



Xi Jinping, General Secretary of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and President of People's Republic of China, delivers a New Year address to extend greetings to all Chinese and best wishes to friends all over the world in Beijing on December 31, 2017 (XINHUA)

New year resolutions President Xi's address sets the bar for 2018

By Yuan Yuan

On December 31, President Xi Jinping extended New Year greetings to the nation in his annual New Year address. Xi pointed to China's achievements in 2017 as well as the challenges the country will tackle in the new year and those to follow.

People first

Livelihoods were at the center of Xi's message, highlighting the "people first" principle which underlines China's governance. Xi said he was aware of people's primary concerns, which include education, employment, income, social security, medical care, elderly care, housing and the environment.

"There is still much room for improvement in our work concerning people's well-being. So we must strengthen our sense of mission and responsibility and make every effort to deliver a better life for our people," Xi said in the speech.

Peng Xinlin, a professor from Beijing Normal University, said during an interview with China Youth Daily that he was most impressed by Xi's call for Party and government officials to place the people's needs as their top priority, and regard benefiting the people as the highest accomplishment of their careers.

"To guarantee and improve people's livelihoods is not only an economic or social issue, it is a crucial political issue directly concerning our Party's ruling foundation," Peng said. "To test the effectiveness of our work, the final criteria are whether the people really see the benefits, and whether people's lives have been improved."

"The word 'people' was mentioned many times in the speech and it is very encouraging," said Zhang Xianyi, Director of Nanhu Revolutionary Memorial Hall in Jiaxing of east China's Zhejiang Province, where the first National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was held in 1921. "The original aspiration and mission of the Chinese Communists is to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation," Zhang said.

Xi said that in 2017 he received many letters from people across the country, including villagers from Tibet Autonomous Region, members of the Ulan Muqir Art Troupe in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and undergraduates from Nankai University who joined the military services. Xi wrote back to them, praising them for the efforts they have already made and encouraging them to make further

contributions to the country.

The year 2018 will be the first to move toward the goal set by the CPC at its 19th National Congress. "The 19th Party Congress laid out a blueprint for China's development in the next three decades and beyond," Xi said. "To turn this blueprint into reality, we must ... take one step at a time as we progress and deliver tangible outcomes."

"Xi's vision for China presents a rather stark contrast to the more mundane messages presented by most other political leaders to their constituents," William Jones, Washington Bureau Chief of the U.S. magazine Executive Intelligence Review, told Beijing Review. In Jones' eyes, the difference lies in the fact that leaders in the West have a viewpoint limited to no more than the four or five years they have left in office, whereas President Xi is looking decades ahead at what China can accomplish in the next 30, 40, or 50 years.

"This breadth of view and sense of purpose characterizes the difference between a mere politician and a great statesman," Jones said.

Poverty elimination

Since 2015, 2020 has been earmarked as the year in which China's campaign to lift all rural residents out of poverty will be achieved, and there now are only three years to go.

"Happiness is indeed earned through hard work," Xi said in his speech. "Winning this tough battle against poverty within three years means that for the first time in China's history of several millennia, extreme poverty will cease to exist in the country."

Peng Xiaying, a villager from Maoping in south China's Jiangxi Province, was excited to hear Xi's remarks. In 2017, Peng and her daughter opened a restaurant in the village and their annual income is now more than 100,000 yuan (\$15,300).

"The government has made great efforts to guide us out of poverty," Peng said. "I am very glad to learn that there were more than 10 million rural residents like me lifted out of poverty in 2017."

"I can feel the confidence of the people and officials toward the bright future of our country," said Jiang Shengxia, Party Secretary of Panlong Village in Tongcheng of East China's Anhui Province. As a delegate to the 19th CPC National Congress, Jiang has been busy introducing the outcome of the congress to villagers. In 2017, 127 residents from 49 households in Panlong were lifted out of poverty.

"In 2018, we will strive to develop tourism in rural areas and green agricultural industries to help villagers to earn more and live a better life," Jiang said.

Reform and the world

The year 2018 also marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up. In his speech, Xi vowed that the spirit of reform must be carried through into the new year as reform and opening up is a path of demonstrable success to which China must stick if it is to continue its progress in national socio-economic development and realize the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation.

On December 31 last year, during the final hours of 2017, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge was lit up in a ceremony to mark the completion of the majority of the world's longest sea-crossing structure. Six years of planning and eight years of construction went into the 55-km-long bridge linking Hong Kong, Zhuhai in Guangdong Province and Macao.

"We will build the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area into a green and livable city group," said Gao Xinglin, an official from the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Management Bureau. "This bridge will be an impetus for the development of the Greater Bay Area."

"The Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone has taken a new look every year," said Wang Jinxia, Deputy Director of Qianhai Management Bureau in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province. The booming metropolis of Shenzhen developed from a small fishing village following the piloting of market economy during the nascent stages of reform and opening up. The Qianhai Area is now a pilot zone in Shenzhen for deepening the process of reform.

"We will intensify reform in Qianhai and explore innovative policies for financial cooperation between Shenzhen and Hong Kong," Wang said. "We will make it a new key area and an important juncture for Belt and Road construction."

Proposed by Xi in September 2013, the Belt and Road Initiative aims to build trade and infrastructure networks connecting Asia with Europe and Africa on and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes, with the intention of creating new platforms for international cooperation.

The 19th CPC National Congress outlined the building of a community with a shared future for mankind and the implementation of a new type

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of international relations as the overall goal of China's foreign diplomacy.

"To build a community with a shared future for mankind is China's answer to the question of 'what we can do for the world,' and this answer has been well received across the globe," said Ruan Zongze from the China Institute of International Studies.

"With the world in so much turmoil today, the message of hope which rings clear in Xi's New Year address is also a message of hope for the world, since China is prepared to share its development in creating a community of shared future for mankind," Jones said.



China officially launches its second and the first domestically developed aircraft carrier in Dalian, Liaoning Province, on April 26, 2017 (XINHUA)



The aerial photo of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge taken on December 31, 2017 (XINHUA)

President Xi Jinping's New Year Address

Greetings to you all!

How time flies. Soon we will ring in the year 2018. I wish to extend New Year wishes to the people of all ethnic groups across China, including our fellow Chinese in the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions, Taiwan, and overseas. I also wish our friends in all other countries and regions around the world all the best in the new year.

As the Chinese adage goes, hard work always pays off. Indeed, our hard work has brought remarkable change to China. In 2017, we held the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), embarking on a new journey of making all-round efforts to build a modern socialist country. China's GDP has exceeded 80 trillion yuan (\$12.3 trillion). More than 13 million new jobs have been created in urban and rural areas. Over 900 million Chinese are now covered by social pension insurance and 1.35 billion Chinese have access to basic medical insurance. Another 10 million-plus rural residents have been lifted out of poverty. "How wonderful it would be if all the poor people could be properly sheltered!" Such was the longing of an ancient Chinese poet. Thanks to our poverty alleviation efforts, 3.4 million poor people have been relocated and moved into new and warm homes, and the building of 6 million housing units in run-down areas has begun ahead of schedule. We have stepped up initiatives aimed at improving people's lives and steadily improved the ecological environment, while our people now have a stronger sense of fulfillment, happiness and security. In short, we have taken another big step toward the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

The past year has seen a number of major innovation and engineering success stories. Huiyuan, a hard X-ray modulation telescope, was launched into space, while the C919 large passenger jet completed its maiden flight. A quantum computer has been successfully developed and trials have been conducted for growing rice in saline soil by the sea.

The first Chinese-built aircraft carrier was launched, Haiyi, an underwater glider, conducted deep-sea observations, and sub oceanic combustible ice was successfully extracted for the first time. Phase IV of the Yangshan Automated Port is now operational. The main structure of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge has been completed, and the Fuxing high-speed trains have been put into service. Big congratulations to you, my fellow Chinese, for your great ingenuity!

We held a military parade at the Zhurihe training base in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army. I attended Hong Kong's

celebrations for the 20th anniversary of its return to the motherland. I could see first-hand that with the strong backing of the motherland, Hong Kong enjoys long-term prosperity and stability, and there is no doubt that the region will have an even better tomorrow. We also held a ceremony to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, and a national memorial ceremony for the victims of the Nanjing Massacre, honoring those who lost their lives and expressing our resolve to uphold peace.

China also played host to several multilateral diplomatic events, including the first Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the BRICS Xi'an Summit, and the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting. I also attended several major multilateral meetings. At the beginning of the year, I attended the annual World Economic Forum in Davos and delivered a speech at the UN Office at Geneva. Later in the year, I attended the G20 Summit and the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. On those occasions, I held in-depth exchanges with global leaders, and we agreed that it is imperative to build a community with a shared future for mankind in order to benefit the people of all countries.

In 2017, I continued to receive many letters from the public, including villagers from the Yumai Township of Longji County in Tibet Autonomous Region, members of the Ulan Muqir Art Troupe of Sonid Right Banner from Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, retired professors who have been with the Xi'an Jiaotong University since it was moved to Xi'an several decades ago, and undergraduates from Nankai University who joined our military services. Their stories moved me deeply. You, the people, with a strong sense of patriotism, have devoted yourselves to our common cause without regret or complaint. You, the ordinary Chinese, in your hundreds and millions, are the greatest heroes! What you have achieved shows that happiness is indeed earned through hard work.

The year 2018 will be the first for us here in China to move toward the goal set by the CPC at its 19th National Congress. The 19th Party Congress laid out a blueprint for China's development in the next three decades and beyond. As another Chinese saying goes, the building of a nine-story tower must begin by shoveling the first pile of earth. To turn this blueprint into reality, we must not entertain impractical notions or indulge in rhetoric. What we must do is to be realistic in our approach, and take one step at a time as we progress and deliver tangible outcomes.

The year 2018 marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up. Reform and opening up is the only way that today's China will achieve development and progress; and only by pursuing reform and opening up can we realize the Chinese dream. We will generate momentum for reform and opening up by celebrating its 40th anniversary, and, with the same drive and tenacity necessary to cut a path through the mountains and build a bridge across the rapid currents, we will carry reform through to its ultimate success.

By 2020, China will have lifted its rural population living below the current poverty line out of poverty. This is a solemn pledge that we have made, and we must honor it. With only three years to go, all of us in the country must get stuck into the action and take targeted steps to reach our goal. Winning this tough battle against poverty within three years will mean that for the first time in China's history of several millennia, extreme poverty will cease to exist in the country. Let's work together to accomplish this cause, a cause that is of monumental significance to both us the Chinese nation and the whole mankind.

Today, people in the world express both hope and concern about the prospects of peace and development, and they want to know where China stands on these issues. The world is one big family. As a responsible major country, China has this to say: China will resolutely uphold the tradition and stature of the United Nations, fulfill its due international obligations and responsibilities, honor its commitments on climate change, actively pursue the Belt and Road Initiative, and continue its efforts to safeguard world peace, promote global development and uphold the international order. We Chinese will continue to work together with people of all other countries to deliver a future of greater prosperity and peace for mankind.

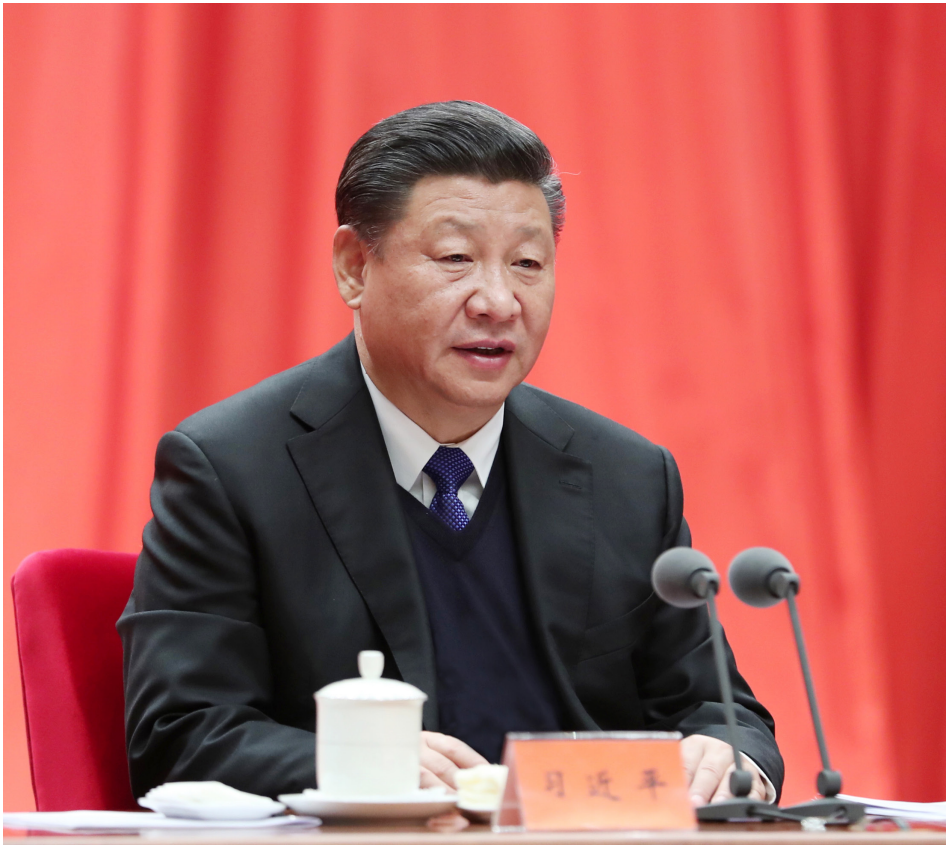
China's great progress is achieved by our people and must be shared by our people. I know that the areas of greatest concern to our people are related to education, employment, income, social security, healthcare, elderly care, housing and the environment, to name but a few of the major issues. We have made many gains, but we also face many pressing and difficult problems. There is still much room for improvement in our work concerning people's well-being. So we must strengthen our sense of mission and responsibility and make every effort to deliver a better life for our people. We, Party committees, governments and officials at all levels, must always keep in mind the well-being of the people, make benefiting the people our top priority, promptly address their pressing concerns and ensure they lead better lives.

Thank you all!

Crime and punishment

China's anti-corruption campaign enters 2018 with renewed vigor

By Yuan Yuan



Xi Jinping, General Secretary of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and President of People's Republic of China, delivers a speech at the second plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection on January 11 (XINHUA)

China's anti-graft campaign has made remarkable progress since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in late 2012, and yet the battle is far from over. This was the message announced loud and clear at the latest session of the CPC's anti-corruption body.

President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, stressed that full and rigorous governance over the Party must be unwaveringly imposed while delivering a speech at the second plenary session of the 19th Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) of the CPC on January 11.

"The Party itself and its members have gone through essential and profound changes," Xi said. This, according to him, requires a higher quality of Party management and enhanced political and organizational functions of Party organs.

The CCDI plenary session was held for three days from January 11 to 13 in Beijing. On January 9, two days before the assembly was convened, Fang Fenghui, a member of China's Central Military Commission (CMC) and former Chief of staff of the CMC Joint Staff Department, had been transferred to the military prosecution authority on suspicion of bribery.

Fang is not the first senior official to have been investigated in 2018. Feng Xinzhu, Vice Governor of Shaanxi Province, and Ji Xiangqi, Vice Governor of Shandong Province, were investigated for suspected corruption and violation of discipline on January 3 and 4, respectively.

"The investigation of two high-ranking officials on successive days demonstrates that China is determined to root out corruption, while also marking a good start for the anti-graft campaign this year," Du Zhizhou, Deputy Director of the Clean Governance Research Center at Beihang University, told China Daily.

War of attrition

Xi stressed the Party's resolve in the face of corruption in his speech on January 11. He called for heroic action and determination in order to cope with the complexities of governing the nation. "We should push forward this campaign with a fearlessness that grabs the bull by the horns and a fighting spirit that never steps aside in face of the enemy," Xi said.

Safeguarding the authority of the CPC Central Committee, the Party should develop itself into a dynamic Marxist ruling party that moves in synchrony with the times, is supported by the people, is brave in self-reform and survives all challenges and hardship, Xi said.

At the disciplinary session, Xi called for more anti-corruption efforts to "fundamentally improve the political ecosystem of the Party." While exercising strict governance, the Party will try its best to discover problems as early as possible to prevent officials from making irrevocable mistakes and to encourage them to correctly perform their duties.

Party members who hold high positions should be subject to higher and more rigorous standards, and placed under tighter scrutiny, Xi said.

"The speech delivered by General Secretary Xi displays a clarity of judgment on the current anti-corruption situation," Gao Bo, an official from CCDI, told Xinhua News Agency. "In the past five years, we have solved many internal problems but this campaign is still a long way from completion. We must develop a positive and healthy political culture in the Party and improve the Party's political ecosystem, stubbornly correcting misconduct in all its forms."

This echoed Xi's remarks in his report to the 19th CPC National Congress in October last year. "No place has been out of bounds, no stone left unturned, and no tolerance shown in the fight against corruption," Xi said in the report. "The anti-corruption campaign has been built into a crushing tide, and continues to be consolidated and developed."

"Currently, the fight against corruption remains grave and complex, and the goal of strict Party governance should not be forsaken halfway. We must have the resolve and tenacity to persevere in the never ending fight against corruption," said a communiqué adopted at the CCDI plenary session. "The most important thing is to tighten the Party's political rules and disciplines," it continued, calling for "better supervision over the political life of the Party and how its policies are being implemented."

Five-year achievements

In December 2012, China's central leadership issued the Eight-Point Frugality Rules, requiring government officials to strictly practice frugality and clean up undesirable work styles such as formalism, hedonism and extravagance. Practices such as the use of public funds to buy gifts, hold banquets and pay for entertainment activities have been strictly banned.

A high-profile anti-corruption campaign has swept across the country since then, leading to the downfall of a number of high-level officials, known as "tigers," and many lower-level ones, known as "flies."

Among the "tigers" brought down by the campaign were Zhou Yongkang, a former member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee; Bo Xilai, former Secretary of the CPC Chongqing Municipal Committee; Xu Caihou and Guo Boxiong, both former generals and vice chairs of the Central Military Commission; and Ling Jihua and Su Rong, former vice chairs of China's top political advisory body.

In 2017 alone, 20 high ranking officials from central Party and governmental agencies, centrally administered state-owned enterprises and central financial institutions were investigated for alleged graft and violations of discipline, including Sun Zhengcai, former Secretary of the CPC Chongqing Municipal Committee, and Wang Sanyun, former Vice Chairman of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee of the 12th National People's Congress.

Figures from the CCDI show that by October 2017, more than 70,000 officials at or above the level of county head had been investigated for suspected corruption since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012. More than 100 military officers with the rank of major general or higher had also been brought down.

Additionally, 1.34 million township-level officials, and 648,000 Party members and officials in rural areas were also punished during that period. The CCDI has conducted the inspection of 155,000 Party organizations since December 2012, referring 65,000 pieces of evidence relating to cases involving officials for further investigation.

China has also worked with the international community to hunt corruption suspects overseas via the codenamed Skynet Operation. A total of 1,300 fugitives were captured or returned to China in 2017, with around 980 million yuan (\$151 million) recovered in stolen funds. Of the returned fugitives, 347 had been Party members or state functionaries, and 14 were on an Interpol red notice of 100 suspects.

Efforts have also been made to address the corruption that occurs on people's doorsteps, especially in the form of poverty relief in 2017. Nearly 450 people were investigated and punished for fraudulent claims or the misappropriation of funds, with 730 million yuan (\$112 million) of misused assets recouped in an inspection of 28 provinces in 2017, according to the Ministry of Finance and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development.

A survey by the National Bureau of Statistics showed that 94 percent of people were satisfied with the efforts of the anti-corruption campaign in 2017, 19 percentage points higher than that in 2012.

The CCDI now operates a monthly reporting system that logs the implementation of the rules within provincial-level governments, central Party and governmental agencies, centrally administered state-owned enterprises and central financial institutions.

Li Shixin, a spokesman for the Organization Department of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee, said on December 29, 2017, that "the department will establish an information database of clean government officials jointly with the discipline commission to better select and supervise public servants."

The CCDI will fight misconduct in the selection and appointment of officials, government approval and supervision, resource exploitation, finance, and other key areas prone to abuses of power, according to the communiqué of the CCDI plenary session.

According to a circular released by the CCDI in December 2017, the fight against corruption in the next three years will mainly target officials who have continued to exercise a lack of restraint and have been involved in misconduct since the 18th CPC National Congress in late 2012.

"The CPC presents a model to the world in terms of strict self-governance," said Ivona Ladjevac, a senior researcher at the Institute of International Politics and Economics (IPE) in Belgrade, talking to Xinhua News Agency.

As the head of the IPE Regional Center for the Belt and Road Initiative, Ladjevac claims to have been impressed with the CPC's anti-corruption campaign since 2012, which has been attracting a great deal of attention in Serbia.

"The Party leadership has been insisting on strict governance, which is applied at every echelon, not only those high-ranking party members but also those at lower levels. Now Xi talks about China entering a new era, it's very important to deepen this strict governance over the Party and retain its fighting spirit," Ladjevac

said, adding that the Party has undergone essential and profound changes thanks to strict self-governance.

"Parties, despite their respective political orientation, should learn from the CPC's organization, their devotion to social and economic development, and their efforts to build a better image for China in the world," she said.

New methods

The reform of the supervisory system is the latest in a series of efforts to rein in corruption in China. This reform will be fully advanced in 2018, and efforts will be made to create a highly efficient supervisory mechanism to ensure coordination between discipline inspection and judicial investigation, according to the CCDI's communiqué.

China is expanding pilot projects for the reform nationwide, with supervisory commissions being established at national, provincial, city and county levels. Sharing offices and staff with CPC discipline inspectors, the new commissions will incorporate existing supervisory and anti-corruption agencies within government and procuratorate.

Meanwhile, The CCDI will continue to dispatch inspection groups regularly and on specific missions, as well as launching more effective education campaigns.

The new supervisory commissions will receive their authority from national laws, while the Party discipline commissions must work according to Party discipline. In this way the coordination of the two commissions' tasks will play a key role in fighting corruption.

The head and deputy head of a supervisory commission will be appointed by the people's congress at the corresponding level and is answerable to its authority. The commissions can investigate corruption cases, but they do not have the power to prosecute a suspect in a court of law. Internal monitoring as well as supervision from the public and media is also of great importance.

"The extension of supervisory commissions will be a major development in the fight against corruption this year," said Zhuang Deshui, Deputy Director of the Clean Government Research Center of Peking University.

"In order to win public trust for the supervisory commissions, it is necessary to put their power within the remit of law, so as to establish an effective supervision mechanism nationwide," said Zhuang.

The supervision bodies aren't themselves exceptional to the anti-corruption campaign. Figures from the CCDI show that since the 18th CPC National Congress in late 2012, a total of 22 officials from within the CCDI itself have been investigated, and about 230 officials have received written or verbal warnings. More than 10,000 currently working and retired officials with discipline inspection agencies at various levels were punished.

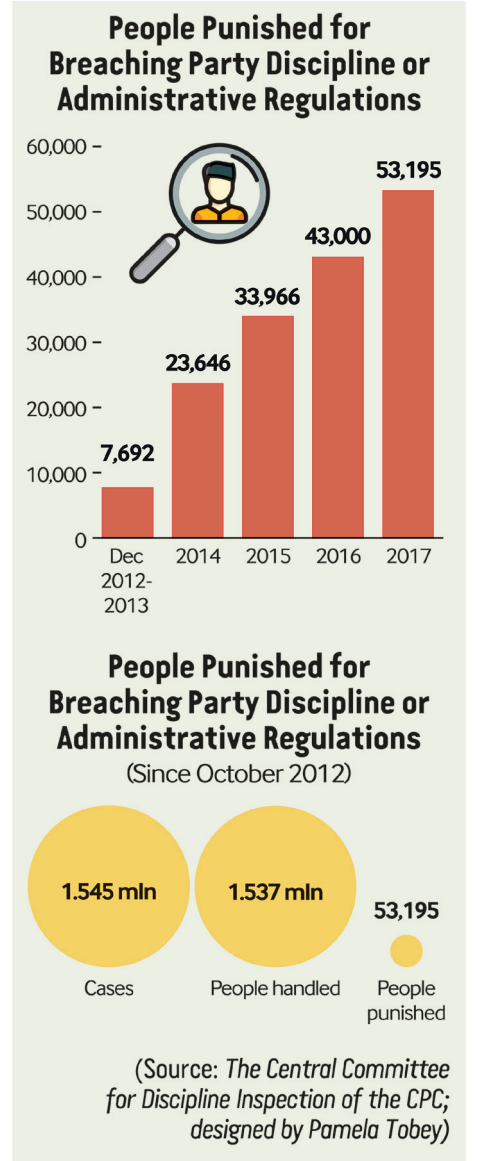
In January 2017, a three-episode TV documentary, produced by the CCDI and China Central Television, was released, featuring interviews with former officials convicted of graft and serving as a warning to others.

In the same month the CCDI began trialing protocol regulating the ways in which discipline inspectors initiate and carry out investigations.

"The protocol is a response to the question of how to supervise the inspectors themselves," said Professor Xie Chuntao with the CPC Central Committee Party School.

To better mobilize the public in the supervision of officials is one of the main tasks for 2018, according to Ji Naili, a professor of anti-graft studies at the Zhou Enlai School of Governance, Nankai University, echoing Xi's remarks stressing the power of the people. Xi said that the Party's internal supervision can function well with assistance from the public and promised accessible channels for the public to advise on Party management and inform against dishonest officials.

"At various levels the Party discipline commissions have already devised ways to supervise Party officials, but at the grassroots level, ordinary people's supervision over officials has been less effective," Ji told China Daily. "In order to solve this problem, different levels of the Party discipline commissions and the incoming supervisory commissions need to respond to people's complaints more swiftly and effectively, so that the latter feel more confident in their attempts to supervise officials."



Ma Lin, a fugitive who fled to Saudi Arabia, is repatriated to China on September 15, 2017 (XINHUA)

Toward one direction

Non-Communist political parties make constant progress in multiparty cooperation and political consultation

By Lu Yan



Li Zhanshu, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, reads a congratulatory message on behalf of the CPC Central Committee at the 12th National Congress of the China Democratic League in Beijing on December 6, 2017 (XINHUA)

Wu Weihua, a biologist at China Agricultural University and director of the National Key Laboratory of Plant Physiology and Biochemistry, was elected as chairman of the Central Committee of the Jiu San Society, one of the Chinese mainland's eight non-Communist political parties, on December 7, 2017.

"Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Jiu San Society will strive to contribute to securing victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects and realizing China's rejuvenation," said Wu at the 11th National Congress of the Jiu San Society after he was elected.

The Jiu San Society was founded in 1946. "Jiu San" refers to the numbers nine and three in Chinese. The name was chosen to commemorate the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) and the World Anti-Fascist War on September 3, 1945. Its predecessor was a symposium where Chinese progressives exchanged political views and discussed the political situation as the nation fought against Japanese invaders.

Now the organization is composed mainly of high- and intermediate-level intellectuals engaged in science, technology, culture, education, and medical and health work. As of June 2017, the society had 167,000 members, among whom 61 are academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Chinese Academy of Engineering. More than 2,300 are deputies to people's congresses at various levels, and more than 11,800 are political advisors.

The 62-year-old Wu is also an academican of the CAS. Born in north China's Shanxi Province in 1956, Wu spent his childhood in a village and did farm work after graduating from high school. He developed an interest in biology and pursued his undergraduate study at Shanxi University and graduate study at the CAS. In 1991, Wu got his doctoral degree in Plant Biology at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in the United States. After that, he came back to the motherland and contributed a lot to improving China's crop production with his research and study. In November 2017, Wu received the Tan Jiazhen Life Science Award, one of the most influential awards in life sciences in China.

"The Jiu San Society should be developed into a participating political party of socialism with Chinese characteristics that is firmer in ideology, more solid in performing its duties and stronger in organization," Wu said.

Apart from the Jiu San Society, there are seven other non-Communist political parties—the Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang, China Democratic League, China National Democratic Construction Association, China Association for Promoting Democracy, Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, China Zhi Gong Party and Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League—which have been making endeavors together with the CPC in developing socialism with Chinese characteristics under a political party system featuring multiparty cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the CPC.

Participation in governance

According to the White Paper on China's Political Party System published by the State Council Information Office in 2007, as one of China's fundamental political systems, the multiparty cooperation system identifies the status and functions of the CPC and the eight other political parties on the Chinese mainland in the political life of the state as well as the relations between the parties.

Under the leadership of the CPC, the eight parties participate in and deliberate on state affairs in the following ways: participating in the exercise of state power, consultation on fundamental state

policies and the choice of state leaders, the administration of state affairs, and the formulation and implementation of state policies, laws and regulations. Their status and rights as participating parties are protected by the Constitution and other laws.

Before the annual plenary sessions of the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), commonly known as the Two Sessions, in 2017, these parties, together with the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, submitted over 300 proposals covering various aspects of China's development and the people's well-being such as economy and finance, resources,



Delegates of the Jiu San Society attend the closing ceremony of its 11th National Congress in Beijing on December 7, 2017 (CNSPHOTO)

environmental protection, education, health, poverty alleviation, social services and science and technology.

For example, the China Association for Promoting Democracy proposed that the nation should promote the use of natural gas as a fuel for heating so as to reduce smog; the China Democratic League suggested that the government pay more attention to children's nutrition and health in poverty-stricken areas; the Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League stressed that cities should build more infrastructure to support the project of relocating people from poor regions.

Different from both the two-party or multiparty competition systems of Western nations and the one-party systems practiced in some other states, the political system on the Chinese mainland was born in China's revolutionary struggles of the 20th century and has since been developed through decades of practice of socialist construction and reform. It is a basic political system that suits the conditions of the Chinese mainland.

Under this system, the CPC and the eight parties work closely together and supervise each other. The CPC rules the nation, and these parties participate in state affairs according to the law. The system accords with the system of people's congresses to ensure that the people are the masters of the state.

"It is a socialist political party system with Chinese characteristics, and a key component of China's socialist democratic politics," the white paper said.

A natural choice

The multiparty cooperation system is the result of long-term practice.

China had a prolonged history of feudalism before 1840. From 1840 on, Western imperialist powers launched aggressive wars against China. The corrupt and weak feudal ruling class buckled, and China was reduced to a semi-colonial, semi-feudal society. In the following nearly 110 years, the Chinese nation was plunged into a most dangerous situation, and the people had no democratic rights. In the early 20th century, Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925), forerunner of China's democratic revolution, turned his eyes to the West for a

road that would save China.

In 1911, he led a bourgeois democratic revolution, bringing to an end the autocratic monarchical system that had been in place for several millenniums. With the founding of the Republic of China, Sun introduced a parliamentary and multiparty system in imitation of those in Western nations. Though historically progressive compared with the autocratic monarchy, the bourgeois political system soon collapsed under the onslaught of domestic and foreign reactionary forces and therefore failed to fulfill the Chinese people's fervent desire for independence and democracy. Sun later concluded that China could not simply copy European and U.S. politics to govern its own society as it was different from those of the West.

During the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the War of Liberation (1945-49), most of the eight political parties were established. They formed a progressive force which was anti-imperialist and patriotic and demanded democracy.

In days of tough struggle, the CPC, founded in 1921, established and developed close relations of cooperation with the eight parties and joined forces with them to fight for the nation. Hand in hand they launched a movement against the Japanese invaders and later fought against the policy of dictatorship adopted and the civil war instigated by the Kuomintang and Chiang Kai-shek clique.

While leading the new democratic revolution to victory,

accordance with the requirements of the Chinese socialist system for their participation in governance," said Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, in the report he delivered to the 19th CPC National Congress in October 2017.

Future efforts

At the end of 2017, the eight political parties had their national congresses, which are held every five years. In the process, the parties elected new party central committees and leadership, and delegates heard and deliberated the work reports of their parties' central committees, as well as reviewed and approved amendments to their constitutions.

Concerning development in the coming five years, the parties held the same view that they will continue to cooperate with each other in promoting reform and opening up and socialist modernization.

Based on their unique features and focuses, they also came up with a number of plans for future work.

Wan Exiang, Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang, noted that the party will provide services for Taiwanese who want to study, work, and start businesses in the Chinese mainland and make things more convenient for them. And it will also promote exchanges between people across the Taiwan Straits by organizing various activities.

Wan Gang, Chairman of the China Zhi Gong Party, said in

the CPC established its core leadership role among the various revolutionary forces. And these parties and democratic personages without party affiliation, through experience in the years of practice and on their own initiative, chose the leadership of the CPC.

The convention of the First Session of the First National Committee of CPPCC in September 1949 marked the formal establishment of the multiparty cooperation system under the leadership of the CPC. It also marked the beginning of the CPC, the non-Communist parties and the democratic personages without party affiliation working together in building the state power of the People's Republic of China.

Since then, the multiparty cooperation system has been continuously developed and consolidated in spite of some difficulties along the road, playing a significant role in the nation's political and social life.

"In handling its relationships with other Chinese political parties, the CPC is guided by the principles of long-term coexistence, mutual oversight, sincerity, and sharing the rough times and the smooth, and it supports these parties in performing their duties in

an interview with Xinhua News Agency that the party will step up its work for returned overseas Chinese and their relatives, and promote friendship between Chinese people and people from the rest of the world.

Moreover, building a strong team of high-caliber personnel is the priority for all these political parties. Wu said that the Jiu San Society will recruit not only famous and well-respected experts and scholars, but also young and middle-aged persons with ability and potential, and build a platform for growth for them.

Notably the new leadership groups of these political parties have a balanced age distribution. Among the 85 newly elected leading members, 48 were born in the 1950s and 37 in the 1960s, with an average age of 58. About 70 percent of them have a doctor's degree.

"It's an honorable responsibility for me, bestowed by the nation and the time. I will do my best to follow in the steps of my predecessors," said 58-year-old Cai Dafeng, newly elected Chairman of the China Association for Promoting Democracy, who is also the youngest among the eight newly elected chairpersons.

Composition of the Eight Non-Communist Political Parties

- 1 Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang**
Those related to the former Chinese Kuomintang
Those having historical and social relations with the Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang
Those who have ties with Taiwan
Those specializing in social and legal affairs
- 2 China Democratic League**
High- and intermediate-level intellectuals in the fields of culture, education and science and technology (S&T)
- 3 China National Democratic Construction Association**
Specialists and scholars from the economic circle
- 4 China Association for Promoting Democracy**
High- and intermediate-level intellectuals from education, culture and publishing
- 5 Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party**
High- and intermediate-level intellectuals from the areas of medicine and health, population resources and ecological environment
- 6 China Zhi Gong Party**
Upper and middle classes of returned overseas Chinese and their relatives, as well as other noted figures who have overseas ties
- 7 Jiu San Society**
High- and intermediate-level intellectuals in the S&T field
- 8 Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League**
Taiwanese living in the Chinese mainland

(Compiled by Beijing Review; designed by Pamela Tobey)

Constitutional upgrade

The Second Plenary Session of the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee was held in Beijing on January 18-19. At the meeting, a proposal from the CPC Central Committee on revising the Constitution was adopted. A communiqué was issued after the session. This article is compiled from reports by Xinhua News Agency.

The Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on January 19 proposed writing Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era into the Constitution of China, the country's fundamental law.

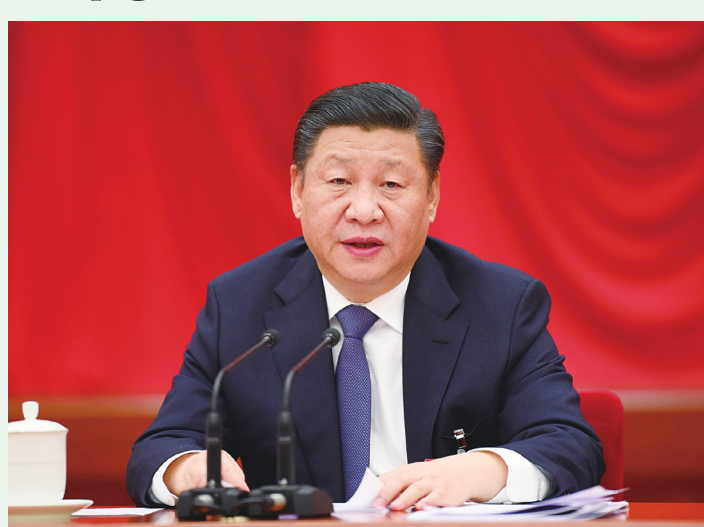
Major theoretical achievements, principles and policies adopted at the 19th CPC National Congress should be incorporated into a revision to the Constitution, according to a communiqué issued after the Second Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee held in Beijing on January 18-19.

A proposal from the CPC Central Committee on the revision was adopted at the meeting.

New achievements, experiences and requirements of the development of the Party and the nation should be embodied in the revised Constitution, according to the communiqué.

"We should keep pace with the times and improve the Constitution while maintaining its consistency, stability and authority," the document said.

The CPC Central Committee called on the whole Party to unite around it, with Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, at the core, and adhere to socialist rule of law with



Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China and President of the People's Republic of China, delivers a speech at the second plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, which was held in Beijing on January 18-19 (XINHUA)

Chinese characteristics.

The session was presided over by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Xi delivered a speech at the session. The session was attended by 203 members and 172 alternate members of the CPC Central Committee, members of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee for Discipline Inspection, leading officials in charge of relevant affairs, some deputies to the 19th CPC National Congress elected from grassroots organizations, and experts.

At the session, the leaders reviewed and adopted a proposal for amending some parts of the Constitution. Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress, introduced the draft proposal at the session.

Why amend?

It is necessary to amend China's Constitution in the new era, said the communiqué.

The People's Republic of China enacted its first Constitution in 1954. In 1982, the Fifth National People's Congress adopted the present Constitution, which underwent four amendments in 1988, 1993, 1999 and 2004, respectively. The Constitution has played an important role in the development of the nation, said the communiqué.

"The Constitution has been improved together with the country's changing reality and development of the Party and the nation," the communiqué said.

Since the last amendment in 2004, the Party and the country have been through important changes.

"The 19th CPC National Congress made important strategic deployments in socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era," the communiqué said.

It is necessary to amend the Constitution to incorporate theoretical, practical and institutional achievements made by the Party and the people,

according to the communiqué.

The amending process should take Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents, the Scientific Outlook on Development, and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as the guide, according to the communiqué.

What is highlighted

Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is a guideline that the Party and the nation will uphold in the long run.

The communiqué stressed that Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is the latest achievement in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context and is the Marxism for contemporary China and the 21st century. The Thought should be a guiding ideology that must be upheld in the long term by the CPC and the country, according to the communiqué.

The leadership of the Party must be strengthened and upheld in all areas of endeavor. Adherence to the CPC leadership is listed as a principle in revising the Constitution, and leadership of the CPC is the essential attribute of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the greatest strength of the system, according to the communiqué.

The five-sphere integrated plan, which is to promote coordinated economic, political, cultural, social and ecological advancement, and the new goal of innovative, coordinated, green and open development that is for everyone, are vital for national rejuvenation.

The goals of finishing the building of a moderately

(continues in next page)

prosperous society in all respects by 2020, basically realizing socialist modernization by 2035 and building China into a great modern socialist country by the middle of the 21st century are also emphasized.

Following the path of peaceful development, pursuing a mutually beneficial strategy of opening up and promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind are of great significance to the cause of peaceful development for humanity.

The reform to establish a national supervisory system, which is under the Party's leadership and covers all who exercise public power, is a significant political system reform and a major decision to strengthen the self-supervision of the Party and the state.

All shall obey the Constitution

The communiqué stressed the important role of the Constitution in state governance and pledged to

guarantee its implementation.

"Efforts to adhere to the rule of law should give priority to the rule of the Constitution. Efforts to adhere to governing by law should put governing in line with the Constitution in the first place," the document said.

"All anti-Constitutional behavior shall be corrected, without fail," said the communiqué. "No organization or individual has the power to overstep the Constitution or the law."

All people, state organs, armed forces, political parties, civil groups, public institutions and companies should take the Constitution as their fundamental guide.

"People at every level of public office, especially leading officials, should exercise power and work according to the Constitution and the law, and subject themselves to the supervision of the people," the communiqué stressed.

Significance

Enriching major institutional provisions in the Constitution

would play an important role in improving and developing the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, said the communiqué.

The revision of the Constitution will provide a powerful guarantee for the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

As the Constitution is at the heart of the Chinese socialist system of law, adherence to the rule of law should give priority to the rule of the Constitution.

Efforts to adhere to governing by law should make governing in line with the Constitution a priority. This experience, which is learned from the history of China's development, should be treasured.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the CPC Central Committee with Xi at the core has led the country to stick to and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics, establishing Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

The proposed revision can keep

the Constitution at pace with the development of the Party and the country while maintaining its consistency, stability and authority.

This is an endeavor by the CPC Central Committee to deliver its concept of governance in line with the Constitution. The CPC will also strengthen oversight to ensure compliance with the Constitution, advance constitutional review and safeguard the authority of the Constitution.

Since 2012, the CPC Central Committee has taken significant measures to safeguard the dignity and authority of the Constitution, such as by establishing the National Constitution Day and a mechanism to pledge allegiance to the Constitution.

The proposed revision will enhance the implementation of and adherence to the Constitution by the whole society, boost the confidence of grassroots organizations on reform and development, and provide constitutional guidance for various sectors to speed up reform.



An informative read

Xi Jinping: The Governance of China (Volume II) contributes to understanding of Xi Jinping's thoughts on the CPC, China's future path of development, and the nation's policies

By Jon Taylor



Global circulation of Xi Jinping: The Governance of China (Volume II) has exceeded 10 million by January 12 (XINHUA)

A little over three years ago, the State Council Information Office of China, the Party Literature Research Office of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the China International Publishing Group (CIPG) edited and published *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*. The book received notable attention both in China and abroad.

Xi Jinping: The Governance of China (Volume II) follows up on the approach taken in Volume I by compiling 99 important speeches, answers to questions, conversations, letters, and instructions from Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, from August 2014 to the end of September 2017, just before the start of the 19th CPC National Congress. Given the impact of Volume I, one should anticipate that Volume II will receive as much attention.

The second volume offers meaningful insight regarding Xi's views on policy goals such as reform and opening up, win-win diplomacy, the Belt and Road Initiative, economic globalization, anti-corruption, the fight against poverty, the Four Comprehensives, upholding and strengthening the role of the Party, and the development of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. It will come as no surprise to those knowledgeable about Xi and his interest in reform that the book begins with a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Deng Xiaoping's birth.

Broken down into 17 chapters, the book's 620 pages cover themes that should be familiar to those who have an interest or knowledge of Chinese politics, economics, or diplomacy: Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and the Chinese Dream; A Moderately Prosperous Society in All Respects; Deeper Reform; Rule of Law; Governing the Party with Strict Discipline; New Development Concepts; The New Normal of Economic Development; Socialist Democracy; Cultural Confidence; The Wellbeing of the People; Beautiful China; Military Development; One Country, Two Systems; China's Diplomacy as a Major Country; Peaceful Development and Cooperation with Other Countries; The Belt and Road Initiative; A Community of Shared Future. The book also has a number of official pictures and a robust bibliography and index.

I believe that *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China (Volume II)* is useful and informative for a couple of reasons. First, like the first volume, it offers the reader critical knowledge on Xi's thinking about how and where China is going. Second, while the book is a collection of speeches and other official pronouncements, it provides the reader with a relatively handy reference guide that offers the reader an understanding of the thoughts of China's leader during the past three years. Such insight is important for those interested in Chinese politics and government, as well as those interested in international relations. To understand why the CPC Central Committee and the whole Party have noted the importance of Xi's core status and why the 19th CPC National Congress amended the Party Constitution to include Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, Volume II offers important supportive material.

In a word

Why use the title *The Governance of China*? One would assume that Volume II, like Volume I, would, prima facie, be about governing China. That would actually be somewhat inaccurate. Point in fact, the book is as much about China's place in the world—and its prominence in the world—as it is about China's domestic and international political, economic, social, and cultural concerns.

Xi's choice of the word governance for both Volumes I and II is instructive because it conveys a general message that governance, whatever its form, is of high importance for Chinese statecraft, be it for domestic issues such as the deepening of economic reforms or for international issues such as economic globalization. The word governance originally meant control, guidance and manipulation. Its original meaning has long been overlain within political science with the word government and has mainly been used to refer to the administrative and political activities of the state. If we accept this definition of governance, then we accept that governments of all types will conduct their affairs based on their own national characteristics, will engage in decision-making, invoke and utilize authority, encourage political and social stability, are institutionally effective, have a cogent administrative structure, work to control corruption, and are accountable to those that they serve. All of these points are addressed in *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China (Volume II)*.

As is typical of Xi's style, there are nods to Chinese history and literature. Xi's use of traditional Chinese history and culture reinforces his faith in the superiority of China's governance system and its modernization efforts. His use of a quote from the Tang Dynasty Emperor Taizong in order to make a point about the mirror of history and our understanding of how it impacts the experience of governing is quite compelling. Additionally, Xi also posits in Volume II the following thought-provoking observation: "What kind of governance system a country provokes depends on the country's historical heritage, cultural tradition, and level of economic and social development." One would accept that as fact, given how we comprehend governance theory based on the CPC. Xi's observation on governance succinctly exemplifies what would become Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era during the 19th CPC National Congress.

In this respect, this book speaks to China's vigorous domestic and international aspirations by offering some theoretically and practically important points on governance theory. He implies that good governance,



The first volume of Xi Jinping: The Governance of China is published in now available in 24 languages and 27 editions (WANG XIANG)

led by the CPC, has enhanced China's model of democratic politics, offers an institutional platform for effective governance, enhances the Party's role in public policymaking, and encourages socialist market-oriented reforms.

The new era

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, Xi's primary goals as CPC general secretary have been to pursue the realization of the Party's Two Centenary Goals: building a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020 and building a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, and harmonious by the middle of the 21st century and fulfilling the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation. These themes were discussed in Volume I and are expanded upon by Xi in Volume II by linking these goals to governance.

When considering the issue of governance, it should be noted that while he does not directly discuss it, Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is evident throughout the book with a number of speeches and conversations that underscore the spirit of Xi's thoughts on the Party, statecraft, and governance. Xi uses the idea of governance in Volume II to construct conceptual support for a more important task, that of reinforcing and maintaining socialist core values in the new era of Chinese development. This is essential when considering the impact of Xi's governance ideas that have been refined since Volume I in 2014.

Volume II offers the reader a sense of where and how Xi views the CPC's ability to engage in pragmatic reform based on the realities of a changing society. Under Xi, such realities have resulted in policy adjustments, which were evident during the 19th CPC National Congress when the Party recognized the change of the principal contradiction. As Xi himself notes, practices are what gave rise to the new era. Practices are, in fact, the reason why the Party changed the principal contradiction. As evidenced in Volume II, Xi's impact on the Party and the nation during the new era will have a significant impact on the Party's governance capabilities, particularly in areas such as economic reform, social harmony, state-owned enterprise reform, and Party-building, to name but a few areas.

Under the leadership of Xi Jinping, the CPC continues to seek new directions for reform and modernization. *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China (Volume II)* contributes to our understanding of Xi Jinping's thoughts on the CPC, China's future path of development, and the nation's policies, and responses to international concerns about China. The book offers a reference to better understand China's model of development led by Xi, and with Chinese characteristics, particularly its current path and by Xi, and is necessary reading for anyone interested in knowing the president's views—and China's path to the future.

The author is Chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of St. Thomas in Houston and a professor of political science



Sharing the future

What can China offer for inclusive global growth?

By Fu Jun

We live in fast-moving times and an increasingly interconnected world. Globalization has reached new heights in the 21st century. Together with new technology, it has brought enormous benefits to many, but these gains have not been distributed evenly, which has been a source of discontent and the cause of recent backlashes against the very processes of globalization.

Indeed, when about half of the world's wealth rests with the top 5 percent of the population, the economy is in trouble. Economic principles tell us that equilibrium must exist between supply and demand for growth to continue.

Pressing global issues call for global efforts. What can China offer to the cause of promoting inclusive growth? Here are some highlights of China's new initiatives in the fields of ideas, institutions and infrastructure.

New educational initiative

Education is one crucial step in addressing uneven development. China has benefited from learning this, and is now ready to give back. When the country started its process of reform and opening up in the late 1970s, Deng Xiaoping—the architect of China's economic modernization—sent large numbers of Chinese students to study abroad. Now, it is increasingly recognized that growth is fostered more profoundly by developing human talent than by supplying physical capital. Where sizable investments have been made in education and other elements of the human factor, technological advances, which are a by-product of sophisticated human ideas, have played a key role in economic growth or industrial catch-up.

In light of this, China established training and degree programs in its higher-learning institutions that enabled students, scholars and government officials from developing countries to share the Chinese experience of growth. One example is the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development, created at Peking University in 2016 with its first 50 students from developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This move symbolizes a shift in China's technology transfers to the developing world. Once a provider of hardware, now China shares software: its knowledge and ideas.

Learning and training sessions often involve field trips to sites that exemplify different points on the developmental spectrum—from rural areas to special economic zones, coastal cities and the interior. By seeing different stages of development first-hand, students come to appreciate the importance of learning by doing, and of moving from exploiting comparative advantage to developing competitive advantage through innovation. In other words, in China, they can see how economies move from labor- and resource-intensive models to being capital-intensive and finally developing a knowledge-intensive edge within global value chains.

“As long as we keep to the goal of building a community with a shared future for mankind and work together to fulfil our responsibilities and overcome difficulties, we will be able to create a better world and enable better lives for our peoples,” said the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, at the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos in January 2017. These words represent China's commitment to equitable, inclusive and sustainable development around the world.

Xi's proposal to build a “community with a shared future for mankind” seeks to strengthen multilateralism to address global and regional imbalances. It is believed that development on a wider scale could generate new impetus for inclusive global growth. According to the World Map of Economic Growth produced by the Center for International Development at Harvard University, the countries with the biggest potential for growth in the coming decade are mostly in South Asia and East Africa. Others in South America and the Middle East are also poised to take off. Meanwhile, growth will slow in advanced economies. The United States is expected to grow at 2.58 percent per year and Britain slightly faster at 3.22 percent, while Germany, one of the leading economies in Europe, will grow at just 0.35 percent.



Expressways cross farmlands in Taizhou, east China's Jiangsu Province (XINHUA)

Against this backdrop, and while China's economy is now the second largest in the world and growing roughly three times as fast as that of the United States, China can play a role in bringing developed and developing countries closer together by narrowing the rich-poor gap.

Improving infrastructure

One manifestation of China's leadership is the Belt and Road Initiative it proposed. Launched in 2013, it aims to forge partnerships—or joint ventures—along the historical Silk Road to improve connections across Asia and beyond with infrastructure projects such as roads,

bridges, ports, gas pipelines, power grids and fiber-optic cables. To facilitate inclusive growth, it is critical not only to deploy means of production, but also means of delivery and access to information. And one can envision that some of today's low-income countries—having heeded the popular refrain, “Want to get rich? Build roads first!”—may one day tell growth stories that mirror China's.



Locals ride bicycles operated by Mobike, a Chinese bike-sharing company, in Manchester, United Kingdom (XINHUA)

The apparently homespun wisdom that roads precede wealth corresponds to the critical role governments have to play in providing public goods, especially risky, long-run physical infrastructure, to lift their countries out of poverty. For example, in the past three years, the Chinese government invested more than \$182 billion to expand and improve China's fiber-optic network. Between 1996 and 2016, it built 4.2m kilometers of roads, connecting 95 percent of villages across the country—and private businesses popped up along the way. Even in Shenzhen, China's foremost market-driven special economic zone—initial rounds of infrastructure were built by army engineers. Private investments followed later.

Boosting institutions

The rationale behind the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) aligns with this logic. As a multilateral development bank (MDB), proposed by China in 2013 and launched in 2015, the AIIB aims to bring states, or sovereign money, together to address the daunting infrastructure shortfalls across Asia and beyond.

Asia alone needs to invest \$1.7 trillion in infrastructure each year until 2030 to maintain climate-resilient growth momentum, according to the Asian Development Bank. As a complement to—not a substitute for—existing international financial institutions, the AIIB currently has an approved (and still-growing) membership of 84 countries from all continents, making it one of the world's largest MDBs.

All AIIB members have signed the Paris climate accord, and the bank has an energy strategy that prioritizes investment in renewable energy and increased energy efficiency. Pledging to be “lean, clean and green”, and with its projects also open to private investment, the AIIB has great potential in the area of scaling up financing for inclusive and sustainable development in the fastest-growing regions of the world.

As another example of institution-building and commitment to green development, China has rolled out a nationwide carbon-trading scheme that makes it by far the largest carbon-trading market in the world.

Sharing experiences

China's market-oriented reforms mark their 40th anniversary in 2018. In the past four decades, the country's economic growth has been astonishing, lifting some 700m people out of poverty. China's GDP per person was about \$150 in 1978. Today, it is close to \$9,000, and projected to reach \$12,700—the threshold for a high-income country—around 2025. China overtook Japan as the world's second-largest economy in 2009, and became the world's largest trading nation in 2013.

China's rapid rise from being an agrarian backwater in the 20th century to a global power in the 21st presents lessons for other developing countries, if only because many of them now occupy the same stage of development that China did half a century ago.

To sustain growth, the role of the state and the role of the market are important, but neither should be taken to extreme. The market and the rule of law need to go hand in hand, but both need time to be nurtured and develop. A successful reform strategy is thus often a delicate matter of sequencing and balancing. When either the sequencing or the balancing goes awry, it stifles progress, as the experiences, successes and failures of many transitional economies have amply demonstrated.

Just as China has learned and achieved a great deal during the globalization of the last 40 years without merely reproducing models and systems from the rest of the world, China's intention is not for other developing countries to directly replicate the structures that have brought about its success.

If strategies for economic growth are to succeed, they must, with clear visions and principled pragmatism, also reflect local conditions and be tailored to different stages of development in different countries and regions.

The author is the academic dean of the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development at Peking University

Major events in January

January 5: Xi Stresses ‘Consistency,’ Urges CPC to Make New Progress

Keywords: Xi Jinping; socialism with Chinese characteristics

Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized “consistency” in upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in his speech for senior officials on January 5, setting guidelines for the Communist Party of China (CPC) to make new progress.

January 8: Two Scientists Win China's Top Science Award

Keywords: top science award; innovation

Explosives expert Wang Zeshan and virologist Hou Yunde, won China's top science award on January 8 for their outstanding contributions to scientific and technological innovation.

January 9: Chinese Premier Lauds Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, China-Cambodia Friendship

Keywords: Li Keqiang; Lancang-Mekong; China-Cambodia

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said he expects stronger Lancang-Mekong cooperation and more progress in China-Cambodia relations in a signed article published in Phnom Penh on January 9.

January 10: China Investigates 23 Former Senior Officials in 2017

Keywords: Supreme People's Procuratorate; Investigation

A total of 23 former officials at provincial level or above were put under investigation by Chinese prosecution authorities in 2017, the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) said on January 10.

January 11: Xi Calls for Fundamental Improvement of CPC Political Ecosystem

Keywords: political ecosystem; anti-corruption

President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on January 11 called for more anti-corruption efforts to “fundamentally improve the political ecosystem of the Party.”

January 14: Chinese FM Rejects Claim China's Financing Increases Africa's Debt Burden

Keywords: Wang Yi; Foreign Minister ; Africa

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on January 14 rebuked a false claim that China's financing has increased the debt burden of African countries.

January 16: China's Armed Forces to Set up Full-Time Inspection Teams

Keywords: armed forces; inspection

Senior Party members at the rank of military corps and above will be overseen by full-time inspection teams, said a military regulation made public on January 16.

January 23: CPC Statement: Removing Institutional Barriers Through Reform

Keywords: reform; institutional barriers

China will target institutional barriers and deeply embedded interests in reform this year, said a statement from a Communist Party of China (CPC) reform leading group on January 23.

January 29: China-ASEAN Trade Volume Hits Record High in 2017

Keywords: trade; China-ASEAN

Trade volume between China and ASEAN countries hit a record high in 2017, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Bilateral trade totaled \$514.8 billion last year, up 13.8 percent year on year, the fastest growth pace between China and any of its major trading partners.

January 30: Xi Jinping Unanimously Elected Deputy to 13th NPC

Keywords: Xi Jinping; National People's Congress

Xi Jinping was elected deputy to the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) by a unanimous vote at the first session of the 13th regional people's congress of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on January 30.