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ROBERT F. KENNEDY: "OUR ANSWER IS THE WORLD'S HOPE....

It is to rely on youth, not a time of life but a state of mind."

by

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Hong Kong is relying on the world's hope. Youths are in the forefront of protests against new laws that would allow China to extradite people to be tried in China's courts controlled by the Communist Party.

The Hong Kong protests hold other lessons for the United States in 2019.

They do not have a knight on a white horse. There is no single leader among the protestors this time. They have learned from past experiences.

The last time a major protest erupted in Hong Kong, it had an identifiable, single leader. He was identified all right, by the government authorities and he was sentenced to prison for six years.

Returning to the main point, the protestors in Hong Kong are not waiting to be delivered from injustice. They do not expect anyone else to come and save them. They are all they have, and in their eyes that is their strength, not a weakness.

Organizers are announcing their activities and gatherings "through social media, word of mouth and secure messaging apps[.]" They absolutely believe in the importance of what they are doing. For the people of Hong Kong, the fight is existential. If China can deport them to China's prisons for activities frowned on by the ruling Party, they may never be heard from in the future. To say again, their fight is existential. See Mike Ives and Katherine Li, *For Hong Kong's Youth, Marching is 'a Matter of Life and Death,'* NEW YORK TIMES, Tues., June 18, 2019, p. A10 ([there are no guarantees of quality hyperlinks or access to the New York Times which may charge for online access](#)).

Those in the United States who have eyes to see with and ears to hear with, let them draw the lessons of Hong Kong. The people in Hong Kong today were in Tiananmen Square in 1989. In many cases, the protestors of Tiananmen literally moved south to Hong Kong to escape oppression. In their journey, they did not leave their courage behind.

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