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People First

Political Commitment of the Century-old
Communist Party of China

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History has provided ample proof that the state is the people, and the people are the state. Winning or losing public support is vital to the Party's survival or extinction. With the people's trust and support, the Party can overcome all hardships and remain invincible.

— Xi Jinping

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Introduction

Of the thousands of political parties in the world, just several dozen have a history of over 100 years, while only a select few have managed to stay in power for an extended period.

Starting off as a small party of 50-plus members, the Communist Party of China (hereafter referred to as "the CPC" or "the Party") has grown into the world's largest political party boasting over 91 million members. The development of the CPC has become one of the most noteworthy political phenomena.

Some foreigners may have many questions about the CPC: How does the Party garner such strong public support while practicing a different type of democracy from the West? How has the Party created such development miracles after taking over an impoverished country difficult to govern? How has the Party survived so many crises and tests, and always managed to identify the right paths at critical historical junctures?

It is evident that the Party has not relied on chance or good fortune to secure its sustained record of success. When Western

academic theories cannot explain the successes of the CPC, new research paradigms should be established to seek answers from the Party's own theories and practices.

In today's world, political parties vary in their political stances, forms of organization, goals and visions. But the performances of all parties could be measured by one common "yardstick": whether they have genuinely represented the fundamental will of the majority of the people, and how effectively they have served the fundamental interests of the people.

As Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, has rightly stated, the people are the "supreme and ultimate judge" of the Party's work. The effectiveness of all the work of the CPC should ultimately be measured by the real benefits the people have reaped, by the improvement in their lives and by how well their rights and interests are protected.¹

Antaeus, the giant in Greek mythology, drew strength from the earth, yet when he lost contact with the ground, his strength faded. The story of Antaeus has clear parallels with the CPC's understanding of the relationship between political parties and the people. A party will lose its vitality if it is estranged from the people.

Centering on the ties between the CPC and the Chinese people, this report adopts the perspective of comparative politics to decode the 100 years of development of the CPC. It offers answers to questions such as why the Chinese people have

chosen the Party, how the Party represents the people and what contributions the Party makes to human progress.

The report argues that the CPC enjoys overwhelming support from the Chinese people, and the ties between the people and the Party are inseparably close. The CPC has made clear its commitment to its founding mission, adopted a tried-and-true democratic system, built a relationship of trust between the Party and the people, and formed an effective supervision system. As a result, the representativeness of the CPC has been recognized by the people and stood the test of time.

Examining the Party's efforts over the past 100 years to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation, this report encapsulates the secret of the CPC's success in five English letters: A (All for the People); B (Blueprint Drawing); C (Capacity Building); D (Development Shared); E (Effective Governance). This experience will serve as a precious resource for the CPC's future endeavors, and may also provide useful references for other political parties around the world.

There is and should be more than one single model of political party systems in the world. The suitability of a model can only be tested by practice, and can only be judged by the people. The trust of the people lies only with those who remain true to the aspiration of the people and work in concert with the people.

Chapter One: Why Have the Chinese People Chosen the CPC?

A trust and credibility report released by a world-renowned survey institution in 2020 showed that the Chinese people's trust in their government stood at 95 percent, higher than that of other countries surveyed.² Harvard University of the United States has revealed similar findings.³

Why does the CPC, which has been in power in China for more than 70 years, enjoy such high approval rates? The key lies in the fact that the CPC is the choice of the people, and the choice, in itself, reflects the people's identification with the Party.

With history-based identification as the premise, value-based identification as the essence, performance-based identification as the foundation, and culture-based identification as the root, the Chinese people have developed a deep bond with the CPC and given their firm support.

1.1 History-based Identification: Standing out from over 300 Political Parties

Why did China ultimately choose Marxism and the CPC? This question remains in the minds of many. A Swiss media organization uncovered the key: the Chinese people clearly understand the history of the "Century of Humiliation" brought about as a result of foreign imperialist invasions, and they know only too well the chaos that "Western-style democracy" once brought to modern China.⁴ The legitimacy of the CPC is derived from history and is determined by people's hearts and minds.

Quests in Times of Crisis

Modern China is rooted in its history.⁵ Backwardness leaves a state vulnerable to attacks -- this is a historical lesson that is etched in the memories of the Chinese people. From 1840, Western powers successively launched several large-scale wars of aggression against China, notably the Opium War and the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895. Rampant looting and destruction shattered what was once the world's largest economy and made life impossible for its people.

China was "under an overturned house, in a leaking boat, scorched by flames," and "400 million people were slaves, servants, trampled to the dust and thrown at the mercy of others."⁶ The Chinese nation faced its greatest peril. As British scholar John Ross said: in such a dangerous situation, every Chinese was asking, who can lead China?⁷

Imperialist Carve-up of China in the Early 1900s



Source: Map Magazine published by SinoMaps Press, Issue 4, 2012

Failure of Multiple Political Attempts

History has shown that only the fittest of all competing political forces will be chosen by the people. In order to save the nation, various systems had been attempted in China, be it constitutional monarchy, parliamentary or presidential systems. Yet, all ended in failure. The pro-Westernization elements and reformists of the Qing Dynasty met a similar fate, and while the Revolution of 1911 ended the feudal monarchy that had existed for more than 2,000 years, it too failed to change the tragic fate of the Chinese people.

China once followed Western models of parliamentary and multi-party systems. More than 300 political parties and political organizations appeared over this period.⁸ The people had high expectations for them, only to be disillusioned by

disarrayed reality. "Immeasurable blood was shed for a fake republic," as people once said, was the faithful description of reality.

American scholar John King Fairbank believed that the Revolution of 1911 failed to establish a Western-style new China because of the absence of participation by the people.⁹ This proved that reforms are doomed to failure without the people's support or participation.

Power Vested by the People

The key to determining which political party will hold power lies with who can win the hearts of the people. Whoever can lead the country toward national independence and liberation will emerge with the people's support.

In the Huaihai Campaign, a critical chapter in the war between the CPC and the Kuomintang, the carts peasants used to help transport supplies for the CPC-led People's Liberation Army (PLA) would stretch for more than 1,000 km if they were laid end to end. According to statistics, more than 5 million civilians supported the PLA on the front lines, which translates to an average of nine civilians behind every soldier.

The people's carts helped secure the rule of the CPC. The Party in turn prevented the disintegration of Chinese society in modern times.¹⁰ The Party's rule was not innate, but earned at a great cost after the Party and the people had undergone extraordinary hardships.

An article carried by *The Diplomat* says that the "Century of Humiliation" is more than just a grim lesson from the past, and it has given rise to a mentality of "never again" in China and serves as a warning for the future. This is a major difference between China and the West.¹¹

1.2 Value-based Identification: Winning Approval through Dedication

After lifting the final 98.99 million rural residents living under the current poverty line out of impoverishment, China in 2020 brought to an end, once and for all, the absolute poverty that had shackled the Chinese nation for thousands of years. In the peacetime war against poverty, more than 1,800 Party members and cadres died on the front lines.

It was the Party's fundamental purpose of wholeheartedly serving the people that buttressed its commitment to and the completion of the undertaking.

Identifying with a political party entails identifying with its values. The CPC wins the people's support through great dedication, which is the key to understanding the people's approval of the Party.

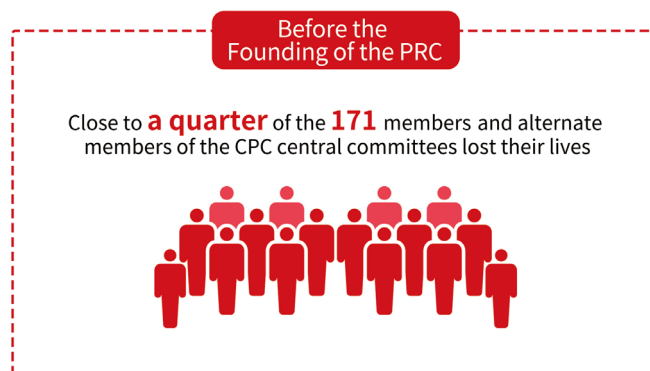
Party "Genes" and Core Values

Putting people first is in the "genes" of the CPC. The Party forefathers' original purpose in establishing the CPC, at great personal peril, was to find a way out for the Chinese people

who had undergone enormous suffering -- in their own words, "to safeguard the people's rights, strive for the well-being of the people,"¹² and "to advance civilization for the world, and bring happiness to humanity."¹³ Since its founding, the CPC has upheld Marxism, which champions standing on the side of the people, as its guiding ideology.

Chinese Communists are willing to sacrifice everything, including their lives, for the interests of the people. Two sons of Chen Duxiu, one of the founders of the Party, were killed by the Kuomintang. Another founder Li Dazhao was hanged by a warlord. Six of Mao Zedong's kin sacrificed their lives. Nearly one-quarter of the 171 members and alternate members of the CPC central committees before the founding of New China gave up their lives for the Party's cause. During the revolutionary years, identified CPC martyrs totaled 3.7 million. Many died anonymously.¹⁴

CPC Members Who Lost Their Lives During the Revolutionary War Time



About **3.7 million** CPC members who lost their lives can be identified. There were a great number of unknown martyrs.

This fundamental commitment to putting people first constitutes the core of the CPC's values. The Party has been putting people in the paramount position throughout its history, whether waging the revolution, building the country, or carrying out reforms.¹⁵ At a critical moment in battling the Yangtze River floods in 1998, a PLA general took the lead in jumping in the raging torrents to carry out rescue operation. In the immediate aftermath of the massive earthquake in Wenchuan, Sichuan Province, in 2008, large numbers of Party members were among the first rescuers to arrive at the epicenter. Of the over 40,000 medical personnel coming to the aid of Hubei Province during the COVID-19 epidemic in 2020, 56.1 percent were Party members.¹⁶ "We are willing to do whatever it takes to protect people's lives!" Xi Jinping once said.¹⁷

Knowing the Party, Choosing the Party

"The Party toils for the nation. The Party is dedicated to salvaging China. She points out to us the liberation road. She leads the nation to a bright future." So goes the song *There Would be no New China Without the CPC*. The song, conveying the people's deep affection for the Party, ranked among the favorites of the Chinese people in online polls.

Most Chinese people's value-based identification with the Party is evoked by the words and deeds of Party members around them. "What is the CPC? It is made up of people who are willing to give up half of the only quilt they have to keep the people warm," said Xu Jiexiu, a villager in Rucheng County, Hunan Province. As she recalled, when three female Red Army soldiers

spent the night in her home during the arduous Long March, they, seeing her poor living conditions, insisted on leaving their only quilt for her. Xu adamantly refused, so they cut the quilt in two and left her one half.

Young people's attitude toward joining the Party is a gauge of their identification with the Party's values. In 2020, more than 1,500 of the over 4,000 freshmen at Peking University applied to become a Party member. The youth's support for and identification with the Party reached new heights as China made a series of major accomplishments including successfully containing the COVID-19 epidemic. According to a 2020 online poll of nearly 520,000 members of the Communist Youth League of China (CYLC) in Guangdong Province conducted by the provincial committee of the CYLC, 97.7 percent of the respondents believed the Party's leadership is the key factor for achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, a figure higher than that of the previous year.

Promises Kept

With solemn pledges to the people, the CPC has formed a unique interactive paradigm with the people based on political ethics:¹⁸ the Party stands with the people and is ready to strive and make sacrifices for the people, while the people identify with the Party's values, and support it with actions, thus forming an intimate and inseparable bond.

The CPC's dedication and sacrifices in honoring its promises are second to none. A growing tacit understanding has emerged

between the Party and the people. The Party leads, represents and devotes itself to the people, while the people support, recognize and are represented by the Party. Such trust and consensus, a form of tacit value-based recognition, goes beyond the institutional level to the hearts and minds of the people, and thus is firmer and more sustainable.

As Edgar Snow, an American journalist and author of the book *Red Star Over China*, noted, the CPC is a well-disciplined political party deeply loved by the people. Its continuous successes can be attributed to its ability to act in the interests of the people and draw strength from the masses.¹⁹

1.3 Performance-based Identification: Solid Progress in People's Well-being

The foundation of the recognition of a political party is its performance in the field of governance. A century on from its founding, how does the record of the CPC hold up?

A typical Chinese woman living in 1921 might be portrayed thusly:







Illiterate; bound feet; knew little about the world; only got to meet her husband for the first time at the wedding; might not live past her 30s or 40s due to warfare or lack of medical services...

In 2021, however, an average Chinese woman may lead a life

like this:

She has the chance to receive higher education if she tries hard, as no other country enrolls as many students to colleges as China does; has a stable job; enjoys the right to stand for election to become a deputy to people's congresses at various levels; may live as long as 79 years based on the average life expectancy for women in the country...

People's Lives Have Been Substantially Improved Since the Founding of the PRC

		Early days of PRC	2020
	Poverty headcount ratio in rural areas	Most people lived in extreme poverty	0%
	Disposable income per capita	98 yuan	32,189 yuan
	Average life expectancy	35 years	77.3 years (2019)
	Infant mortality rate	200‰	5.4‰
	Enrollment rate of school-age children	20%	close to 100%
	Average years of schooling of people aged 15 and above	Over 80 percent of the population were illiterate	9.91 years (2021)

Sources: National Bureau of Statistics, National Health Commission and White Paper: *China and the World in the New Era*

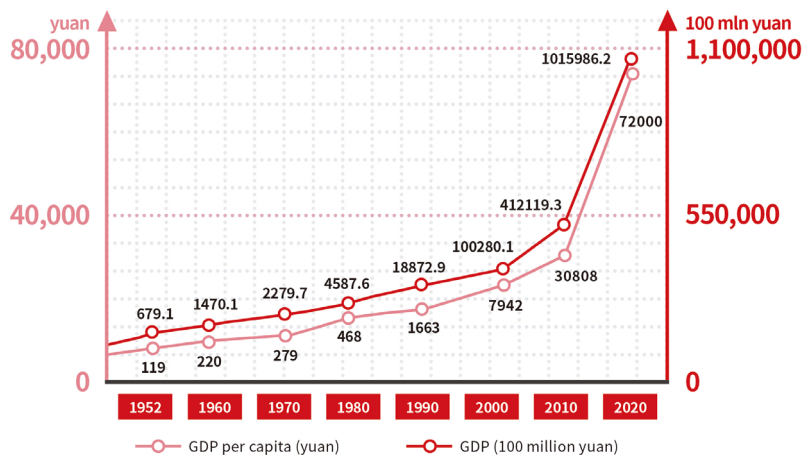
The changed fate of average Chinese reflects the great transformation of the country over the past 100 years.

From the mid-19th century, China was gradually reduced to a poor and weak nation. In the first half of the 20th century, "the great majority of Chinese merely sustained and reproduced themselves at the subsistence level,"²⁰ and the country was

called "the sick man of East Asia." On the centenary of the CPC, not even the toughest Western critics can deny the tremendous changes experienced by China and its people.

Once a country where almost half of the population had to worry about their next meal,²¹ China has developed into the world's second-largest economy and become an upper-middle-income country with the world's largest middle-income population.

Rapid Economic Growth Since the Founding of the PRC



Source: National Bureau of Statistics

Chinese citizens can participate actively, freely and meaningfully in the country's development and enjoy the extraordinary income growth that has benefited the majority of the population as a result of rapid economic growth²². The development China pursues covers multiple areas including the economic, political, cultural, social and ecological spheres,

constituting a truly comprehensive form of development. Though challenges remain, the Chinese people have never been so close to achieving modernization.

National independence, sustained development and unprecedented opening up have brought about fundamental changes in the spirit of the Chinese people, unleashing the creativity and passion of 1.4 billion souls. Over the past 100 years, the achievements of the CPC represent "a great transformation of the mood of the country,"²³ according to renowned British sociologist Martin Albrow.

In its unswerving pursuit of the dream of "the people getting rich" and "the country becoming strong," the CPC has led the Chinese people in embarking on a path of socialism with Chinese characteristics and creating "a miracle of rapid economic development and long-term social stability rarely seen in the world,"²⁴ which has become one of the most exciting success stories of this era. A country that was once in danger of being "expelled from the international community"²⁵ is now a key player in global affairs.

With such an impressive record, it is easy to understand the Chinese people's recognition of the performance of the CPC in the field of governance. As American futurist John Naisbitt said: "The leadership of China's Communist Party is supported by the people not because it calls itself communist, but for what it has achieved... It has brought great progress to its country and its people."²⁶

1.4 Culture-based Identification: Millennia-old Faith in the People

Traditional Chinese culture is the root and soul of the Chinese nation. The 5,000-year-old Chinese civilization has given birth to a people-oriented political culture that stresses integration between the family and the state and values morality and self-cultivation. This is the cultural root of the Party and the cultural foundation that allows it to win the recognition of the people.

Integrating Family and State

Many early CPC members were from well-off families. They waved goodbye to their comfortable lives and dedicated themselves to reforming the society and saving the country and the people. Their sacrifices were fueled by their love for their family and country and the belief that "all citizens share a responsibility for the fate of their country," passed down since ancient times.

Unlike the Western culture that emphasizes individual values, Chinese culture revolves around the connection between the family and the state, stressing that "the root of the world is in the state; the root of the state is in the family; the root of the family is in the individual."²⁷ The political ethics of integrating family and country, as well as the urge to cultivate the moral self, manage one's family, govern the state and safeguard peace on earth, are written into the cultural "genes" of the Chinese people. They underlie the strong sense of community and political centripetal force of the Chinese nation. Since

the unification of China during the Qin Dynasty, despite the rise and fall of dynasties, opposing ethnic separatism and safeguarding national unity has always been a central theme in China's history and the common belief of the Chinese nation.

Since modern times, repeated foreign invasions and the corrupt ruling class plunged China into an extended period of division and turmoil and brought immense suffering to the people. The Chinese people yearned for a political leadership that could defend national sovereignty and represent the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority. Rising up to meet the people's expectations, Chinese Communists took saving the nation as their sworn duty and established New China. In the subsequent construction and reform, the CPC has continued to promote the spirit of patriotism and translate patriotic aspirations into actions to build a strong nation. Driven by the Chinese Dream of achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, the CPC has united the nation and gathered the tremendous power of the people.

Cultivating Moral Self

On September 8, 2020, China awarded its highest honors to anti-epidemic heroes including Zhong Nanshan and Chen Wei, who are both CPC members. The Chinese Communists have proven to be a reliable backbone, supporting the nation in times of great adversity.

Communists advance their causes with the power of truth and the strength of personality. The CPC has carried forward the

traditional political wisdom that stresses the cultivation of morality. It calls on its members to perfect their personality following the call to "concern oneself more with lofty morality than lofty positions" and "discipline one's mind and body before governing the country." While asking Party members to become vanguards, the CPC adheres to the principle of championing "both integrity and ability, with priority given to integrity" in the selection of leaders. Only those with superior competence and virtue can pass the rigorous selection criteria at each level. Xi Jinping, for instance, started as a Party secretary of a production team in northern Shaanxi Province and spent decades in grassroots positions before becoming the top leader of the Party.

Canadian scholar Daniel A. Bell argues that the advantages of Chinese-style meritocracy are clear: only those with an excellent performance record make it to the highest levels. Rather than wasting time and money campaigning for votes, leaders can instead seek to improve their knowledge and performance.²⁸

People-oriented Thinking

"I will fully commit to the people and never fail them," said Xi Jinping in Rome on March 22, 2019, replying to a question about how it felt when he was elected Chinese president.

"The people are the foundation of a country, and are also what the rule of the country is for." "The people are the foundation of a country. Only when the people live a good life can the country survive." Traditional Chinese culture is rich in people-

oriented thinking. A firm practitioner of the Marxist view of the people, the CPC has creatively transformed and developed the traditional people-oriented philosophy. From "serving the people wholeheartedly"²⁹ to "taking into account the support, approval, satisfaction, and consent of the people in carrying out its work,"³⁰ to "representing the fundamental interests of the broadest possible majority of the Chinese people,"³¹ to "putting people first"³² and to "people-centered philosophy of development,"³³ CPC leaderships have been enriching and transcending traditional people-oriented thinking.

The Party has always sought to benefit the people through its work. "There is no denying the enormous successes of China, back in 1949 and even more so in recent decades," said Communist Party of Britain General Secretary Robert Griffiths, adding that this could only be achieved by a party that retains its close links with the people.

"No two leaves in the world are identical, and no histories, cultures or social systems are the same."³⁴ All the nations that have succeeded in achieving development and revitalization are those that have found a path suited to their own realities.³⁵ Under the leadership of the CPC, China has, in just a few decades, completed a journey of modernization that took Western developed countries hundreds of years. The destiny of the Chinese people has been profoundly changed.

In the century-long process of overcoming hardships and securing brilliant achievements, the Chinese people and the CPC have helped each other through thick and thin,

continuously enhancing the Chinese people's identification with the history, values, performance and culture of the CPC. The CPC's identity as "a party for the people and a party of the people" has been internalized in the people's hearts and manifested in their actions. This is the deepest and most enduring cornerstone of party identification. The leadership of the CPC is "the choice of the people" and enjoys their overwhelming support.

Chapter Two: How Does the CPC Represent the People?

Studies by political scientists have found that the erosion of partisan attachment among the contemporary public in Western countries has been "clear and striking."³⁶ With the decline in popular support and trust in parties, the "representativeness" of political parties is beset with a crisis.

China, however, is home to a totally different story. The CPC enjoys the wholehearted support of the broadest possible majority of the people, which has not changed with the passage of time.

Taking the people as the yardstick is an effective means of explaining this phenomenon. "In essence, the reason why our Party has enjoyed the support of the people is that it has always represented the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the Chinese people."³⁷ Many experts, scholars and theorists believe that the CPC has made clear its commitment to its founding mission, adopted a tried-and-true democratic system, built a relationship of trust between the Party and the people, and formed an effective supervision system. A

distinctive theoretical framework has taken shape with practical explorations. The issue of representativeness has thus been effectively solved.

As old paradigms become increasingly incapable of explaining new facts, new paradigms that expound these facts in more effective ways are bound to replace them. In the face of the "rupture of representativeness," a crisis in which political parties in some countries have become deeply mired, the CPC has provided its own answer.

2.1 Clear Commitment to Founding Mission

For a political party, governing a country is like sailing in the ocean. What serves as the beacon that guides it through the mist and choppy waves? The original aspiration and founding mission of seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation³⁸ is such a beacon in the minds of Chinese Communists, which epitomizes the CPC's fundamental purpose, ideals, convictions and goals. It is this beacon that has illuminated the Party's entire voyage from its humble beginnings to the present day.

Many political parties in the world champion the maxim of "for the people" during their election campaigns, yet once elected, their lofty promises are rarely fulfilled. How then has the CPC managed to sustain its popular support? Many scholars believe that it is precisely because the CPC has incorporated its original aspiration and founding mission into its theoretical innovation,

goals, planning and development practices, that the original aspiration and founding mission can exert their "beacon effect" to continuously improve the people's well-being and lead the journey forward.

Theoretical Innovation Responds to People's Demand

The past 100 years have seen the CPC not only fulfilling its original aspiration and founding mission but also adhering to theoretical innovation. In the past 300-plus years' history of political parties in the world, some parties, even those boasting long histories and considerable size, have declined and collapsed as their thinking and theories became rigid and divorced from the needs of the times and the people. Proceeding from its original aspiration and founding mission, the CPC, however, has continued to free its mind, seek truth from facts, move with the times, apply a realistic and pragmatic approach, and make theoretical innovations, thus maintaining its full vitality.

Marxism does not exhaust truth, but rather paves a path toward it. Based on China's reality, the CPC has adapted the basic tenets of Marxism to the Chinese context, fully demonstrating its theoretical approach of combining inheritance and innovation. From Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents, and the Scientific Outlook on Development, to Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, they embody the basic principles of Marxism and contain the latest theoretical innovations based on the needs of the times and practices, serving as the guides to

action for all CPC members and all the Chinese people. Adham Sayed, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lebanon, said the CPC has been guiding practical innovation with theoretical innovation while enriching and developing theories in practice, guiding the Communists to forge ahead.³⁹

In the historical process of leading the Chinese nation from standing up, growing prosperous to becoming strong, the needs of the people have always been behind the CPC's promotion of theoretical innovation. In 1956, the CPC declared that "The major contradiction in our country is already that between the people's demand for the building of an advanced industrial country and the realities of a backward agricultural country, between the people's needs for rapid economic and cultural development and the inability of our present economy and culture to meet the needs of the people."⁴⁰ In 1981, it pointed out that "The principal contradiction our country has had to resolve is that between the growing material and cultural needs of the people and the backwardness of social production."⁴¹ In 2017, it made it clear that "What we now face is the contradiction between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for a better life."⁴² This evolution highlights the CPC's theoretical approach of constantly responding to the people's actual needs, and addressing the principal contradictions and prominent problems in the interests of the people.

Goals and Planning Meet People's Aspirations

"The people's wish for a happy life is our mission."⁴³ Guided by the beacon of its original aspiration and founding mission, the CPC has been mapping out strategic visions for the people and the country and gradually turning them into reality.

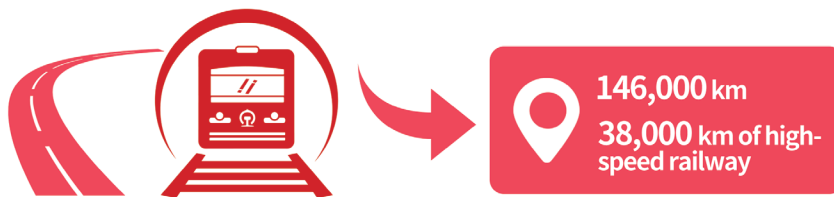
Few political parties in the world devise plans spanning 100 years. The CPC, however, has drawn up a blueprint for the Two Centenaries: to finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects by the time the CPC marks its centenary, and to build China into a great modern socialist country in every dimension by the time the People's Republic of China celebrates its centenary.⁴⁴

The CPC has shown its proficiency in planning long-term goals and breaking them down into phases, honoring its commitment to the people by implementing specific targets. Under the leadership of the CPC, China has formulated and implemented 13 five-year plans since 1953. All localities, departments and units have synchronized their actions to break down the national plans and implement them item by item. At present, the country has already entered the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025).

Railway construction exemplifies the CPC's implementation of plans. In the early days of New China, the country only had 21,800 km of rail lines in service.⁴⁵ Over the past 70-plus years, China has been accelerating and advancing its railway construction and planning. By the end of 2020, its railway length

in service had reached 146,000 km, including nearly 38,000 km of high-speed rail lines.⁴⁶ The high-speed rail network, featuring eight main vertical lines linking the north and the south as well as eight horizontal lines connecting the east and the west, has come into shape, making it the most modern and developed high-speed rail network in the world.

Past and Present of China's Railroad Length



In the early days of the PRC, China's railroad length in operation totaled **21,800** km. The figure reached **146,000** km in 2020, including **38,000** km of high-speed railway.

Sources: *Report on China Rail Transit Development (2017)* and National Development and Reform Commission

Development Follows People-centered Approach

In sharp contrast to the Western-style election slogans or "welfare auctions," the people-centered approach to development has been the core expression of the CPC's fulfillment of its original aspiration and founding mission.

Development is for the people. With the ultimate goal of ensuring that the people enjoy a happy life, the CPC has shifted its focus to economic development and set down the Party's basic line since the reform and opening up. From "ensuring adequate food and clothing" to "completing the building of a

moderately prosperous society in all respects," all the work of the CPC has been carried out following a people-centered approach, thus continuously improving the people's well-being. McKinsey & Company predicted that by 2022, more than 75 percent of urban Chinese households will have an annual disposable income of 60,000 to 229,000 yuan. China's middle class has been expanding at an astonishing rate.⁴⁷

Development is achieved by the people. The CPC regards the people as the source of its strength in pursuing development. China has become the second-largest economy in the world, which was only made possible by the hard work of hundreds of millions of Chinese people. Facing the monumental challenge of coordinating its epidemic response with economic and social development in 2020, China managed to resume work and production at an astonishing speed and secure its supply and industrial chains, achieving an annual GDP growth of 2.3 percent. This achievement is attributed to the strong cohesion, willpower and creativity of hundreds of millions of people who persevered in spite of great difficulties.

The outcomes of development are shared by the people. National development is a common cause of all citizens, an endeavor in which all the people share the fruits. While "making a bigger cake," the CPC has increasingly emphasized "dividing the cake well." Having met the poverty reduction goal set by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule, China is pushing for more tangible progress toward common prosperity for all. The CPC made a solemn promise to

the people: "We must not allow the gap between the rich and the poor to widen, or the poor to become poorer and the rich richer, nor should an insurmountable gap arise between the rich and the poor."⁴⁸

2.2 Tried-and-true Democratic System

" 'Only the wearer of the shoes knows if the shoes fit.' Only the people can judge if the development path they have chosen for their country is suitable."⁴⁹ Some political scholars believe that the inherent logic of Chinese democracy can be readily explained by the "shoe theory."

Over the past 70-plus years, the CPC has led the people in developing socialist democracy, preserving the organic unity of Party leadership, the running of the country by the people and law-based governance. Running the country by the people is an intrinsic trait of socialist democracy. Highly adaptable to China's national conditions, Chinese democracy is broad, genuine and effective as it enables the people to participate in the whole process of political affairs and efficiently solve the problems that concern the people.

Adaptive Democracy

Unlike international brands such as Coca-Cola, which promise the same taste everywhere in the world, democracy comes in many different forms. Adapting to the local conditions is an inevitable prerequisite for the existence of political systems of any kind. Unlike in Europe where there is a long tradition of the

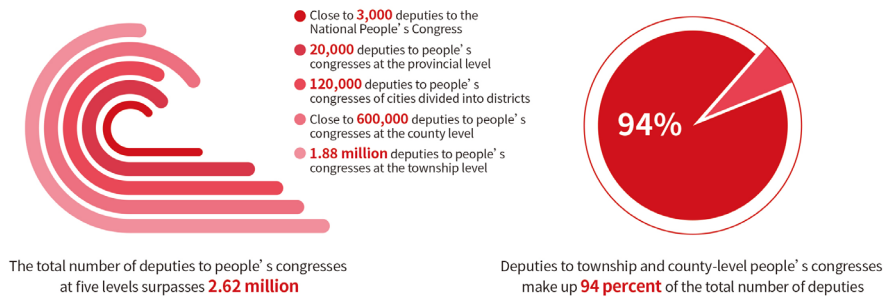
separation of powers, "China's modern political system must have the capability to carry out massive resource allocation and effectively govern a vast and populous country with uneven resource distribution."⁵⁰

The CPC has led the people in establishing institutions for democracy including the system of people's congresses, the system of CPC-led multi-party cooperation and political consultation, the system of regional ethnic autonomy, and the system of community-level self-governance. The above-mentioned institutional systems have adapted to the need for China to safeguard national unity, ensure economic and social development, and improve people's well-being. They embody the practice of democracy in China's political sphere through institutions.

Twenty-five-year-old Zou Bin, a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, is an outstanding construction worker. The suggestion he submitted at China's "two sessions"⁵¹ in 2021 on further protecting the rights and interests of migrant workers has been adopted by the authorities. The way in which individual NPC deputies perform their duties stands as the epitome of the practice of Chinese democracy. The system of people's congresses is the fundamental political system of China. People's congresses exercise the powers of enacting laws, conducting oversight, making decisions, and appointing and removing officials in accordance with the law. China has five levels of people's congresses, ranging from the National People's Congress to local people's congresses at the township

level. More than 2.62 million deputies to people's congresses at the five levels⁵² have been selected through democratic elections to broadly listen to people's voices and truthfully reflect people's demands. The people participate in political life through this system, safeguarding their own rights and interests and realizing their collective will.

Number of Deputies to People's Congresses at Five Levels



Source: www.npc.gov.cn

"The essence of the people's democracy is that the people get to discuss their own affairs."⁵³ Consultative democracy is a unique form and a distinctive strength of China's socialist democracy, comprising multifaceted consultations carried out by political parties, people's congresses, government departments, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) committees, people's organizations, communities and social organizations. The CPPCC, as a distinctively Chinese political institution, is a major channel for socialist consultative democracy, and its committees are specialist consultative bodies. A total of 5,974 proposals had been submitted by political advisors by early March 2021 since the third session of the 13th CPPCC National

Committee in May 2020. Of the proposals, 5,044 had been filed, with 99.64 percent of them handled.⁵⁴

Whole-process Democracy

Examining the practice of democracy in some countries, scholars have noticed the "hibernation" of democracy: the people are awakened at election time but then return to their "hibernation" after the votes are counted, becoming the "sleeping sovereign."⁵⁵ In China, however, the people enjoy whole-process democracy.

Whole-process democracy involves more than just a matter of voting, rather, it is reflected in every single link in the running of state power. This model of democracy breaks from the solitary focus on the vote and ensures the people's rights to democratic elections, consultations, decision-making, management and oversight, covering all aspects of state affairs and social activities.

China's Civil Code, known as "a declaration of the people's rights in the new era," exemplifies whole-process democracy during the process of conception, compilation and passage by vote. The decision to draft the Civil Code was announced at the fourth plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee in October 2014, and the compilation was launched by the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee in March 2015. During the compilation of the Civil Code, the NPC Standing Committee held 10 rounds of reviews and solicited public opinions on 10 occasions with 1.02 million opinions and

suggestions received from around 425,000 people. The draft also went through three rounds of readings and discussions by NPC deputies.⁵⁶

Whole-process democracy has penetrated into every dimension and corner of grassroots governance in Chinese society. As the people have shown growing enthusiasm for participating in grassroots governance with increasing attention paid to what is happening around them, the CPC has been leading reforms and innovations on the micro level to expand the channels for the people's political participation. The "experience of Fengqiao" in east China's Zhejiang Province has been promoted across the country for its success in engaging diverse social elements in rural governance. Talks both in person and online among rural officials and local residents have gained popularity in recent years, bringing whole-process democracy even closer to the people.

High-efficacy Democracy

"Democracy is not an ornament to be used for decoration; it is to be used to solve the problems that the people want to solve."⁵⁷

This is a major criterion for assessing the efficacy of democracy.

A notable strength of China's model of democracy is that it is workable and effective⁵⁸ -- "[it is] not driven by short-term considerations; it does not have to bend to special interests, voter backlash."⁵⁹

Under the CPC's unified leadership, the legislative, administrative,

supervisory and judicial bodies coordinate with and complement each other, rather than undermining their respective efforts. In governing the country, Chinese democracy avoids "holding an election or standing in opposition just for the sake of it," thus preventing internal rifts and the waste of resources due to "endless discussion without decision, and decision without implementation." Once a major decision is made, China is able to "make concerted efforts across the country, mobilize all sectors, and pool resources for major tasks."⁶⁰

The conservation of the Yangtze River concerns the well-being of over 40 percent of the Chinese population. In January 2016, Xi Jinping presided over a meeting on the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt, setting the general approach of "promoting well-coordinated environmental conservation and avoiding excessive development." Henceforth, progress has been made in the fields of legislation, administration and judicial matters. The NPC Standing Committee has made and adopted the Yangtze River conservation law; governments at all levels have been implementing a 10-year fishing ban on the Yangtze River; procuratorial and judicial organs have launched a severe crackdown on illegal sand mining and fishing in accordance with the law. Five years on, state organs at various levels have performed their duties, taken on due responsibilities and made coordinated efforts to accelerate the high-quality development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt.

China has achieved long-term social stability and rapid economic growth over the last seven decades, which proves

that the democratic system chosen by the CPC and the Chinese people is correct, suitable and effective. It is much like the perfect pair of shoes for a fast and steady marathoner, offering the durability, support and comfort needed on the whole journey.

2.3 Trusted Party-People Relationship

A political party's interactions with the people influence the very foundation of its governance.

The CPC compares its relations with the people to the "fish-water relationship" and regards close ties with the people as its greatest political strength. With its members recruited from the people, an organizational system that is deeply rooted in the people, and its mass line that emphasizes continuous interaction with the public, the CPC has built a closely bonded relationship with the masses. Some political analysts have vividly summarized this set of mechanisms and methods as the "fish and water law."

"We Chinese people are like the sea... We Communists are like fish in the sea. We live in it," American writer Anna Louise Strong quoted a late senior CPC leader as saying in her book *The Chinese Conquer China*.⁶¹

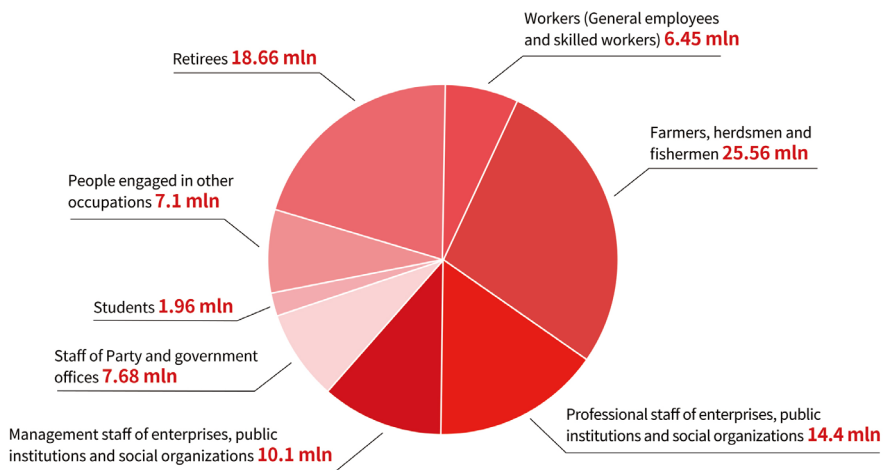
Vanguard

The slogan "serve the people wholeheartedly," which appears everywhere from the Chinese capital to small border towns, is a

constant reminder for Party members to act as "servants of the people." CPC members are at the service of all those in need.

After 100 years of development, the number of CPC members has increased from more than 50 to almost 92 million.⁶² Today, the CPC, serving as the vanguard of the Chinese working class, the Chinese people and the Chinese nation, has become an inextricable part of all aspects of Chinese society, with its large number of Party members and broad representation.

CPC Members by Occupation



Source: *Statistical Bulletin of the Communist Party of China 2019*

The CPC requires its members to "show a sense of duty and responsibility in ordinary times, stand up to shoulder major missions and tasks at crucial moments, and have the courage to go all out at critical junctures."⁶³ In December 2020, seven individuals were given the national honorary title of

outstanding CPC members. Among them are Zhou Yongkai, a veteran Party member who has spent decades in leading the people in his hometown to escape poverty, Lu Yonggen, a scientist who devoted his life to rice breeding research, Zhang Guimei, a middle school principal who has helped more than 1,000 rural girls pursue their dreams beyond the mountains, Li Xia, a young CPC member who died in a rescue operation following a super typhoon, Jasilate Mahsut, a discipline inspection official who helped to ease the worries and address the difficulties of the people, Yu Haijun, a forestry engineer who died fighting mountain fires, and Zhang Xiaojuan, a female official who died on the front lines of poverty alleviation. In the eyes of the Chinese people, these outstanding CPC members are pioneers, role models and everyday heroes, and are worthy of their highest admiration.

Neurons

How can the Party respond to the people's needs quickly and serve them better? The CPC has more than 4.6 million primary-level Party organizations, which are deeply rooted in the country's 1.4 billion people. The primary-level CPC organizations have acted as one "neuron"⁶⁴ after another in the overall "nervous system" of the country, forging a tightly bonded Party-people relationship that is unique in the world.

It is through these highly sensitive "neurons" that the CPC can learn about people's lives and needs and address their concerns and difficulties. In the city of Jiaxing, Zhejiang Province, each CPC member is responsible for several nearby households,

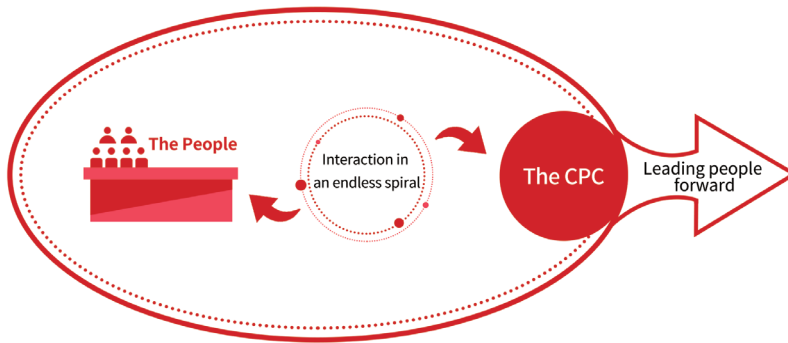
thus forming a "15-minute service circle" where people have access to various services on their doorstep provided by CPC organizations. In this way, a five-level interconnected working mode was formed, offering solutions to different matters at the corresponding city, county, town, village and sub-community levels. This mechanism of CPC members serving the people is now being promoted nationwide.

The building of primary-level CPC organizations has kept abreast of the times, adapted to the changing circumstances and met the people's increasingly diverse needs. In its early days, the CPC began setting up Party branches on a company basis in the army.⁶⁵ Today, Party branches are organized in office buildings. In Lujiazui, Shanghai's core financial zone by the Huangpu River, primary-level CPC organizations have been set up in Shanghai Tower, the country's highest building, and nearly 70 other high-rises nearby. As a result, nearly 10,000 CPC members connected through Party organizations are providing services for around 500,000 white-collar employees working in the financial hub. Such Party organizations have played a leading role in boosting industrial development, fostering a better environment and promoting cross-sector exchanges, serving as a unique bridge to coordinate and connect Chinese and foreign enterprises and social institutions.

Endless Spiral

The mass line is the CPC's lifeline and has been passed down as a cherished tradition. During the revolutionary wars, Mao Zedong defined the interactive relationship between the CPC and the people as an "endless spiral"⁶⁶ in response to a question about the forces driving the operation of Party organizations.

Interaction of the People and the CPC in an "Endless Spiral"



Following the principle of "from the people," the CPC believes that the creative endeavors of the people represent the source of the Party's governing ability and political wisdom. The historical changes of Xiaogang Village in Fengyang County, Anhui Province, are the epitome of the "endless spiral" of interaction. In 1978, farmers from 18 households took a great risk in making their marks on an agreement paper, in a bold move to contract collective land to individual households. The creative practice was later adopted by the country's top decision-makers, raising the curtain on China's rural reform.

Staying committed to the principle of "to the people," the CPC has always called on Party members and officials to reach out to the people. During the process of formulating the 14th Five-Year Plan, Xi Jinping made multiple inspection tours across the country, seeking advice and suggestions from the people. He also encouraged and supported soliciting public opinions online.

In such an "endless spiral," the CPC and the people have been engaged in sound interactions, during which the will of the people is embodied in the principles and policies of the Party, and the ideas of the Party are translated into the voluntary action of the people. With an inseparable Party-people relationship, the CPC has secured an inexhaustible driving force to fuel the nation's advance.

2.4 Effective Supervision System

Everyone makes mistakes, and political parties are no exception. Some Western politicians and scholars firmly believe that, due to a lack of supervision and counterbalance, it is impossible for a ruling party that has remained in power for an extended period to correct its errors, causing it to lose public support and ultimately perish. This is similar to the phenomenon of entropy increase⁶⁷ in physics -- Political parties are like living organisms, which without internal innovation or external intervention, will have diminishing functions and declining efficiency due to continuous entropy increase, and eventually become chaotic until their deaths.

Some researchers believe that over the past century, the CPC has developed the "entropy decrease mechanism" of internal and external supervision, which enables the Party to keep itself pure through internal supervision and exercise power in an open and transparent way through accepting the people's supervision, all the while eliminating disorder, stimulating vigor and maintaining vitality.

Internal Supervision

The twin tyrants of corruption and privilege are hated by the people, and are a common problem faced by all political parties around the world. Ensuring full and strict governance over the Party and strengthening internal oversight is the path for the CPC to effectively solve this problem and manage the increase in entropy.

The CPC has gradually formed an internal supervision and error correction mechanism that is scientific, rigorous and effective. From intra-party political education to criticism and self-criticism, deviations and mistakes in thinking are corrected in time. From the Yan'an Rectification Movement⁶⁸ to solving the "four forms of decadence,"⁶⁹ "sharp swords" hang over misconduct. From the Three Main Rules of Discipline and the Eight Points for Attention⁷⁰ to the CPC Central Committee's eight rules on improving Party and government conduct,⁷¹ disciplinary restrictions have been continuously tightened. From the Party's Central Supervision Commission and the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection to the National Supervisory Commission, supervisory institutions are

continuously improved. From embedded discipline oversight forces to rounds of inspection tours, deterrence has been significantly enhanced. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, over 190 central intra-party regulations have been formulated or revised.⁷² At the fourth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, the system for exercising full and rigorous governance over the Party, as an important aspect of the Party leadership system, was included into the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the state governance system.⁷³

The CPC's internal supervision has drawn the gaze of the international community. In February 2017, Spain's People's Party decided to set up an intra-party supervision institution which some believe is similar to the CPC's commissions for discipline inspection.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, with iron fists, the Party has investigated and punished corrupt officials on a scale unseen in decades, casting a broad net that covers even those high-ranking officials. By the end of 2019, a total of 414 officials registered at and supervised by the CPC Central Committee had been investigated, along with 18,000 officials at the department and bureau level and 137,000 at the county and division level.⁷⁴ According to a telephone survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics in November 2019, 97.3 percent of the respondents expressed satisfaction with the improvement of Party conduct, the working practices of government officials and social morality.

Officials Investigated by Anti-corruption Authorities Since the 18th CPC National Congress



Source: China Discipline Inspection Daily

External Supervision

On the eve of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, in a cave home in Yan'an, democratic personage Huang Yanpei raised the question of how to break free from the endless cycle of the rise and fall. Mao Zedong replied that a government can only be diligent when it is supervised by the people, and governance can only be sustained when everyone assumes their responsibility.⁷⁵

Drawing upon this wisdom, the CPC believes that to maintain their vitality and health, political parties should not only rely on internal efforts but also welcome external supervision.

"Supervised by the people" is not simply a slogan. The CPC has combined internal Party supervision with state and public

scrutiny, coordinating it with legal, democratic, auditing and judicial supervision, as well as scrutiny by public opinion. Together, they create a powerful synergy for conducting oversight.⁷⁶

How can supervision by the people be ensured? The Constitution of the People's Republic of China safeguards the people's right to conduct oversight. The people can exercise their power of supervision directly through complaints, charges, reports, letters and visits, or through the internet, mass organizations and community-level self-governance organizations.

The CPC accepts the people's supervision in a willing manner. "It is he who is under the roof that knows the roof is leaking; it is he who is not in power that knows an error of the court." Xi Jinping used to quote this saying by Han Dynasty philosopher Wang Chong, asking Party members and officials to listen to the public and accept the people's supervision.

The CPC has also continuously innovated and improved various channels for supervision. "Supervision channels at the people's fingertips" have enabled public opinions to be voiced through the internet. As of December 2020, China had 989 million internet users.⁷⁷ This huge number of netizens has led to the world's largest expression of public opinion, and has also given rise to the CPC's convenient, efficient and interactive platforms for public opinion. The State Council's "Internet Plus Inspection" platform has seen over 100 million visits and tens

of millions of messages since it started operation in April 2019. The platform has helped solve over 100,000 problems, swiftly responding to public concerns and correcting errors in work in a timely fashion.⁷⁸

In Lixian County, central China's Hunan Province, an internet supervision platform was set up in 2017 as a pilot to oversee village-level work. Simply by clicking on their mobile phones, villagers can track and oversee the operation of any village project, all revenue and expenditures, and every invoice in real time. "Everything is abundantly open and clear to us. I feel entirely free from worry," said Zhou Chunping, a resident of Hekou Village in Ganxitan Township of Lixian County.

Chapter Three: What Contributions

Does the CPC Make to Human Progress?

Today's world is undergoing profound changes of a kind unseen in a century. With instability and uncertainty mounting, the world is facing the continuous emergence of new challenges and risks. Against this backdrop, what contributions can China, under the leadership of the CPC, make to the world and people across the globe?

"Long live the great unity of the people of the world" -- a giant slogan on the wall of Tian'anmen Rostrum in Beijing proclaims to the world the values the CPC pursues and China's approach to engaging with other countries. The CPC is a party that strives for both the well-being of the Chinese people and human progress.⁷⁹

From the perspective of the political advancement of mankind, the secret to the CPC's success in making China increasingly prosperous and strong can provide other countries with a useful reference for party building and state governance. Amid the quest to secure a better future for the world, the CPC promotes the building of a community with a shared future for humanity

and has become an important force for safeguarding world peace and stability, as well as promoting the progress of human civilization, which has won the recognition of people in an increasing number of countries.

3.1 ABCDE: The Secret to the CPC's Success from a Global Perspective

A great number of political parties around the world are exploring how to improve their ability to govern and win public support. Though China's national conditions, political system, cultural traditions and political party values have unique features, the CPC's experience and practice can offer good reference for others. This report is aimed at summarizing some keywords of the CPC's practice of serving the people and explaining the CPC's success from a global perspective. It is important to note that the CPC does not seek to export China's model, nor does it ask other countries to follow in China's footsteps.

All for the People

Standing on the people's side represents the fundamental political stance of the CPC, and it is what distinguishes a Marxist political party from other political parties.⁸⁰ "We have talked a lot about our purpose, and it all boils down to one sentence -- serving the people,"⁸¹ Xi Jinping said.

The past 100 years saw the CPC make serving the people the starting point and ultimate purpose of all of its actions and

institutional design. With seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation as its original aspiration and founding mission, the CPC promotes rule of law to ensure the position of the people as masters of their country, and consciously accepts supervision by the people. The CPC has put in place a comprehensive system to ensure everything done is for the sake of the people.

Blueprint Drawing

While the policies of Western countries fluctuate based on election-related cycles, the CPC has largely steered clear of this focus on short-term results, guaranteeing the long-term consistency of the state's fundamental policies. The past 100 years of the CPC is a history of continuous hard work. The CPC is adept at making long-term strategic plans based on the people's interests, setting goals for each stage of development, and translating a blueprint into reality with force and tenacity, like a hammer driving a nail.

Shortly after taking office as the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Xi Jinping raised the notion of the Chinese Dream of realizing national rejuvenation. New strategic plans for China's development over the ensuing 30-plus years were made at the 19th National Congress of the CPC in 2017. The fifth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee in 2020 comprehensively took into account China's 14th five-year development plan and long-range goals through the year 2035.

While China is making five-year plans for the next generation,

Americans are planning only for the next election, said Robert Engle, a Nobel laureate economist from the United States.

Capacity Building

The governance capacity of the CPC is multifaceted and covers all fronts. Its capacity building concerning political awareness, theoretical competence, organization and conduct in particular attracts global attention and is often cited as a key reason for the CPC's success in winning the people's support and withstanding various tests.

The key to a ship sailing through a storm and reaching its destination safely lies in the steady hand of an expert captain. The history of revolution, construction and reform shows that with a strong leadership core, the cause of the Party and the country is full of hope with one victory after another. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has led the advancement of China's great social revolution and the CPC's self-reform, making historic achievements and changes in the cause of the Party and the country.

It is essential for a political party to strengthen its ideological and theoretical construction. This will help Party members better understand why and how they should carry out their work, and will ensure a foundation of consensus among the general public. The enduring, strong vitality demonstrated by the CPC, according to Maurício Santoro, head of the Department of International Relations at the State University of

Rio de Janeiro, can be attributed to its continuous innovation, fact-based approach and adherence to equipping itself with theories that keep pace with the times.

Democratic centralism is a fundamental organizational principle of the CPC. It combines full intra-party democracy with the correct practice of centralism. In this way, the CPC can unleash the creativity of its members to the fullest and achieve unity in thought and action within the Party. The CPC has put in place a set of full-fledged mechanisms for selecting and appointing upright and competent officials, forming a set of systems for training, selecting, appointing and managing officials. On the strength of Party building, Robert Lawrence Kuhn, chairman of the Kuhn Foundation, said one of the great strengths of the CPC is organizational departments, which are responsible for selecting, training and disciplining officials, whereas many other political parties have no such people specially posted in similar roles and their party leaders fill offices with people close to them that they can totally rely upon.

The fight against corruption is a kind of self-reform. The years since the 18th National Congress of the CPC have seen the Party show zero tolerance for corruption and resolutely correct misconduct in all its forms. The Party has formed a power supervision network which covers both the Party's disciplinary work and the state's supervisory work, and combines the work of inspectors stationed at various posts in the government, public institutions and state-owned enterprises, as well as that of rounds of special inspections carried out across the board.

Development Shared

Realizing communism where the full and free development of every individual is ensured is the highest goal set in *The Communist Manifesto* for a Marxist political party.⁸² Xi Jinping has stressed that ending poverty, improving people's well-being and realizing common prosperity are the essential requirements of socialism.⁸³

The CPC champions a vision of leaving no one behind. Under the CPC's leadership, China has made historic achievements in terms of eliminating extreme poverty and building a moderately prosperous society in all respects as the CPC marks its centenary. Making more notable and substantial progress in achieving common prosperity for everyone⁸⁴ is now among China's long-range objectives through the year 2035 for basically realizing socialist modernization. The CPC is working on the formulation of an action plan to promote common prosperity. To achieve common prosperity, the regional gap, urban-rural gap and income gap need to be closed step by step and more development outcomes should be shared by all the people in a fairer way.

Efforts such as jointly pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative and promoting South-South cooperation also attest to the CPC's vision for promoting shared and common development worldwide.

Effective Governance

The need to enhance governance effectiveness is a common issue facing governing parties all over the world. The most essential element in achieving effective governance in China is the leadership of the CPC. The CPC has a complete setup consisting of Party committees (or leading Party members groups) and Party branches at both central and local levels, guaranteeing its centralized, unified leadership over the whole country. This enables the Party to pool resources for great undertakings. Be it everyday governance or emergency responses, human resources, as well as technological, material and financial resources, can always be effectively brought together across regions and sectors.

Since the founding of New China, various undertakings such as earthquake rescue, the fight against epidemics, poverty relief, the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, the Chang'e lunar probe missions, as well as major projects such as the country's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, Tiangong space lab and "China Sky Eye" Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope, have been accomplished thanks to the CPC's ability in pooling strength and effective governance.

In fact, the reform and opening up, which has brought earthshaking changes to China, is also a great undertaking made possible by the CPC pooling strength from the whole Party and all Chinese people.⁸⁵

Mohsen Basurra, deputy speaker of Yemen's House of

Representatives, said the CPC is the only political party that can unite the people across regions and organizations of various levels. It is this strong cohesiveness at all levels and sound governance that enable China to achieve today's massive progress.

3.2 Community with a Shared Future for Humanity: Path toward Well-being for All

In the spring of 1999, NATO military aircraft flew over Belgrade, then capital of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, launching continuous air strikes that left over 10,000 people dead or injured. Twenty-two years later, planes carrying China's COVID-19 vaccines arrived in the same city, and they were welcomed by Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic at the airport.

These two polar opposite experiences of the Serbian people raised a soul-searching question for the international community: will we allow hegemony to continue wreaking havoc around the world, or will we unite and stand as one in the face of adversity?

The CPC's answer is to promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity -- to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity. The proposal put forward by Chinese Communists is aimed at promoting the well-being of humanity, and is not meant to force upon other nations Chinese Communists' political views on transforming the world.

Chinese and foreign scholars believe that the vision of a community with a shared future for humanity is a major theoretical innovation that goes beyond the differences of country, race and system in improving the global governance system and promoting sustainable development and the progress of human society. It is in the fundamental interests and meets the universal expectations of the international community.

This report argues that the CPC explores ways to solve multiple prominent challenges facing the international community and develop a community with a shared future for humanity from three dimensions: promoting peace built by all, development beneficial to all, and mutual learning among civilizations.

Peace Built by All

Peace is the foundation for the pursuit of a happy life, and safeguarding peace requires joint efforts by all countries. The ability of major countries to deliver public goods to effectively maintain peace, exercise strategic restraint and rally global strength for peace plays a decisive role.

Facing the Cold War mentality of confrontation, the zero-sum game mindset, and the hegemony and power politics that seek supremacy with blind faith in the use of force, China -- led by the CPC -- holds that world peace should be pursued, protected and enjoyed by all. Working with other countries, China has committed itself to bringing lasting peace and universal security to the world.

In 1954, then Chinese Premier and Foreign Minister Zhou Enlai led a Chinese delegation in attending the Geneva Conference, which was opened at the Palais des Nations in Switzerland, marking New China's first major appearance on the multilateral political stage as one of the world's five major countries. The Chinese delegation made an important contribution to the peaceful settlement of the Indochina issue. In 2017, also at the Palais des Nations, Xi Jinping delivered a speech titled "Work Together to Build a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity," calling on all countries to follow a path of peaceful development and to pursue common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security.⁸⁶

The Palais des Nations has witnessed Chinese Communists' tireless pursuit of world peace with their commitment and vision, a pursuit that defines the history of the CPC.

More than seven decades ago, the CPC rose as a central pillar in uniting the whole nation to persistently resist the Japanese militarist aggressors and eventually defeat them, making enormous sacrifices and great contributions to the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War. After becoming China's governing party, the CPC unequivocally upheld the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, pursued an independent foreign policy of peace, and made a solemn commitment to never seeking hegemony or expansion.

Throughout modern history, China, led by the CPC, is the only major country to have embarked upon the path of prosperity

without resorting to military expansion or colonial plunder. This has established a new model of peaceful development for major countries, setting a fine example.

As China's overall national strength increases, the country is playing a more active role in the international community in safeguarding peace and upholding security. Ever since China became a participant in the UN peacekeeping operations in 1990, Chinese peacekeepers have been sent to more than 20 countries and regions including Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon and South Sudan. Sixteen Chinese military peacekeepers have sacrificed their lives in foreign lands for the cause of world peace.⁸⁷ China's participation in the UN peacekeeping missions helps bring peace and stability to regions beset by war and conflict.

Numbers of Chinese Peacekeepers and Mission Categories

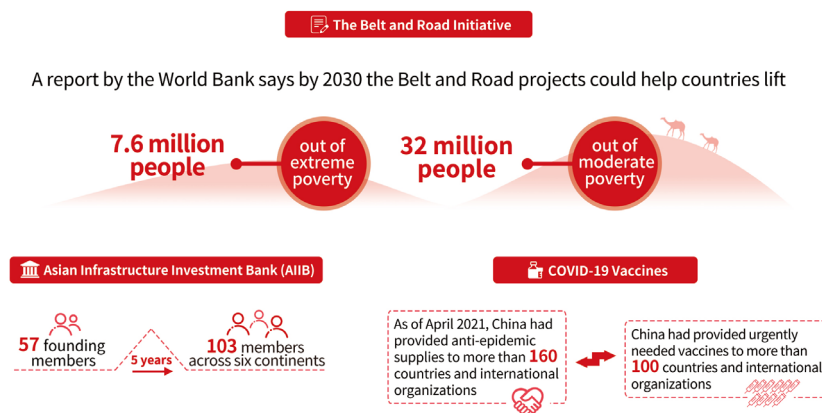


Source: White Paper: *China's Armed Forces: 30 Years of UN Peacekeeping Operations* released in September 2020

Development Beneficial to All

The Tanzania-Zambia Railway, built with China's assistance, was formally put into operation in 1976. It has been hailed as a "road of friendship" and "road of freedom." In the 21st century, the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative has received positive responses from more than 160 countries, regions and international organizations, becoming a globally welcomed public good.⁸⁸

China Provides the World with Public Goods



Sources: World Bank, AIIB and China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

From the Tanzania-Zambia Railway to the Belt and Road, the path of common development for all countries around the world, which the CPC adheres to, extends ever forward. The CPC remains committed to open development and mutually beneficial cooperation, and rejects the zero-sum game mentality and winner-take-all approach. It lends new impetus to the pursuit of common prosperity and comprehensively facilitates global development.

China's enormous domestic market provides enormous opportunities for the development of all countries. By holding events like the China International Import Expo, the China International Fair for Trade in Services and the China International Consumer Products Expo, China offers a huge market for commodities from various countries. Progress and achievements have also been made in bilateral and multilateral cooperation, such as the establishment of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area and the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which have injected new impetus into world trade liberalization and facilitation, as well as the building of an open world economy.

China Shares Its Development Opportunities with the World

China boasts a consumer market with the greatest potential on Earth



China has a population of **1.4 billion**, and a middle-income population of **400 million**. It has the world's largest market

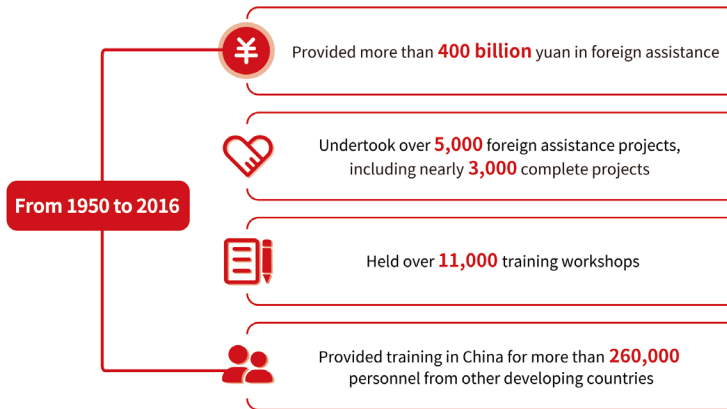


During the next 15 years, China will import goods and services valuing more than **30 trillion** U.S. dollars and **10 trillion** U.S. dollars, respectively

Source: White Paper: *China and the World in the New Era* released in September 2019

Over the years, thousands upon thousands of Chinese people, including scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs and technicians, have worked tirelessly across many developing countries, and helped local people realize their dreams of development.

China Helps People in Developing Countries Realize Their Development Dreams



Source: Keynote Speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Opening Session of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2017 in Davos, Switzerland

Based on its ability and responsibility as the governing party of a major country, the CPC has contributed its wisdom and proposals to coping with challenges facing the sustainable development of humanity, such as climate change. Chinese President Xi Jinping has announced that China will strive to peak its carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, calling on all parties to build a community of life for man and Nature⁸⁹ and be committed to harmony between man and Nature.

China has not only made achievements in its own green development but also shared its experience and carried out cooperation with other countries, which embodies the concept of a community with a shared future for humanity, said Nasser Bouchiba, president of the Africa-China Cooperation Association for Development in Morocco.

Mutual Learning among Civilizations

The notion that civilizations are doomed to clash has haunted the international community since the end of the Cold War. Its influence has been growing over the past few years, undermining trust and cooperation across the world.

Whether civilizations will clash or engage in dialogue and cooperation with each other is indeed a question of our times. It is of vital importance to the future of humanity.

"In handling relations among civilizations, let us replace estrangement with exchange, clashes with mutual learning, and superiority with coexistence."⁹⁰ This is the answer the CPC has given based on its 100-year endeavor and theoretical exploration. "We must advocate peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, which are common values of humanity, and encourage exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations to promote the progress of human civilization,"⁹¹ Xi Jinping stressed.

The CPC has actively learned from achievements made by people of other civilizations and adapted them to the Chinese context. Through practice, the CPC is exploring a model for human civilization that is characterized by inclusiveness and harmony without uniformity.

Marxism is the scientific truth introduced into China from abroad. The Chinese Communists adapted it to China's conditions, kept it up to date and enhanced its popular appeal,

making it a science-based theory that guides the CPC in leading the Chinese people forward.

The powerful vitality of socialism with Chinese characteristics is also closely linked to exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. Over the past 40-plus years, with the latest technological progress and management experience absorbed from other parts of the world, the CPC has successfully advanced China's reform and opening up.⁹²

As China takes an increasingly central position on the world stage, the CPC has paid greater attention to dialogues, exchanges and cooperation with people and political parties of other countries, supported people of all countries in enhancing exchanges and friendship as well as created new platforms for civilizations to communicate from an equal footing and inspire each other.

Hosting the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations, and the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting, the CPC has championed a new approach to civilizational exchange featuring diversity, equality and mutual accommodation,⁹³ and adhered to the principle of seeking common ground while reserving or managing differences. It has sought to promote dialogue among civilizations and explored the right path to bring about global prosperity and progress.

Former French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin noted

that in today's world only constructive dialogue can contribute to harmonious global development, and China's wisdom is a source of great inspiration.⁹⁴ British scholar Martin Jacques said China has provided a new possibility, that is, abandoning the law of the jungle, hegemonism, power politics and the zero-sum game and replacing them with win-win cooperation, co-construction and sharing.

As China, led by the CPC, continues to promote peace built by all, development beneficial to all and mutual learning among civilizations, the concept of a community with a shared future for humanity has been enriched and its approach perfected. The idea has been widely accepted across the world and written into multiple resolutions of the United Nations. According to the 2019 China National Image Global Survey conducted by the Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies, more than 60 percent of the overseas respondents considered the proposal for building a community with a shared future for humanity as a positive step for individuals, countries and global governance.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres noted that China is setting an example for building a community with a shared future for humanity. He said the United Nations welcomes China's positive participation in global governance and expects China to make even greater contributions to the building of a more harmonious world.⁹⁵

Epilogue

Always bearing in mind the great cause of the nation and the people, the CPC remains as youthful as ever on its centenary. The Party is leading the Chinese people in embarking on a new journey to strive for the second centenary goal. Past successes are no promise of eternal glory. The Party remains clear-headed in bracing for any possible risks and challenges on the road ahead.

Globally, humanity is still ravaged by the most serious pandemic in a century, exacerbated by the worst economic recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s and rising protectionism and belligerence. The world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, and China is facing both unprecedented opportunities and challenges in its development.

The biggest political advantage the Party has is its close ties with the people, while the biggest potential danger it faces as a governing party is becoming distanced from them. How should the Party approach its fundamental purpose of wholeheartedly serving the people? How can the Party maintain its progressive

nature and integrity so as to always have the support of the people? These questions are a constant point of focus for the CPC.

Sticking together, maintaining a close bond, and sharing weal and woe with the people -- this is what has enabled the CPC to overcome all difficulties and dangers in the past. This approach has also laid the foundation for building a strong Party and a prosperous nation in the future. As Xi Jinping has stated, the Party will remain invincible as long as it stands at the forefront of the times, leads the charge in overcoming difficulties and challenges, and takes root among the people.⁹⁶

The CPC is like an examinee sitting the grand test of the times, and it is the people who will grade the Party's efforts. To date, the CPC has passed with flying colors.

For the Communist Party of China, the past 100 years are just the prologue that will usher in a new chapter of endeavor.

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⁶⁸ From spring 1942 to spring 1945, the CPC launched a Marxist education campaign across the whole Party. Its main aims were: to fight against subjectivism in order to improve theoretical study; to fight against sectarianism in order to improve Party conduct; and to fight against stereotyped Party essays in order to improve writing. It is known as the Yan'an Rectification Movement because the CPC Central Committee was seated in Yan'an at the time.

⁶⁹ The "four forms of decadence" refer to formalities for formalities' sake, bureaucratism, hedonism and extravagance.

⁷⁰ The Three Main Rules of Discipline and the Eight Points for Attention were basic rules of discipline for the Chinese People's Liberation Army. The Three Main Rules of Discipline are: obey orders in all your actions; do not take a single needle or piece of thread from the masses; turn in everything captured. The Eight Points for Attention are: speak politely; pay fairly for what you buy; return everything you borrow; pay for anything you damage; do not hit or swear at people; do not damage crops; do not take liberties with women; do not ill-treat captives.

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New China Research (NCR)

NCR, the think tank of Xinhua News Agency, focuses on policy research on major domestic and international issues. With a global vision, NCR organizes international forums and other academic exchanges with think tanks around the world.

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