

Insights into the Governance of China*

“The great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is unstoppable! The noble cause of peace and development of humanity will prevail!”

At the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War on September 3, 2025, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made this proclamation at Tian’anmen Square.

It demonstrates the responsibility of a major global player, and captures the ethos of contemporary China.

Since the Party’s 18th National Congress in 2012, the Chinese nation, guided by the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at its core, has unleashed unprecedented vitality.

A Splendid New Era in History

In the lead-up to the Spring Festival in 2025, Xi visited Zhujiagou, a village in Suizhong County in northeast China’s Liaoning Province, to greet residents affected by flooding.

“You can always count on the Party and the government,” Xi told the locals.

A few months earlier, floods hit the village, destroying most of its houses. Party members and officials led villagers in racing

* The Chinese version of the article was written by Xinhua News Agency in October 2025.

against time, and managed to rebuild their community in 40 days.

“Under the leadership of the CPC, as long as we keep facing challenges directly, I’m sure we’ll do great in the year ahead,” Xi said.

The village’s story holds the key to a nation’s rise.

When political parties in some Western countries attack and undermine one another for their own interests, what is unfolding in China constitutes a vivid narrative that highlights the strong leadership of the CPC and the unity of the Chinese people.

The advanced nature of a Marxist party is not a given one, but rather cultivated through constant self-reform.

There was once a tendency toward the weakening, marginalization and erosion of the Party’s leadership, coupled with a blatant culture of formalism, bureaucratism, hedonism, and extravagance among Party members.

With the resolve and courage to “offend a few thousand rather than fail 1.4 billion,” Xi led the entire Party in advancing self-reform. They unwaveringly improved conduct, enforced discipline, and combated corruption.

Tempered and reborn in the new era, the Party has gained the initiative to preserve its nature, ideals, and character, and to unite and lead all Chinese people in building a strong country and achieving national rejuvenation.

In Shibadong, a village in central China’s Hunan Province, residents operate beekeeping bases and run agritourism ventures, earning an annual per capita net income of over 20,000 yuan.

It was here in November 2013 that Xi first introduced his concept of “targeted poverty reduction.”

The transformation of this single village mirrors the sweeping changes taking place across China.

China’s economy has grown to 134.9 trillion yuan in 2024 from 54 trillion yuan in 2012, contributing roughly 30 percent to global growth for years. New energy vehicles (NEVs), lithium batteries, and photovoltaic products have become highlights of China’s

manufacturing sector.

Emerging industries and new business forms and models are accelerating the rise of new quality productive forces. The Tianhe space station module orbits in space; the Zhurong rover explores Mars; and the Chang'e lunar probe visits the far side of the Moon. Innovation and vitality are surging across the vast expanse of China.

At the same time, whole-process people's democracy ensures that the people truly run the country. The system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics promotes fairness and justice, while ecological conservation systems keep the environment under close watch.

The country has built a moderately prosperous society in all respects, sustaining fast economic growth and long-term social stability. It now enjoys more solid material foundations and stronger institutional underpinnings for pursuing development. The rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is on an irreversible historical course.

Meanwhile, a long line of inspiring principles, originating with the great founding spirit of the Party, has been forged for the Chinese Communists. Virtue and goodness are upheld, while diligence and aspiration are encouraged throughout society. Core socialist values are nurtured through fine traditional Chinese culture.

These efforts have enriched Chinese civilization, consolidated the foundation of confidence in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and instilled a stronger sense of history and a proactive spirit throughout the Chinese nation.

The profound transformations of the new era have by no means come easily or with fanfare. They have been realized by tackling the special challenges facing a large party like the CPC, by overcoming the interwoven difficulties in shifting economic gears, promoting structural adjustment, and navigating the transition to new engines of growth, and by responding to external risks and challenges.

A broad consensus has taken root. The establishment of both

Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era provides the greatest certainty, confidence, and assurance in overcoming difficulties and uncertainties.

Answering Questions of the Times with New Theories

In 2022, when the CPC held its 20th national congress, Xi stressed the importance of adapting Marxism to the Chinese context and the needs of the times.

“In a rapidly changing world and a transforming China, clinging to old ways and rigid thinking—without the courage for theoretical innovation—would prevent us from effectively answering the questions posed by China, by the world, by the people, and by the times,” Xi said.

“In that case, not only would the cause of the Party and the country fail to move forward, but Marxism itself would lose its vitality and persuasiveness,” he added.

In the Wuyi Mountains of east China's Fujian Province, Xi cast his thoughts across the millennia: “Without the 5,000-year-old Chinese civilization, where would the ‘Chinese characteristics’ come from? And if it were not for these Chinese characteristics, how could we have blazed the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics as successful as the one we have today?”

“It is imperative to integrate the basic tenets of Marxism with China's specific realities and fine traditional culture.” Xi first put forward the Two Integrations during the ceremony marking the centenary of the CPC in 2021.

With a concern for humanity's future, Xi has integrated Marxist thought on world history with the outlook on the universe and the world nurtured in fine traditional Chinese culture, introducing the idea of building a community with a shared future for humanity.

China promotes a new form of international relations featuring

mutual respect, fairness, justice, and win-win cooperation. It advances high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

It also champions humanity's shared values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom, and calls for an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

These ideas, initiatives, and solutions have found broad resonance worldwide.

On September 1, 2025, at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Tianjin, Xi put forward the Global Governance Initiative.

China looks forward to working with all countries to build a more just and equitable global governance system and advance toward a community with a shared future for humanity, he said.

The initiative followed China's Global Development Initiative in 2021, the Global Security Initiative in 2022, and the Global Civilization Initiative in 2023.

At a time when the world is entering a new era of turbulence and change, these initiatives outline a promising future for the shared planet of humanity, provide stronger momentum for human development and progress, and enrich the theoretical framework while clarifying the practical path toward building a community with a shared future for humanity.

The people-centered nature is the most distinctive character of Marxism. Taking the people's stance is the fundamental political stance of Marxist parties.

In the new era, the principal contradiction facing Chinese society has evolved. It now lies between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for a better life.

"The people's aspiration for a better life is our goal," Xi said.

He summed up people's expectations in simple terms: better education, more stable jobs, more satisfactory income, more reliable social security, higher-standard medical and health services, more comfortable living conditions, and a more beautiful environment.

From a Party chief of a village on the Loess Plateau to China's top leader, Xi—who sees himself as a servant of the people—has always put the people first.

Eradicating absolute poverty, deepening reform in response to the people's calls, developing whole-process people's democracy, and eliminating corruption that affects people's lives—the leader of the people has shared the people's concerns and worked alongside them.

Using Marxism to guide the development of China in the new era, Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, through a series of original contributions, provides powerful guidance for the cause of the Party and the country.

There are Xi Jinping Thought on Strengthening the Military, Xi Jinping Thought on Economy, Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law, and Xi Jinping Thought on Culture.

As a development in Marxist theory on Party building, Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era stresses upholding and strengthening the Party's overall leadership and advancing the Party's self-reform.

As a development in Marxist theory on the state, it emphasizes upholding and improving the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernizing China's system and capacity for governance.

As a development in Marxist economic theory, the Thought advocates upholding and improving China's basic socialist economic systems, allowing the market to play the decisive role in allocating resources and enabling the government to play its functions better.

As a development in Marxist cultural theory, it highlights cultural confidence as the most essential, profound, and enduring source of strength for the development of a country and a nation.

As a development in Marxist thought on the relationship between humanity and nature, it puts forward the idea that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, promoting har-

mony between humanity and nature.

In addressing the challenges posed by the times, the Party's new theories for the new era have continued to grow and evolve, becoming a living philosophy closely connected with practice.

Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is the Marxism of contemporary China and of the 21st century. It embodies the best of Chinese culture and ethos of this era, and marks a breakthrough in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context and the needs of the times.

Sound and Systematic Strategic Planning

On September 13, 2021, during an inspection tour in Yulin, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, Xi visited the revolutionary site of Yangjiagou, stepping into the former residence of Mao Zedong.

A few lines by Mao from 1948, hanging on the wall, caught his attention: "Policymaking is the life of the Party; leading comrades at all levels must give it full attention and must never, on any account, be negligent."

Strategies are of fundamental importance for a political party or a country.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the CPC Central Committee with Xi at its core has assessed the overall situation, identified key trends, and planned major undertakings, pursuing a strategy of national rejuvenation amid global changes of a magnitude not seen in a century.

The CPC Central Committee determined that China remains in an important period of strategic opportunity for development, and socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era.

It also set forth a two-step strategy to build China into a great modern socialist country in all respects. In this way, it established a clear roadmap for advancing the continued efforts to achieve national rejuvenation.

The CPC Central Committee laid out the top-level design for advancing reform, opening up, and socialist modernization, and coordinated the implementation of the Five-sphere Integrated Plan and that of the Four-pronged Comprehensive Strategy.

A national strategic planning system has been formulated, implementing strategies on science and education, workforce development, innovation-driven development, coordinated regional development, functional zoning, new urbanization, and employment.

The CPC Central Committee has also broken down regional and sectoral boundaries, formulating systematic plans for the northeast, central, and western regions, treating mountains, rivers, forests, farmland, lakes, grasslands, and deserts as an integrated whole for coordinated planning and management, while establishing a framework for large-scale collaboration along major rivers.

Strategic foresight and long-term planning are essential.

In October 2024, during an inspection in Xiamen, a coastal city in Fujian, Xi carefully went through a book titled *1985–2000 Xiamen Economic and Social Development Strategy*—a plan he had personally led the creation of in the 1980s to guide the city's development.

Many ideas from that document, covering ecological governance, cultural development, and economic growth, live on in today's policies and initiatives.

On ecological protection, Xi stresses that China must “not sacrifice the greater good for small gains, not attend to one thing and lose sight of another, not consume tomorrow's resources today, and not seek quick success at the expense of long-term benefits.”

On food security, he emphasizes that “the rice bowl of the Chinese people must be held firmly in our own hands, and it should be filled mainly with Chinese grain.”

On energy, he points out that “energy supply and security are matters of vital importance to the nation and the people—major issues that cannot be ignored even for a moment.”

A keen grasp of the trends of the times and the ability to dis-

cern underlying strategic patterns allow one to read the currents and turn them to advantage.

On April 25, 2025, Xi presided over a group study session of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau, focusing on the development and regulation of artificial intelligence (AI).

As early as October 2018, the CPC leadership held a group study session on AI. Using the “lead goose” effect as a metaphor, Xi described AI as “a strategic technology leading this new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation.”

Under Xi’s leadership, China has grasped the trend of development and reform.

The country has made innovation the primary driving force, applied the new development philosophy, accelerated the creation of a new development pattern, fostered new quality productive forces in line with local conditions, and advanced high-quality development.

As a result of deepening reform comprehensively, China’s economic strength, scientific and technological capabilities, and composite national strength have reached new heights, opening a new chapter in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Realistic and Pragmatic Tactics

Effective strategies require suitable tactics for implementation.

On September 26, 2024, Xi presided over a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee at the Zhongnanhai compound in Beijing.

At that time, mounting external pressures and internal challenges caused fluctuations in China’s economy. The CPC Central Committee rolled out a package of incremental policies that boosted public confidence, spurred an economic rebound, and ensured annual targets were met.

Xi has pointed out that China’s leaders must base their deci-

sions on a clear grasp of the facts, taking into account both the overall picture and the specific details, balancing priorities, focusing on key areas, and using breakthroughs to drive progress across the board. "It is like playing the piano with all ten fingers."

This analogy captures the dialectical unity of strategic resolve and tactical flexibility.

Strategies require a protracted struggle, while tactics emphasize decisive battles.

On November 15, 2012, when the new CPC central leadership met journalists, Xi urged the entire Party to stay on full alert, leading a sweeping battle against corruption.

Strategies operate on all fronts, while tactics focus on key breakthroughs.

On July 18, 2024, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, the closely-watched Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee adopted a resolution on reform and modernization, unveiling more than 300 key reform measures.

During the session, Xi highlighted economic structural reform as "the priority in further deepening reform comprehensively," a move seen as grasping the bull by the horns.

When China was building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, it identified three critical battles: defusing major risks, fighting poverty, and curbing pollution. To promote common prosperity, the country has supported one province in piloting a program as an experiment to generate lessons for the whole country.

Strategies look to the long term, while tactics address immediate challenges.

In early 2016, a symposium on the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt was held in Chongqing in southwest China.

"You may be disappointed today; this discussion is not about development, but about protection," Xi said.

He emphasized that ecological restoration of the Yangtze River is a top priority, highlighting an approach of coordinated conser-

vation and avoidance of excessive development.

According to Xi, the approach addresses immediate concerns, whereas ecological protection and green development set the long-term course.

Strategies remain steadfast in their goals, while tactics adapt to evolving circumstances.

In March 2020, during an inspection of east China's Zhejiang Province, Xi visited a port. At that time, the outbreaks of COVID-19 blocked both imports of raw materials and exports of domestic goods.

He reflected as he toured: "The situation today is markedly different. The conditions that once supported large-scale imports and exports have shifted, calling for new approaches to steer growth in response."

Soon after returning to Beijing, he introduced the concept of "a new pattern of development," which focuses on the domestic economy and features positive interplay between domestic and international economic flows.

Success depends largely on implementation.

"Strategically, we must pursue progress while maintaining stability, ensure solid top-level design, manage pace and intensity, and work unremittingly over the long term. Tactically, we need to focus on effective implementation, prioritize practical results, advance steadily, and tackle one challenge after another," Xi said.

When leadership and the people are united with the same will, every battle is sure to be won.

A Grand and Majestic New Chapter

On February 17, 2025, a meeting on the private sector was held in Beijing. Xi reaffirmed that the basic principles and policies of the Party and the country regarding the development of the sector "cannot and will not be changed."

Held at a pivotal moment, the meeting sent a clear signal of

support for the growth of the private sector and inspired enterprises and entrepreneurs to pursue development with renewed motivation.

As 2025 marks the final year for implementing the 14th Five-year Plan (2021–2025) for National Economic and Social Development, it is imperative to meet the goals set for this year, ensure the plan's successful completion, and lay a solid foundation for the 15th Five-year Plan (2026–2030).

To map out the blueprint for the upcoming five years, it is essential to pool the wisdom of the entire Party and country, strengthen top-level design and scientific planning, and provide clear strategic guidance for the country's development at a critical juncture in history.

China is expected to basically achieve socialist modernization by 2035. As the target year approaches, the challenges remain daunting and demand even greater effort.

Understandably, the path ahead for China will not be smooth. Its development environment is undergoing deep and complex changes, where opportunities and risks coexist, and uncertainties are increasing.

Globally, rising protectionism, unilateralism, and hegemonism pose greater challenges to China as it moves closer to the center of the world stage.

What fuels optimism for the future is the vitality of the country's economy and society. Hualong One power generation unit of the Zhangzhou nuclear power project in Fujian has begun commercial operations. Humanoid robots are stepping into the spotlight, sparking a boom in advanced manufacturing. Meanwhile, the rise of DeepSeek has ignited a new wave of innovation in generative AI.

In March 2022, while visiting national political advisors from the agriculture, welfare, and social security sectors attending the fifth session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Xi outlined the "five

strategic advantages” that would drive China’s continuous development.

These are the CPC’s strong leadership, the marked institutional strengths of socialism with Chinese characteristics, a solid foundation built through decades of rapid growth, long-term social stability, and a spirit of self-confidence and self-reliance.

This is exactly what keeps China steadfast and confident that “time and momentum are on our side.”

“We must resolutely break down the mindsets and institutional obstacles that hinder Chinese modernization, and make greater efforts to remove deep-seated institutional barriers and structural problems,” Xi said.

On July 30, 2025, a meeting of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau decided that the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee will take place in Beijing this October.

The formulation of the 15th Five-year Plan for national economic and social development is expected to be high on the agenda.

All eyes are on China. Over the next five years, how will the country boost its economic growth? What strategies will it implement to promote the well-rounded human development and common prosperity for all? Most importantly, how will it make decisive progress toward basically realizing socialist modernization?

As Xi said: “The key to coping with all kinds of risks and challenges lies in staying focused, enhancing confidence and pooling efforts to manage our own affairs well.”

Looking ahead to the new era and the new journey, Xi offers inspiring guidance:

“Our goal for the future is both clear and ambitious. To make it a reality, we must rely on persistent hard work. With confidence and courage, let’s unite and work together to build the future!”