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Date _____



Hong Kong

TIERNEY:

Let's talk about Hong Kong.

You've probably seen some of the viral videos of the protests in Hong Kong, but how did that conflict begin?

Let's first consider the history. Hong Kong was a British colony until 1997 — not very long ago. When it became part of China again, a "one country, two systems" status emerged. Sound complicated? Well... it kind of is. The change in '97 meant that China would handle Hong Kong's defense and foreign affairs, but for 50 years, Hong Kong would be allowed a high degree of autonomy. But some Hong Kong residents fear that they may lose many of their rights when those 50 years end in 2047.

In June of 2019, protesters took to the streets because Hong Kong lawmakers were considering a bill that would allow China to extradite criminal suspects from Hong Kong. Extradition means sending a person back to a country where they've been accused of a crime. Many Hong Kongers worried this proposition would give China too much power over them. Things have since snowballed into a larger call for democratic reforms.

CARRIE LAM:

The government will formally withdraw the bill in order to fully allay public concerns.

TIERNEY:

How is the situation in Hong Kong similar to and different from other historical conflicts about democracy?