

### 3

## 100 years of Communist Party of China

**O**n July 01 2021, Communist Party of China celebrated its centennial achievements. The secretary general of the CPC Central Committee, Chinese President Xi Jinping made a historic speech, which provided the road map for CPC in the next century. The speech comprised of the following major points<sup>1</sup>:

- We have realized the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. This means that we have brought about a historic resolution to the problem of absolute poverty in China
- The second centenary goal is of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects
- Since the very day of its founding, the Party has made seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation its aspiration and mission
- To realize national rejuvenation, the Party united and led the Chinese people in endeavoring to build a stronger China with a spirit of self-reliance, achieving great success in socialist revolution and construction
- To realize national rejuvenation, the Party united and led the Chinese people in freeing the mind and forging ahead, achieving great success in reform, opening up, and socialist modernization

---

<sup>1</sup> "Full Text: Speech by Xi Jinping at a Ceremony Marking the Centenary of the CPC", Xinhua, July, 2021, available at [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/special/2021-07/01/c\\_1310038244.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/special/2021-07/01/c_1310038244.htm)

- To realize national rejuvenation, the Party has united and led the Chinese people in pursuing a great struggle, a great project, a great cause, and a great dream through a spirit of self-confidence, self-reliance, and innovation, achieving great success for socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era
- As we put conscious effort into learning from history to create a bright future, we must bear the following in mind:
  - a. We must uphold the firm leadership of the Party
  - b. We must unite and lead the Chinese people in working ceaselessly for a better life
  - c. We must continue to adapt Marxism to the Chinese context
  - d. We must uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics.
  - e. We must accelerate the modernization of national defense and the armed forces
  - f. We must continue working to promote the building of a human community with a shared future
  - g. We must carry out a great struggle with many contemporary features.
  - h. We must strengthen the great unity of the Chinese people.
  - i. We must continue to advance the great new project of Party building

In concluding statement, President Xi, reaffirmed the stance of Chinese nation for a prosperous future for China as given below:

*“Comrades and friends, Today, a hundred years on from its founding, the Communist Party of China is still in its prime, and remains as determined as ever to achieve lasting greatness for the Chinese nation. Looking back on the path we have travelled and forward to the journey that lies ahead, it is certain that with the firm leadership of the Party and the great unity of the Chinese people of*

*all ethnic groups, we will achieve the goal of building a great modern socialist country in all respects and fulfill the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.*

*Long live our great, glorious, and correct Party!  
Long live our great, glorious, and heroic people!"*

With the establishment of People Republic of China led by the Chairman of Communist Party of China, Mao Zedong in 1948, China endeavoured to explore to socialist industrialization and modernization and in 1953 a road map was presented to the nation. This started with rejuvenation strategy through "Four modernizations during (1964-2000). This included realizing national industrialization as quickly as possible; systematically performing a technical transformation of the national economy by stages; and developing modernized industry, modernized agriculture, modernized transportation industry, and modernized national defence<sup>2</sup>. In 1987 Deng Xiaoping adjusted the scheduled deadline to comprehensively realize three step strategies for 2000 to 2050. These included:

- i. Doubling of the GNP by 1990 as compared to 1980 and the provision of ample food and clothing for the people.
- ii. Further double the GNP by end of 20<sup>th</sup> century, and to raise living standards for China's population to a level of moderate prosperity.
- iii. To bring per capita GNP reach the level of moderately developed countries by 2050. At this stage, China's population would enjoy the fruits of prosperity and fully realized modernization. Then, on that basis, China would continue to make further progress.

---

2 Constitution of the Communist Party of China (adopted at the 8th National Congress of the Communist Party of China on Sep. 26, 1956). Collection of Constitution of the Communist Party of China (from 1st Party Congress to 18th Party Congress (Central Party School Publishing House, 2013).

China is currently working towards the achievement of its “two centenary goals” (2000–2050), while adhering to Xi Jinping’s “two-stage” strategy of a modern socialist country for a new era (2020–2050). These strategies are aimed at creating socialistic modernization with Chinese character<sup>3</sup>.

The International Department of Communist Party of China (ID-CPC) has been closely working with the various countries and regions of the world for outreach of its priorities and philosophies after 2000s. President Xi, has re-centralized the political power in the CPC and extensive collaboration has been made with the world outside.

The new version of CPC has become more pluralistic by overthrowing the shackles imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism, thereby becoming more geared towards the development of people. CPC can be credited to unite all ethnic groups of China for socialistic reforms with Chinese character. This model modernized socialism, practiced by China paved ways for liberalization of China, after globalization.

The major character of the CPC is, its staunch belief in the Marxism philosophy as guiding principles. President Xi, emphasized that the ideological work of CPC is very important to make Chinese people prosper and develop China into a modern country. The concepts of Marxism and dynamics of Chinese revolution were blended together to create a collective wisdom. The initial period of Mao Dzetung was mainly concentrated on understanding and practicing the socialism as model for development of China. The reforms and opening up of China to external world policy of Deng Xiaoping, while keeping its socialistic identity intact, made it clear that they wouldn’t follow the Western Capitalistic path. In his speech on the centennial celebrations of CPC, President Xi Jinping made it clear that

---

3 Angang Hu *et al* (2021) Understanding Xi Jinping’s Governance- Becoming a Great Modern Socialist Country. Springer Open Access.  
<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2F978-981-15-9833-3.pdf>

Marxism will remain the major part of our philosophy in the Chinese context. He explained as follows:

“Marxism is the fundamental guiding ideology upon which our Party and country are founded; it is the very soul of our Party and the banner under which it strives. The Communist Party of China upholds the basic tenets of Marxism and the principle of seeking truth from facts. Based on China’s realities, we have developed keen insights into the trends of the day, seized the initiative in history, and made painstaking explorations. We have thus been able to keep adapting Marxism to the Chinese context and the needs of our times, and to guide the Chinese people in advancing our great social revolution. At the fundamental level, the capability of our Party and the strengths of socialism with Chinese characteristics are attributable to the fact that Marxism works.

On the journey ahead, we must continue to uphold Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents, and the Scientific Outlook on Development, and fully implement the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. We must continue to adapt the basic tenets of Marxism to China’s specific realities and its fine traditional culture. We will use Marxism to observe, understand, and steer the trends of our times, and continue to develop the Marxism of contemporary China and in the 21st century”.<sup>4</sup>

The second important attribute of the CPC, is its adherence to the people centered ruling philosophy and value driven Governance. The Marxism is distinguished with its basic ideology that Socialism is mainly aimed at serving the people and proletariat. Socialism as a result will replaced Capitalism and welfare of masses will remain the major agenda of the governments. The initial heart and mission of Communist Party of China is to seek happiness for the Chinese people and seek

---

4 “Full Text of Xi Jinping’s Speech on the CCP’s 100th Anniversary”, Nikkei Asia, available at <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Full-text-of-Xi-Jinping-s-speech-on-the-CCP-s-100th-anniversary>

rejuvenation for the Chinese nation<sup>5</sup>. Chairman Mao said: "The real impregnable fortress is the masses. It is the millions of people who really support the revolution. This is the real impregnable fortress that can't be broken by any force." Later the second generation leader of China Deng Xiaoping provided the "Three favorable standards for the development of China i.e. i. whether it is conducive to developing the productive forces of the socialist society, ii. whether it is conducive to enhancing the comprehensive national strength of the socialist country, and iii. whether it is conducive to improving the living standards of the people.

The third important attribute of the CPC, is to build the party on strong ideological grounds and develop institutional systems based on party strengths. Hence it has been a strong aspect of the party to improve its performance towards realizing the objectives of the ideology of socialism for the welfare of common masses. In first generation of its birth, the ideological foundation of the party was strengthened. The second generation of Communist Party of China with Comrade Deng Xiaoping as the core attaches importance to the legalized society, values system construction, bring order out of ideological chaos, and promotes efforts to enforce strict Party discipline. For China, it seems that the Communist party will remained as major force for ruling un China and it has the ability to tackle the challenges of people, times and developments. Yet it has to absorb and adjust to the changes of dynamic world and modernized Chinese society in 21<sup>st</sup> century. For New Era, the party must adhere to the thoughts and approaches of President Xi Jinping based on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics. This will require integration of ideological party building based on and institutional party governance, and always adhere to the anticorruption construction<sup>6</sup>.

---

5 Ning Liu-An Analysis of the Ruling Experience of the Communist Party of China in the Past 70 Years- 4th International Conference on Economy, Judicature, Administration and Humanitarian Projects (JAHP 2019)

6 Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is a Model of Marxist Innovation and Development in the 21st Century [N]. Guangming Daily, 2018-12-28.

The major points of the President Xi philosophy are derived from his reflections on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2013, when he was elected as Secretary General of the party. Some of the major points are given as follows:

- It is Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought that guided the Chinese people out of the darkness of that long night and established a New China. All other isms failed.

- After the collapse of Soviet Union, there were apprehensions about the apparent China collapse, but instead China has become more powerful and the lives of the people of China have improved.

- There have been many perceptions about the changes in the socialism policies in China and people used different terms like “Capital socialism”, “State capitalism” or “bureaucratic capitalism” etc., which are totally wrong. The Socialisms with Chinese characters is based on: the absolute leadership of the Communist Party of China, grounding policy in national conditions, putting economic construction at the center, adhering to the “Four Cardinal Principles” and to the program of reform and opening up, liberating and developing productive social forces, building socialist market economy, socialist democratic politics, an advanced socialist culture, a harmonious socialist society, and an ecological socialist civilization.

- Socialism with Chinese characteristics is the dialectical unity of the theoretical logic of scientific socialism and the historical logic of China’s social development.

President Xi Jinping made it clear that if we keep moving with this approach of Socialism with China characteristics, we will be able to build a prosperous, democratic, civilized, modernized, and harmonious socialist country by the centennial anniversary of the founding of New China.<sup>7</sup>

---

7 Tanner Greer (2021) Xi Jinping in Translation: China’s Guiding Ideology. Available at <https://www.bunicuta.net/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/xi-discurs-2013.pdf>