

POLITICAL SYSTEM OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: NITTI GRITTIES AND CHALLENGES

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INTRODUCTION

China is amongst the most powerful countries in the world after the United States and Russia¹, It is also the member of the Security Council in the United Nations. In addition, it is also the 4th biggest country in the world by land, with Beijing being the capital of China.

China is a nation of increasing economic and political status in global affairs. But it is a political system perhaps matched in its opaqueness only by the government of North Korea.

Meanwhile in the end of the civil war in the year 1949, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has reigned the country and functions a pyramid of control which influences down to each village and every single workplace. The Party has 89-million membership, which makes it the major political party in the world.²

As with the past Communist-controlled USSR and its states, China imagines to be a state with multiple parties by technically authorizing an inadequate number of additional political parties.

The eight listed insignificant parties have been existing since before 1950. These parties all officially admit the leadership of the CPC and their actions are focused by the United Front Work Department of the CPC.

SYSTEM

China's government goes all the way back to 1921, when the Communist Party was formed, which was led by Mao Zedong. After he passed away, there was a rise of, "market socialism", where economic development was prevalently seen with reference to the socialism within the Chinese characteristics. Moving forward, the current constitution set has been made from 1982 and has been revised continuously. It consists of many rights with relevance of: worship, free speech, right to own private property, and right to trial. But, the application in practice for this constitution has not been followed.³

Communist government intent to replace the private property and profit-based economy with ownership publicly. They also gain communal control of at least the main means of production, as well as the resource-based society⁴. This system is the ruling political party in the People's Republic of China; however, a lot of analysts raise questions to the absence of China's system politically. On the other hand, it is also vital to consider that its portion of stability in its political environment is highly influence by: improved infrastructure and cheap labour. It attracts foreign direct investment (FDI) as well, with data proven that back in 2016, US\$139 Billion was brought in as FDI, resulting it to be the 3rd largest FDI country in the world.

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Likewise, China is also a protruding overseas investor, where their FDI has been spread across different nations, such as: UK, United States, Venezuela, and many more.⁵

The current communist leader is President Xi Jinping, who had come into power in 2012. Approximately 7% of the population of China are a loyal member of the committee and are eligible to climb the ladder of career, in any fields of business, politics, or even entertainment for that matter. This applies for even people like: Jack Ma (Alibaba), Ren Zhengfei (Huawei's founder). If anyone is seen going against the party, they will have to apologize publicly to protect themselves from persecution and secret detention.

VOTING SYSTEM

The political environment in China is ruled by the Chinese Communist Party and is guided by the General Secretary. China also practices a way of democracy, which is termed as a socialist consultative democracy. In this type of democracy, there is a proactive participation of people's organization, political parties and social organizations. Another element of the socialist consultative democracy is its election. Contradicting to the popular delusion, China holds election (Miaschi, John, 2019).⁶

The elections in China are done within a hierarchal electoral system, in which the leaders at different levels are elected separately. The initial stage consists the direct election for Local People's Congress. The further higher levels of People's Congress are indirectly elected by the People's Congress representatives instantly beneath them afterwards. The different Local People's Congresses elect their respective heads of provinces, mayors, and governors as well. Lastly, the National People's Congress, which is of 2,980 delegates, elects the State Council and the president too).⁷

There are few important aspects of the Electoral System, that should be known. The People's Republic of China are allowed to vote after the age of 18 and also have the right to stand for the elections, irrespective of their race, ethnic background, sex, race, occupation, religious belief, family background, property status, education level (or) even their length of residence. However, people who are destitute of their political rights rendering to law do not have the right to go up for elections or even vote for that matter.⁸

Previously, the People's Republic China Constitution has assisted a way for the Chinese leadership to reform the state, and the uppermost government positions have been reconstructed in the process. However, it might be appealing to view China as a colossal entity, with a history that runs back in the era of millennia, but the truth is that it is a dynamic and transforming country. Time and again Communist Part of China and the government have evidently shown the willingness to engage in economic and political experiments, which is positive sign for the near future (ISDP, 2018).⁹

CHINA'S DEMOCRATIC PARTIES

Democratic parties have a collective membership of more than 700,000 nationwide. Being in link with a democratic party is not an easy thing; candidates not only have to be entrepreneurs or intellectuals, but also need a recommendation by a senior party member.

Despite the struggle, one of the key incentives for enrolling the democratic parties is the chance to have the right to speak in public affairs. On the local level, the party committee has upgraded the mechanism of political discussion to inspire members to contribute valuable policy suggestions.

For this potential, one of the major glitches that needs to be spoken about is the low profile of

the parties belonging to non-communistic section. China's democratic parties are disparaged for being hidden to the overall public for much of the year, though they proactively take part in politics as stated above. Since the finances of democratic parties' hinge on fiscal revenue, they should confirm taxpayers of how much money they spend and their contribution to the public affairs. Furthermore, the democratic parties should connect appropriate platforms like: social media to facilitate networking and communication with the general public, as well as improve transparency (Xiaofeng Wang, 2018).¹⁰

POWER OF PRESIDENT

There are various reasons as to why Xi may want to remain in power. The apparent clarification is his obvious opinion that only he can make the ideologically careless, corruption Communist party and China come back on track. President Xi took control in 2012 promising to re-establish it to the rightful place at the centre of world affairs.

But on another perspective, Xi's tenacity to remain may also be about self-protection. He has eliminated, humiliated and imprisoned many powerful opponents, that China's well-known political jail is reportedly packed. He may see eternal power as the only means to avoid revengeful rivals (Tom Phillips, 2018).¹¹

In addition, another question may arise as to why has not the international community convicted Xi's power grab? The absence of criticism is probably in part the outcome of the west's growing tenseness about disturbing an ever more authoritative and sensitive China for distress of hurting economic situations. It can also be due to the worldwide dominance of authoritarian commands from Moscow to Manila.¹²

He has also centralised decision-making authority closer to himself. Xi is in charge of nearly all the key bodies controlling economic reform, internal security, innovation, technology, and foreign affairs. His records contain launching the, 'Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank', proclaiming Chinese rights in the South China Sea through enormous land recovery projects and a growing military trail, and, bravest of all, the 'Belt and Road Initiative', a geopolitical piece linking China through investment, infrastructure, and trade(Gill B, , 2019).¹³

THE MINISTRIES

The main element for China's government consists not only of the State Council itself, but all of its government ministries as well. In spite of their operative subordination for the State Council, the ministries exert critical andstrategical influence over their policies by their specific roles of understanding, the implementation, and looking over of what the leaders obscurely describe as Chinese policy. Kerry Dumbaugh et al. (2009) ¹⁴ elaborately explained how the ministries and China are formed and the various oppositions, which have been explained below.

The ministries are organized similar to the parties into various hierarchical levels with the offices situated at the local and provincial levels. They are also usually divided in accordance to the responsible areas. For instance: The Agricultural Minister is separated into 18 different departments, which consists of the Bureau for Food Quality and Safety in Agriculture and the section for Animal Husbandry. It can also be seen that the minister will guide the applicable regional (or) department offices for implementation, depending on the characteristic of the issue (or) policy in question.

The Government ministries in China are usually functioned like independent operators, with the specific Minister working like a Chief Executive Officer above his or her agency. China's sub-offices and their ministries are very defensive of the perceived welfares and targets of the ministry. For instance, the Ministry of Agriculture may compete with or be resistant to policies that could be detrimental to China's agricultural sector. However, Ministers are still accountable eventually to the Government's "board of directors" (the Politburo and are adhered to frequently oppose with the clerks of the Party Committees when beginning and carrying out the decision for policies.

THE 'PRINCE LINGS'

A vital, yet informal and influential political group in China are known as the, 'prince lings'. These groups include relatives of the senior most Chinese government officials, who utilize their relationships to gain privilege, power, and prosperity, which circumvent the procedures and channels. This represents the way of, 'class privilege', which was to be removed as the accessibility to the privilege and power is not seen to be on the basis of the merits. Few view this concept as a minimal source of corruption with a threat to the legitimacy with context to the public. The people, who fall under this, have selected various avenues to rule in China, such as:

1. Some utilized their accessibility of job opportunities and education to become significant figures in the Government (or) Party.
2. Other focus their abilities on gaining economic power by forming private companies (or) by being designated the leading officials on the state-run.¹⁵

According to reports, more than 90% of the billionaires in China are the children of the government officials.¹⁶

POLITICAL RELATIONS

CHINA AND U.S. RELATIONS

Scott Moore (2019),¹⁷ in an article describes the tense and on-going obscure relations of China and U.S. He mentions that a strange tranquil has hovered over the U.S.-China relationship in the recent times. Officially, Beijing and Washington have decided to a treaty in their mounting trade war and are probing for the plans of a probable agreement. But it's more likely that the truce won't be embraced and a struggle is vast than the trade war itself is emerging. Beijing has announced that it would consent U.S. companies with context to selling arms to the country, Taiwan. In addition, the government statistics agency recently announced that the GDP of China's growth in the first half of 2019 was the bottommost since 1992.

Moore observed that after two key tariff increase, the visa restrictions on both the sides, and the warning appearance of a distinguished phrase of "don't say we didn't warn you" (*wuwei yanzhi buyu*) in the *People's Daily* and official Communist Party newspaper, it may seem as if the floor can't be too far below. Something that is close to the economic and social decoupling is now an outcome, and the jeopardy of open conflicts that continues to rise. The various policymakers in Washington, Beijing, and anywhere else are suggested to re-evaluate as to where they are headed in the near future.

Primarily, Scott Moore discusses that the foremost thing to understand about the U.S.-China relations is that it is not about Donald Trump and Xi-Jinping. In reality, while U.S. and China are now finding themselves going deep on the downward sledge since the financial crisis of 2008. In the era after, Chinese leaders made 3 decisions:

1. They dropped the coverage on their determinations to challenge U.S. military and the political supremacy in the regions of Asia. China's militarization of the South China Sea and investment like the hypersonic missiles sent a vivid message that Beijing does not believe the Asia-Pacific is vast enough for 2 world powers to share.
2. China's leaders stiffened the bolts on domestic opposition, dowsing the fond, if excessively optimistic, hopes for development towards the political reform.
3. Beijing took a U-turn on its pledge to the liberalization of markets, covering decades of the manipulation of currency, intellectual property holdup, and concealed subsidies with severe restrictions on market entry for foreign firms.

Even if unpredictably calm heads triumph, at the current sequence and haste the United States and China are heading towards an economic separation. A progressively reasonable, if deeply pessimistic, description for the Trump administration's China policy is merely that it desires to power just such a decoupling. Needless to say, the world's two prime economies can never completely unravel themselves from each other. But a mixture of charges and political risk looks set to intensely rule down investment on both sides, and a rising number of U.S. companies are fluctuating more manufacture outside China. Even the hundreds of thousands of Chinese scholars studying in America, the only main noneconomic association between the 2 countries, are now preserved like the, 'pawns' in their mounting rivalries.

CHINA-RUSSIA RELATIONS

China and Russia are a make on the cooperation mechanisms between the 2 governments, vigorously applying the vital consensus grasped between the leaders,

continuously expanding the mutual teamwork in all areas and attaining prominent achievements. The relations between China and Russia have maintained good momentum.

Enjoying high-level political trust and benefit, strategic management and common political wills, China and Russia share determination of the two peoples to become "good neighbours, close partners and friends."¹⁸

CHINA-IRAN RELATIONS

Both root in having demanding regimes and historical accounts that depict the international system as unfair and conquered by Western powers. The Iranian regime views China as a potential supporter against the United States and China views Iran as a possible partner for restraining U.S.'s impact in the Middle East. The fundamentals of the economic partnership between China and Iran are, Iran's plentiful energy resources and China's mounting energy needs, but China is not prodigiously dependent on the Islamic Republic for its energy needs; in contrast, the Iranian regime now dependent on China as its chief diplomatic shield. Regardless of their energy collaboration, trade, and joint geopolitical interests, Iran and China have potentially deviating benefits on a number of issues.¹⁹

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