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Hong Kong & "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China"

Robert Lawrence Kuhn

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Screenshots	Dialogue
	<p>EB = Errol Barnett RC = Rosemary Church KUHN= Robert Lawrence Kuhn</p>
	<p>EB: Welcome back to CNN everyone, I'm Errol Barnett. We want to show you now live pictures of what's taking place in Hong Kong; the chief executive there urging protestors to clear the streets, calling it a "public safety issue." So far, though, no repeat of the violent encounters with police that led to dozens of injuries and nearly 90 arrests over the weekend.</p>
	<p>RC: Yeah, the tear gas fired by police on Sunday seemed to shock just about everyone. And it served to swell the number of protestors. The central government pledged a high degree of autonomy for Hong Kong after Britain returned it to China back in 1997.</p>
	<p>We do want to focus on what China may do next, and for that, Robert Lawrence Kuhn joins us from Pasadena, California. He is the author of <i>How China's Leaders Think</i>. Thank you, sir, for joining us.</p>
	<p>KUHN: Pleasure.</p> <p>RC: What happens next? How likely is it that this could perhaps trigger a violent crackdown by China?</p>
	<p>KUHN: First of all, China's leadership is very sophisticated, and very committed to reform, development, modernization, and for all of that, stability is absolutely essential. Certainly for the mainland. The issue with Hong Kong is the so-called "one country, two systems" policy that was initiated many years ago by Deng Xiaoping and formed the basis of the relationship.</p>
	<p>But what we have now is some serious protests, not just seeking universal suffrage, but against the ability of</p>



Beijing to select the candidate pool from which Hong Kong residents choose and vote. So it's not a true democracy, they say, and that's what's being protested.

What you have to understand, though, is the Hong Kong community is a very business-oriented community—it's not so political. There are people who are political—obviously we can see that—but the vast majority of the businesspeople want stability, they want Hong Kong to continue to be the gateway to China and China to be successful so their businesses can grow. So I don't foresee this developing into anything extremely serious, where China would have to institute a crackdown.

President Xi Jinping is deeply committed to the concept of governance, theory and practice. In fact, just this Sunday, a book was published in China, a remarkable book called "**Xi Jinping: The Governance of China**", and on October 8th it'll be released in nine languages for the international community. 500 pages about President Xi's concept of governance, including Hong Kong and Macau. Of the 18 categories in the book, 7 are international, more than a third of the book. So President Xi has a knowledgeable and sophisticated approach. But it is true to say that China will do whatever it takes to maintain stability, because only stability, according to China's leaders, will bring the greatest good to the greatest many.

RC: We're talking about young people out on the street here – students - and the fear here is that China's president, Xi Jinping, may lose face if this push for democracy spreads beyond Hong Kong into mainland China. What's the likely scenario if that happens?

KUHN: I don't think that will happen, because China will do whatever it takes to prevent that—

RC: But what if it happens?

KUHN: China will support the Hong Kong government. While intervention is not impossible, China would like to make no interventions in Hong Kong and allow the Hong Kong leadership to maintain their control -- but China's leaders will not allow, in my opinion, this type of



demonstration to occur anywhere in China. You see a censorship of social media regarding anything having to do with protests. Chinese citizens can criticize the central leadership, even personally—you can get away with that in social media. But you talk about getting a crowd together in any area and that'll be censored. China's is very sensitive to mass actions. China will do whatever it takes to prevent it. But I don't foresee, and I don't think anybody in China foresees, that the current situation will require active intervention by China.

RC: But less than 24 hours ago the riot police were pulled back, right, from these protests. There is a garrison of the People's Liberation Army based nearby—

RK: Yes.

RC: How likely do you think it is that we would see them on the streets of Hong Kong trying to control these protests? Because when hundreds, thousands of people are out there, wall to wall people—there's going to be more of them once there's the public holiday—what's going to happen? There won't be a lot of tolerance for this on the part of China, will there?

KUHN: I think that is extremely unlikely to see members of the People's Liberation Army from China intervening in Hong Kong. I think the Hong Kong authorities have many resources at their command that they will institute, hopefully as little as possible, to let these protests disperse. Again, I think the image of the protests is a very serious one, China takes it very seriously, but there's a large segment in Hong Kong that's really focused on business and keeping the relationship with China strong. But in no way will China allow this type of public protests to approach the mainland. That's what we can be sure of. But the likelihood of China having to intervene with their own military forces, which some people speculate about, is highly unlikely.

RC: And we shall be watching very closely to see if that is the case. Robert Lawrence Kuhn, thank you so much for joining us, we do appreciate it.