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Currently in there are protests being held in Hong Kong which started when the Hong Kong government thinking about creating a law that would let the Chinese government extradite suspects to the mainland. The protests started because many felt this would give the Chinese government too much power over Hong Kong as China would be defining who would be suspects. This backlash led to the bill being suspended and eventually scrapped but not before protesters started to demand full democracy from China.

These protests have once again shined a negative light on China’s government. But what has been the most shocking has the been the reaction of some American companies such as Apple, Blizzard and even the NBA. Apple has deleted multiple apps that would help protestors. Blizzard has banned a profession videogame player for voicing his opinion on the protests as well as essentially firing his interviewers who had nothing to do with the outburst. And in the NBA the general manager of the Houston Rockets tweeted (ironically twitter is banned in China) out in support of Hong Kong before being hit with massive backlash with even his team holding talks to fire him. And the question that comes to mind is why are American companies trying to save face with China even over incidents that happened overseas?

The answer is pretty simple, money. China is home to almost 1.4 billion people and companies of course want a slice. These companies and many more have a garnered a significant number of Chinese stakeholders and upsetting them would cause that money to disappear. Before this incident the Houston Rockets were one of the most popular teams in China but now the team’s merchandise is no longer sold, and the team’s Chinese sponsors have also suspended their partnerships. Lastly China has banned broadcasting of the preseason NBA matches and has not stated whether this will continue into the regular season. It is worth knowing that Chinese company Tencent spent an estimated $1.5 billion to show the NBA with the promise of more money on the way. In Blizzard’s case the Chinese market only made up 12% of its last quarterly earning’s (almost 5 times less than the US share at 54%) but is a market that Blizzard sees big potential to grow. Finally, with Apple which has been the most successful western tech company grosses about $44 billion in sales a year from China (its third biggest market). In China Apple produces hundreds of millions of iPhones a year meaning that if Apple was to greatly upset the Chinese government the company could lose both the revenue it makes and more importantly the manufacturing power of China. Such a big lose would cause Apple to slow down or worse fail.

Seeing the monetary value that they companies receive from China is it easy to see why they have both entered the Chinese market and submitted themselves to the Chinese government however, working with the Chinese government brings up a big question. Should companies of one country work with another company when their morals vastly differ? There are sides to this question. First as we can see by working with China American morals are being suppressed **in** America. These are all American companies based in America where freedom of speech is protected but, as we saw with the NBA incident, they are being punished based on another country’s morals. This goes even further with the Blizzard incident as the interviewers were fired as well when they had nothing to do with the outcry as well as the stream being cut immediately, and all footage being deleted. And next these companies are doing things such as censoring which is immoral in America to other country.

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For the argument that it is ethical for a company work to with another country like China whose morals greatly differ from the ones of said home country we need to consider a few things. Using For the sake of the argument China will be used as the example the new county. Without said company coming into China, China would most likely contract a private in-state company to make the same products. China for example has blocked most social media and, in its place, made WeChat using Tencent a Chinese company. This means that the foreign company would not be doing any harm China nor impeding any of the Chinese rights. Next being a foreign company bringing in a product the product would already be made only have to go through a few changes to match up with the Chinese laws. This would make it more compatible with the products overseas. With regards to the case the apps that Apple deleted was also causing police injuries. This suggests that Apple’s presence gave more liberty to the Chinese that the Chinese government. With the Blizzard incident the player would not have been able to make the outcry. Considering that player is from Hong Kong if Chinese media were over it, they would most likely done a few things. They could hand him a script, shoot the interview first and after its done show it as live or finally just not interview the player at all.

For the argument against the working with the foreign country we can see that in the case that people not from the foreign country were still being held to their standards. The American company Blizzard was censoring political opinions when freedom of speech exists in America. They even as far as to ban the interviewers who did not even provoke the outburst form the player. While it would have been one thing for the Chinese stream to cut out and continue the broadcast as normal the fact that Blizzard cut the stream for everyone and deleted the footage goes against America’s core values. Next the company would actively be helping China hurt its people. In China for example the government censors anything that it deems unfit for its people. So, for a company to come a give a search engine to China they would have to agree on making sure that the people stay in the dark. Based on the case is deleting apps from on a whim from the Chinese government because it is helping the protestors out. If something like this happened in America there would be outcries of censorship. Finally, with the NBA the tweet that the Rockets ‘general manger only made waves because this team had such a Chinese backing. Without out this it is really a non-issue. The tweet could not be seen by the Chinese people in the first place since twitter is blocked in China. This is how China is using its monetary power to force its morals on the United States.

The position that I will be taking is that it is not ethical to do business with China. While yes there is great monetary value in doing business, it requires doing too much damage to both the home country and the Chinese natural rights. First the argument for doing business based on ethics is barely a positive and for the most part neutral for the Chinese people. The argument essentially boils down to their natural rights were already reduced so it does not really matter who is doing the reducing or if I am giving them slightly more rights than China would. This is not ethically because you are gaining profits by reducing the natural rights from what has been decided by America. Next by doing business with China I am inviting them to start to reduce the natural rights back on American soil even when said rights are protected like in the case of the NBA or Blizzard when an American Collegiate team held up a sign in support of the liberation of Hong Kong and were promptly cut off the camera. And Finally with the case of Apple while there might be some truth to the take down of the apps it seems to be coming directly from the government and based of Apples own finding to be just Apple making sure that the police are safe. All three cases are a form of censorship that occurred that which again makes the point that working with China is unethical since we have adopt their standards.