

## Revolution of Our Times: A Fight for Hong Kongers and Hong Kongers Alone

Foreigners cannot and should not help Hong Kong.

Protestors have been appealing to Western nations in hopes of persuading the countries to step in and pressure China to “liberate” the island. Flags from the U.S., New Zealand, Australia, Great Britain and even Donald Trump 2020 re-election posters have been waved at multiple protest rallies. They have been asking foreigners to write to their representatives to ask their respective legislations to pass laws to support Hong Kong. Joshua Wong, one of the leaders of the Umbrella Movement, has even flown to the U.S. [to plead his case to Congress](#) that they should pass the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act.



Unlike previous instances where nations have intervened in other nations’ affairs without consent, Hong Kong is explicitly asking for foreign intervention. But are foreigners qualified to determine when to intervene in the name of freedom? Who are we to believe we are qualified to “restore” human rights?

We aren’t.

The U.S., specifically, has had a bad record in foreign intervention in the name of “spreading freedom”. The recent war in Iraq has shown that U.S. intervention in trying to overthrow a dictatorship to establish a democracy has possibly made the region worse and [has led to the creation of ISIS](#). Iraq is not an isolated incident either as historically the U.S. has made multiple missteps in spreading democracy such as instances in [Guatemala](#) or [Vietnam](#). When foreigners attempt to fix perceived lack of human rights in areas, they do not necessarily have the most accurate and reliable information available due to issues of finding reliable sources or cultural differences.

Foreigners are not capable of making the right judgement as to which side or position is the “correct” one as their access to information of foreign revolutions is limited through whatever media they consume and whatever the media would like for them to know. This is especially prevalent in Hong Kong as various media outlets are rampant with varying degrees of bias. In one of the telegrams—a secure network/chat-forum for protestors to organize movements—it featured several pictures telling how foreigners can support the movement. One of these pictures directed foreigners to the [Hong Kong subreddit](#) to stay informed and to generate support for the movement. However, looking at the subreddit for Hong Kong, it only paints the pro-democracy movement in a positive light. Not only that, but

**How can you help HK?**

**What everybody can do!**

- Join [r/HongKong](#) Subscribe, Like, Thumbsup, Follow, Share  
Pro-Democracy Hong Kong Social Media or Channels
- [#StandWithHongKong](#) [#Eye4HK](#)  
[#NoChinaExtradition](#) [#antiLEL](#)  
[#SOSHK](#) [#反送中](#) [#FreeHongKong](#)  
[#StandwithHK](#) [#SaveHongKong](#)  
[#HongKongProtest](#) [#HKLastWords](#)  
[#DemocracyNow](#) [#5DemandsNotOneLee](#)  
[#NoExtraditionToChina](#)
- Make Meme, Posters, Videos, Drawings, Sing a Song to express your solidarity with Hong Kongers
- Petition Reporting HKPF to the International Police Association (IPA) for breach of professional code of conduct and excessive use of force <https://bit.ly/2iHQHcz>
- Petition to reject nomination of Andy Tsang (former Police Chief of HK, approves police brutality) for positions in United Nations <https://bit.ly/2kaTstcX>
- Sanction Hong Kong government for its State Terrorism conducted in Prince Edward train station <https://bit.ly/2laS51A>
- Raise awareness of the Hong Kong protest. Spread the word to your friends, family, schoolmates, pray for Hong Kong with church, spread in your own ways.
- Setup Lennon Wall (Post-it/Memo stickers) in your community

these posts are hiding some of the darker aspects of the movements that cannot be ignored. These posts do not show images of protestors vandalizing MTR stations or beating policemen. They mainly post pictures of the protest and reiterating the Five Demands. There is no room for discussion in the subreddit. Even more traditional media sources like the South China Morning Post and free to watch news channel TVB are known to have Pro-China bias. One former South China Morning Post writer [accounted](#) how the agenda of the newspaper slowly turned into propaganda pushed by the CCP. As foreigners, even looking at the news sources available in Hong Kong are not a true reflection of the issues. Even international news media is not free of bias. Headlines in Western news media tend to focus on the more sensationalized aspects of the movement (possibly as a way to drive up views and clicks). Pictures of protestors waving Donald Trump posters, American flags or singing God Save the Queen have drawn a lot of coverage from various media outlets like [The Telegraph](#), [The Independent](#), and [CNN](#) which can imply to viewers that Hong Kong wants foreign intervention. Consequently, the news media is picking up on images that sell and are not showing the full picture.



The decentralization of the protests has made it difficult for any news media to truly capture what the protestors want. From images alone, people are led to believe that protestors want foreign intervention, [but from one op-ed](#) from the Hong Kong Free Press, a proclaimed independent news website, it claims that a majority of protestors are not interested in receiving aid from a foreign power and that the flagbearers have received backlash from fellow protestors for waving them. The lack of structure within the protests is advantageous in preventing policemen from cracking down on leaders, but it also leads to varying degrees of dissent with no

universal plan amongst the protestors. The lack of formal organization amongst the protestors has been helpful in preventing policemen or the CCP from targeting any leaders of the protests, but the various factions do not all necessarily agree on the same ideals or means in which they protest. Certain factions amongst the protestors have committed violent acts against police and have vandalized many MTR stations. Due to the lack of leadership, if any foreign power did decide to support the Hong Kong protestors, they would have to condone the action of all of the protestors, and with these acts of violence and vandalism, it isn't a viable option for countries to encourage.

But you can easily question how I am qualified to make these assertions. Who am I to say what the Hong Kong protests are like and whether or not the Hong Kongers are unjustified in how they protest? I am of Chinese descent, but I was born and raised in the U.S. I'm not from here

and I cannot comment on the Hong Kong situation with any kind of informed clarity as to what anyone's stance should be.

Nor should I.

I don't have the historical background or cultural understanding of Hong Kong and I don't have the time to dedicate myself to learn everything about it and this can be extended to the Western nations as well. The U.S. is already in a trade war with China and the upcoming election is on most people's minds. Great Britain won't come to their rescue either as they will have to deal with the possibility of Brexit, and the rise of right-wing nationalism, and thus isolationism, further prevents any other European nations to intervene with the ongoing events in Hong Kong. Even if Western nations wanted to intervene, the options are extremely limited in either sending troops or sending money. Sending troops would be an extremely aggressive act toward China which no country would be willing to do due to their economic reliance on Chinese goods. Foreign aid would not help either as the leaderless movement would have no one to accept the money.

Neutrality is not an easy stance as it seems to be the coward's way out, but foreign nations do not have the time nor resources to devote to Hong Kong, and historically they can cause more damage than good. We can only hope that the situation is resolved with Hong Kong's best interests at heart in a peaceful manner. We have an outsider's perspective and we can react to whatever news we receive, but in the end, this is Hong Kong's battle. They are fighting for their beliefs, and they should be the ones to determine them.

