



2020, it started out so well.



Dr. Evil has been toiling away with his Evil Minions of Evil™ on a fish project. Seriously, who can resist something cold, wet and slimy? When suddenly, this just popped up.



An artist's rendering of the 100,000-metric-ton offshore fish farm vessel. [Photo provided to chinadaily.com.cn]

[Innovative fish farming vessel project launched](https://www.chinadaily.com.cn): Chinadaily.com.cn: Xie Chuanjiao in Qingdao: 22 DEC 2020

“Qingdao Conson and its partners plan to build 50 of the fish farm vessels capable of raising a total of more than 200,000 tons of high-value fish species. The output value will be 11 billion yuan, the company said.”

Call Dr. Evil skeptical, but fish farming doesn't offer the profitability to sustain, let alone purchase a 100,000 metric ton seagoing vessel. A evil guess is that this vessel replaces refrigerated storage vessels hauling their catch back to China for

PRC distant water fleets currently denuding 3<sup>rd</sup> world seabeds. Perhaps more evilly, the PRC will drive one of these over pelagic fish grounds, like Natuna, and ingest millions of fish into its belly for subsequent processing, framing the whole thing as a more prosaic sounding 'farming' operation.

## Point – Counter-Point

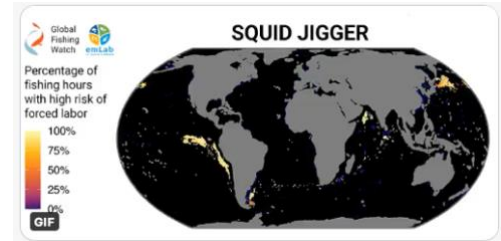
[New Study Unveils Risk of Forced Labor in Fisheries](#): GlobalFishingWatch.Org: Gavin McDonald: 21 DEC 2020:

“Researchers leverage satellite data, machine learning, and human rights expertise to develop model that determines risk of forced labor on fishing vessels. Our initial findings indicate that between 14 and 26 percent of the 16,000 fishing vessels included in the study were at high risk for forced labor during at least one year from 2012-2018. This means as many as 100,000 individuals may have been



I'll have my squid jigger shaken, not stirred.

victims of forced labor.” **Forced labor on Squid Jiggers? Say it ain't so! Dr. Evil must admit to just enjoying the sound of... “Squid Jigger”. Clearly, it's time to invent the corresponding drink.**



[Central Bank Vows to Toughen Law Enforcement in Bond Market](#): CaixingGlobal.com: 25 DEC 2020:



Like taking candy from a baby.

“China’s central bank pledged to deepen reforms in the country’s bond market and strengthen law enforcement as the \$15 trillion market faces a rising wave of defaults. Top regulators from the People’s Bank of China, the top banking and securities regulators, and the Supreme Court met this week to discuss the legal framework of China’s bond market and pledged to improve disclosure, unify market standards, and boost law enforcement.” **There are a couple of**

**vectors intersecting here. In order to sustain a falsified growth narrative, the PRC must/will misallocate more funds into infrastructure projects via Local Government Finance Vehicles (LGFVs), mostly raised through...wait for it...the BOND MARKET. China’s bond market, i.e. house of cards, will tumble unless it receives fresh capital. In order to get that capital, PRC authorities will use the upcoming judicial rectification campaign as a symbol of improved disclosure and law enforcement. Even though the rectification campaigns’ intent is to remove any judicial or law enforcement challenges to Xi as Emperor, and will truncate the flow of negative information, making pricing stocks and bonds even more subjective...**



[China seeks additional guarantees for \\$6b new loan](#): The

Express Tribune: Shahbaz Rana: 23 DEC 2020

“China has sought additional guarantees before sanctioning \$6 billion loan for Main Line-1 (ML-1) project due to weakening financial position of Pakistan and also proposed a mix of commercial and concessional loan against Islamabad’s desire to secure the cheapest lending.”

**Bahahah....Pakistan is the briar patch for bad lending and investing by China. The [China-Pakistan Economic Corridor](#) being the premier example. As of 2020, China has \$62B worth of infrastructure projects in Pakistan. Islamabad has already sought an [extension](#) for debt repayment on \$30B in loans. In the meantime, Pakistan has used [Chinese money](#) to repay \$1B of a \$3B Saudi loan. Is China going to take a bath on Pakistan? Maybe, but Chinese companies are profiteering at an extraordinary rate, even by Pakistani corruption standards. For example, the set-up of two coal fired electric utilities, Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pak) Energy (HSR) and Port Qasim Electric Power Company were worth \$3.8B at their launch...in theory. A Pakistani expert’s committee found [overpayments of \\$3B](#), which are generated with the complicity of leaders in the Pakistan government and the loot shared by all parties. Elite or ethnic/tribal groups use the superstructure of a State’s debt capacity to borrow and distribute largesse to their clients while exhausting future potential debt capacity for competing groups.**



## [How Illegal Online Gambling Lauanders \\$153 Billion From China](#)

By Zhang Yuzhe and Denise Jia: 21 DEC 2020

“A migrant worker from the northern Chinese city Baoding “loaned” three credit cards under his name to friends to offset 2,500 yuan (\$380) of debt he owed. He never imagined he would later be arrested for illegal sale of credit cards that were used by criminal groups to launder money for online gambling.



This arrest was part of Chinese authorities’ nationwide “Card Breaking Campaign,” an operation to crack down on illicit bank card transactions and bank card sales to combat telecommunications fraud and cross-border online gambling. The campaign aims to cut off links between mobile phone sim cards and bank cards, and users who are not the registered card holders. Also included are online payment accounts such as Tencent’s WeChat Pay and Alibaba’s Alipay.

This new type of crime has created an illegitimate industry employing 5 million to 6 million people involving information technology (IT), payment settlements and operations, according to an IT department official at the Ministry of Public Security. The complex payments and money laundering system ropes in small individual players in some of China’s remotest places like the migrant worker in Baoding who loan or lease financial credentials to offshore criminal groups, which then help illegal gamblers hide money from authorities, often using Tether Ltd.’s USDT cryptocurrency.” **Bottom line – everybody wants to get their money out of the PRC.**



[Going to War with China? Ignore Corbett. Dust Off Mahan!](#): US Naval Institute *Proceedings*(paywall):

Matthew Suarez: DEC 2020:

When considering commerce interdiction as a strategy of war, Corbett’s simplicity may be attractive, but Mahan’s understanding of the globalized economy is what will win. **If it’s in *Proceedings* or from the Naval Institute, its’ got to be Mahan... Just saying**



You've heard of elf on the shelf. Now get ready for :



**Hint...what economist rhymes with 'Kayak'? .....never mind.**



Yes, Dr. Evil uses the Holiday Edition to shamelessly send bad memes.... Well, someone has to!

As always, if you’re on the distro but want off, please let me know. If you’re not on the distro but want on, please let me know. All analysis is solely the opinion of Dr. Evil