

XI JINPING: THE GOVERNANCE OF CHINA

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Author: Xi Jinping

Since 2017, Xi Jinping's thought on Socialism with Chinese characteristics for a 'New Era' has been the guiding principle for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). President Xi has been able to synthesize his vision and mission to restore China to its ancient preeminence and glory. This book is more inspiring than any vision emerging in the 21st century. More than 60 million people lifted out of poverty and over 13 million urban jobs created yearly are life-affirming. China is impressive as a torch bearer in the global endeavor to build an economic civilization through green development, national parks and solidarity with the struggling majority. With the economic opening up, Xi Jinping's insistence on building a moderately prosperous society in all its respects has crystallized the Party's wisdom and the people's alignment with its history, theory and practice. "When the Great Way rules, this land under heaven belongs to the people."

This book is a collection of speeches and essays by Xi Jinping and is interesting to read for those trying to understand China's system of governance and its economic role in the world. The book contains a compilation of 92 Xi Jinping's spoken and written works, divided into 19 sections by topics. People-centered philosophy, reforms and equality in delivering the assurances and guarantees refer to adequate food and clothing, access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing for impoverished rural residents. Xi Jinping has made people proud of their country, the birthplace of world-renowned thinkers, such as Lao Zi, Confucius, Sun Zi, Han Fei Zi, and Sun Yat-sen.

In China, leadership by the Party is the defining feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In 1949, Mao Zedong observed that political work is the lifetime of all economic endeavors.¹ This motivation is needed where "workers and peasants are wakened in their millions to fight as one man." With academic courses on political philosophy to build strong moral character, teachers of political philosophy are instructed to learn historical materialism and be innovative in teaching. The book also enlightens how CCP views its role in China and the world by keeping in line with Central

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Committee in thinking, action and political orientation, upholding the authority of the Central Committee and unified leadership, and resolutely implementing Central Committee's decisions and plans and not engaging in political maneuvering. Notably, a paradigmatic shift brought about by China's conception of state has enabled the Chinese to achieve rapid modernization in the last few decades. There is a professed commitment to 'seeking truth from facts,' scientific development, and a deep understanding of art and culture, science education, healthcare, employment, and technology as opposed to the mindless accumulation of material goods and money.

Xi's thought on socialism draws inspiration from Confucius's Classics, motivating anyone to believe a 'nation must have a soul.' To balance reform, development, and stability by upholding dialectical and historical materialism that too is diluted with Chinese characteristics to build social norms by promoting virtue. It brings about a paradigm shift in the notion of the state system. It is unlike Martin Wight's classification of state-system: Chinese vassal system, Roman Municipalities, Greek City States, and Empires or the Westphalian system. The nation-state system rooted in the Eastonian definition of "exercise of jurisdiction over the territory and peoples within having a monopoly over means of violence" has given rise to the Hobbesian conception of the state as a Leviathan.²

The book has revolutionized the conception of the state and brought about a shift in the existing conceptual and empirical basis for understanding state-system and governance. Xi's philosophy is framed on principles related to law-based governance, innovation in science and technology, guaranteed food security, rural revitalization, prioritized development of agriculture and the application of principles of the Party to supervise the performance of officials. There are three basic rules of conduct at work, clean governance, self-discipline and preparation in advance against the unexpected. China believes in protecting maritime rights, countering terrorism, maintaining stability, disaster rescue, international peacekeeping, escort service in the Gulf of Aden and humanitarian assistance. It is indeed Xi Jinping's assurance to the world when he repeats that no matter what stage of development it reaches, China will never seek hegemony. In keeping with the vision of humanity's shared future, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is the broadest platform for international cooperation. More than eighty countries and international organizations have signed agreements with China.

Though there is much repetition in the main ideas, the book is key to conceptualizing China's governance, development, solidarity with other states, domestic reforms and system to combat corruption. President Xi Jinping is referred to rightly as *Lingxiu*, a Chinese word for a legendary leader and used for Chairman Mao Zedong. Xi Jinping is a visionary leader whose philosophy inspires anyone striving for the harmony of mind and humanism.

¹ P.115, (Collected Works of Mao Zedong, Vol VI, China.ed. peoples publishing House, Beijing, 1999, p.449).

² Martin Wight in Hedley Bull, ed, *Systems of States*, 1977:84 & Adam Watson, Hedley Bull, "States, Systems and International Societies", *Review of International Studies* (1987), 13(2): 147-53.