

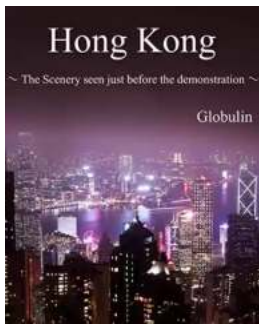
Before The 2019-20 Hong Kong Protests: A Closer Look



The unrest that shook Hong Kong in 2019-20 captured the world's attention, but what led to this unprecedented series of protests? To truly understand the reasons behind the protests, we must delve into the social, economic, and political landscape of Hong Kong before the demonstrations took place. Let's take a closer look at the events leading up to the historic 2019-20 Hong Kong protests.

Historical Background

Hong Kong, known for its vibrant energy and iconic skyline, has a rich history that is intertwined with economic and political influences. A former colony of the British Empire, Hong Kong was returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle. This arrangement granted Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy, including the maintenance of an independent legal system and civil liberties not guaranteed in mainland China.



Hong Kong ~ the scenery seen just before the demonstration ~: Before the 2019–20 Hong Kong protests by Rossella Romano(Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The Handover and the Umbrella Movement

In 2014, the Umbrella Movement emerged in Hong Kong as a response to proposed electoral reforms by Beijing, which many Hong Kong citizens felt restricted their ability to freely choose their leaders. The movement gained its name from the umbrellas used by protestors to shield themselves from tear gas and pepper spray deployed by the police. Although the Umbrella Movement did not achieve its immediate objectives, it sparked a sense of resistance and solidarity among the Hong Kong people.



Rising Tension and Controversial Extradition Bill

The years following the Umbrella Movement experienced a growing disillusionment among Hong Kong's youth regarding their future and their ability to shape it. In 2019, the Hong Kong government ignited a major controversy with the proposal of an extradition bill, which would allow fugitives to be transferred to mainland China for trial. Critics argued that this bill threatened the independence of the Hong Kong judicial system and undermined the "One Country, Two Systems" principle.

The Spark That Ignited the Flame

The of the controversial extradition bill was met with widespread public resistance. Concerned citizens, fearing encroachment on their civil liberties, took to the streets to express their discontent. The government's response to the peaceful protests further intensified public anger, leading to violent clashes between police and demonstrators.

International Attention and Support

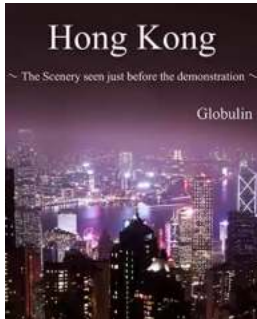
The 2019-20 Hong Kong protests captured international attention, with people from various countries expressing their support for democratic ideals and human rights in the face of what they perceived as Beijing's increasing influence. Through social media, news outlets, and global solidarity movements, the protests in Hong Kong became a symbol of resistance against authoritarianism and a struggle for societal freedom.



The 2019-20 Hong Kong protests did not occur in isolation. They were the culmination of years of social, economic, and political frustrations among the people of Hong Kong. The events leading up to the protests highlighted the aspirations for freedom, democracy, and autonomy that continue to shape Hong Kong's struggle for a better future.

Sources:

- Hong Kong cityscape image: <https://www>.
- Hong Kong protesters image: <https://www>.
- Solidarity with Hong Kong image: <https://www>.



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Late March 2019

A landscape photograph taken casually on a trip to Hong Kong

It was just before the long-term demonstration that continues to this day begins.

We stayed at a cheap hotel in Chongqing Mansion, a sacred place for backpackers, and it was a memorable and enjoyable trip despite various troubles.

I hope that the demos and the new coronavirus outbreak will be resolved, and that the day will come when we can visit peaceful Hong Kong.



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