

**CHINA'S NATIONAL SECURITY LAW FOR
HONG KONG: THE DOMESTIC AND
GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES (II)**

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Executive Summary

1. The newly promulgated Hong Kong national security law has sent jitters to many pro-democracy advocates who foresee a blanket crackdown on members of their leagues; they fear that the new law will be blind to differentiations between moderate and extremist protesters and persecute all pro-democracy individuals alike.
2. In a show of support for the law, a new set-up, United Front Supporting National Security Legislation, organised 2,005 street stands all over Hong Kong; the event garnered 732,000 online petitions with 900,000 signatories. Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam joined pro-national security law residents/volunteers on the street for this public display of support for Beijing.
3. On the other hand, some business leaders of multinational companies (MNCs) are gradually making their exit from Hong Kong and mainland China, while wealthy Hong Kongers are emigrating and transferring their funds out of Hong Kong for fear of mainland authorities confiscating their wealth with the new national security bill.
4. Legal experts and human rights advocates in the West have warned individuals who were critical of Beijing or the Hong Kong government to keep away from greater China, flying with Cathay Pacific and boarding other vessels registered in Hong Kong as the law also applies to those who commit crimes “aboard ships or aircraft registered in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region”.
5. Regulations giving preferential treatment to Hong Kong, including export licence exceptions, have been suspended by the US Commerce Department.
6. China-US relations have taken one giant step backwards. Beijing strongly considers Hong Kong matters to be strictly internal affairs and out of bounds to the United States. Premier Li Keqiang has labelled Hong Kong as a “core interest”.
7. On Taiwan’s part, it has gravitated closer to the United States. Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen has clearly and unambiguously rejected the ‘one country, two systems’

formula and expressed support for Hong Kong's protesters, offering them refuge after careful screening.

8. Western countries like Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom have either implemented or considering suspending extradition treaties with Hong Kong and extending asylum opportunities to Hong Kongers, including pro-democracy and human rights advocates.
9. China is not without powerful allies on the Hong Kong issue. On 27 May 2020, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov chided the United States for interfering in China's domestic issue and attempting to "make a scandal" of the national security law, discrediting itself in the eyes of other states in the international arena.