportunity but not how it affects the people of that country and their home country. According to the New York Times “President Trump said he resisted punishing China for its mass internment of ethnic [Uighurs](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/06/world/asia/china-xinjiang-uighur-court.html) last year for fear of jeopardizing trade talks with Beijing, a blunt admission of his transactional approach to human rights and willingness to subordinate other U.S. policy priorities to a potential trade deal he considers vital to his re-election"(Crowley 1). This is great example of how being a global power has given them a pass by countries, but they don't realize how it will come back to bite them. Human rights are everyone issue not just one's country's and when the time comes, and China starts to spread their dominance then everyone will regret it and it will be too late. Thus this. is the time to fight back and make them stop through either legislation or boycotting their products so they know this is a very serious matter and money cannot make it go away.

Overall, China has been getting a pass whenever it comes to suppressing human rights. They have been called out by various countries yet none of them have taken actual actions against them. There have been several protests, but nothing seems to work, and people keep suffering. It is sickening to be a bystander and not do anything while people are being tormented. This is an immense problem which needs to be addressed immediately by UN and countries who have the power to stop this problem. If we let this continue China might not be alone violating human right others may join as well and make it worse. Thus, this is the best time to destroy the problem at its root.

**Reflection Paper**

This is an argumentative essay that talks about why China needs to be held accountable for what they have done. I choose this topic to argue about because I felt this would be the best for me. This is also a very fresh topic as well because these are happening currently as I am writing this someone is getting tortured or beaten to death while I sit in my comfortable chair. It is also an overly sensitive topic for some because it impacts them. The genre of this assignment is argumentative essay. An argumentative essay is where you investigate an idea, collect evidence and then take a position and argue it. This genre’s characteristic feature is that many people still are not taking the human rights violations seriously or understand why it affects us. This genre specifically helped me stand my ground and fight my position on the topic compared to the other essays I have done in the past like the expository one. This one I could add my own opinion and support it with facts which was easier to do than the expository. Another feature of this essay was the counter claim where I had to address the opposing side and then present a stronger argument for my position. This helps reader see and understand both sides instead of just having one sided argument which is boring. My assignment follows the basic structure an essay which contains an introduction, three body and conclusion. The third body would contain the counter claim and that is where I would rebuttal. I picked this version because I have been doing it this way as long as I can remember. I was more familiar with hence I picked it. I thought about doing the one that had each counter argument in each body but then realized I would mess it up, so I decided to go with the one I am used to. My exigence for this essay was that I had been seeing so many posts all over social media about my topic, yet I would never hear about it on the TV. It was crazy to me how new channelswere notwere not even picking it up because they are the ones preaching, we want to share information and let you know what going on in the world, yet they do not talk about the most devasting thing happening. The ethnic cleansing taking place right now is not on the news, but they keep talking about keeping people informed how ironic. This prompted me to spread the information I knew and what I retained from my research on to my paper since everyone needs to be aware of this. Especially after read MLK injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere this applies to this situation perfectly as we let this keep happening it is going to come to us. Not only that but it also hits home in a sense since I am Tibetan and China’s occupancy on Tibet has had unbelievably bad implications on the people there. The same things are happening to the Muslims right now. Their religion and culture being used against them. The purpose for me in writing about this specific topic was to explore it more and to put my own opinion on it. Also, to let my reader/peers know where I stand on this topic. What I want to accomplish from this is that I want my readers to have a better understanding on what is going on and see how this all affects us in the bigger picture if this is not stopped. Also, to spread awareness of the situation at hand since not a lot of people know. My initial audience for this essay is known, it is my professor and my classmates in the peer review session. Also, other CCNY students if my essay is shared with the school. Others would be human rights activist, librarians, human rights journalist, citizens of China, social change artist, social activism groups, local Tibetan organizations, school clubs tailored to human rights and organizations that are fighting for human rights. The media of this assignment is digital since we all remote this semester. The first part of the assignment, the draft was to be submitted on blackboard and the final will also be submitted on blackboard along with the PPT. The essay is just a continuation of the expository essay thus we did not have to write. actual draft just notes to put the ideas together. The way my information is being conveyed to my audience is through my words and feelings towards the topic which I could not do before. My stance towards the topic is that the world needs to come together and hold China accountable and make them understand the faults in their ways. I have strong feelings about this topic, and I hope it is portrayed in my writing as well. This assignment meets the course learning outcomes one, two, and five. Critical Learning Outcome one is explore and analyze, in writing and reading, a variety of genres and rhetorical situations, and it meets it because I authored an essay surrounding using the five rhetorical situations which are purpose, genre, audience, stance and media. Critical Learning Outcome two is develop strategies for reading, drafting, collaborating, revising, and editing, and it meets it because as a class we peer reviewed each other and gave feedback so that edits could be made to make the essay better. Critical Learning Outcome five is understand and use print and digital technologies to address a range of audiences, and it meets because I used digital technology to author my essay and post it so that my classmates to read and review it. I already knew my side of argument even before authoring the essay because there was no way I would argue for the other side. I just could not side with the oppressor who is hurting innocent humans whose only fault is their religion and nothing else. They did nothing to deserve such harsh treatment. This will only make more islamophobes come out of the woodwork everywhere all over the world. That is why it was important for me to discuss this issue.

Work Cited

“China's Disregard for Human Rights - United States Department of State.” *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, 18 Nov. 2020, www.state.gov/chinas-disregard-for-human-rights/.

Buckley, Chris and Austin Ramzy. “Facing Criticism Over Muslim Camps, China Says: What's the Problem?” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 9 Dec. 2019, [www.nytimes.com/2019/12/09/world/asia/china-camps-muslims.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/09/world/asia/china-camps-muslims.html).

Crowley, Michael. “Trump Says He Avoided Punishing China Over Uighur Camps to Protect Trade Talks.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 22 June 2020.Digital. [www.nytimes.com/2020/06/21/us/politics/trump-uighurs-china-trade.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/21/us/politics/trump-uighurs-china-trade.html).

Sudworth, John. “China Uighurs: A Model's Video Gives a Rare Glimpse inside Internment.” *BBC News*, BBC, 4 Aug. 2020, www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-53650246.