



CCAS

Centre for China Analysis & Strategy

中国分析及策略中心

28 July 2020

**LEADING PARTY JOURNAL QIU SHI PUBLICISES XI JINPING'S
COMPILATION
OF 18 PHRASES EXTOLLING CCP'S LEADERSHIP**

by JAYADEVA RANADE

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s flagship theoretical fortnightly magazine in its latest (2020/14; July 15, 2020) issue published two important articles. One was an article by Xi Jinping captioned "The Leadership of the Chinese Communist Party Is the Most Essential Characteristic of Socialism With Chinese Characteristics." It was prominently publicised on July 15, by Xinhua and the official party mouthpiece 'People's Daily' and as the lead news item by the state-controlled CCTV. The article is essentially a compilation of 18 phrases culled from Xi Jinping's speeches of the past 7 years from December 2013 to October 2019.

2. Since the commencement of his term in November 2012, Chinese President Xi Jinping has focussed on enhancing his stature as a national leader on par with Deng Xiaoping and Mao Zedong and as a leading Chinese communist leader. While not exactly Mao's little 'Red Book', the publication of these phrases as a book does serve to elevate Xi Jinping's standing as a Chinese communist. Incidentally, Qiu Shi had in June 2014 described Xi Jinping as "one of China's greatest communist leaders" who had put forward "new thinking, new views and new conclusions"! The release of this collection of phrases elevates him further.

3. The selected phrases extol the capabilities and achievements of the CCP. Calling the leadership of the CCP as "the greatest advantage", it said in today's China there is no greater political power or other power than the CCP. The phrases highlight the "absolute" and "leading" position of the CCP in all matters and declare that had it not been for the CCP's leadership, China would not have achieved the successes it has. In at least two places it

mentions Xi Jinping as at the “core” of the leadership and includes the warning that one cannot afford to falter even a little bit on the issue of “adherence to the party’s leadership.”

4. The article has been published at a time when dissatisfaction with Xi Jinping, including inside the CCP, is growing and it is apparent that Xi Jinping has decided to crack down on dissent. An important, though unpublicised, political event where veteran party leaders gather for an ‘informal’ annual conclave is also due in August. Coincidentally it was also announced on July 15, that 63-year old Ren Zheqiang, an influential ‘princeling’ and real estate tycoon, has been expelled from the CCP. This would be a prelude to his criminal prosecution. It is a clear message that Xi Jinping plans to punish all dissenters regardless of their status.

5. Salient points in the eighteen phrases are briefly listed below:

- i) Socialism has many characteristics, but the most essential is to adhere to the leadership of the CCP and follow the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core.
- ii) The CCP is the core of leadership in our various undertakings. The Central Committee (CC), Politburo (PB) and Politburo Standing Committee (PBSC) are the core of the Party’s leadership decision making.
- iii) The leadership of the CCP is the most essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics.
- iv) It must be clearly understood that the greatest national condition of China is the leadership of the CCP. The system led by the CCP is our own, not from where it was cloned, nor did it follow suit.
- v) The most essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics is to adhere to the leadership of the CCP. Uphold General Secretary Xi Jinping’s core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and uphold the Central Committee’s authority and its centralized, unified leadership.
- vi) The leadership of the CCP is the common choice of all Chinese people, including democratic parties, organisations, nationalities, strata and people from all walks of life.
- vii) The CCP is the core of leadership in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics and is in a position of overall control and coordination of all parties. In today’s China there is no greater political power or other power than the CCP. Party, government, military and civilian entities, the East, West, South, North and

Central, the Party is leading everything, is the highest political leadership. It is the fundamental point of my country's stability, economic development, national unity and social stability. It must not be shaken in the slightest.

- viii) It is a great blessing for China, the Chinese people, and the Chinese nation to have China in power. As long as we have a deep understanding of modern Chinese history and Chinese revolutionary history, it is not difficult to find that without the leadership of the CCP our country and our nation cannot achieve today's achievements, nor can we have such an international power today.
- ix) It is up to the CCP to do things well in China. The most essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the leadership of the CCP, and the greatest advantage of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics is the leadership of the CCP.
- x) The new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics is ... the goal of the military is to build the people's army that listens to the party's command, can win the battle and has a good style of work and build the people's army into a world class army.
 - a) Uphold the party's leadership over all work. Party, government, military, and civilian entities, East, West, South, North, Centre, the party leads everything. It is necessary to enhance political awareness, overall situation awareness and core awareness, and be closely aligned with the party, consciously maintain the authority of the Party Central Committee and the centralized and unified leadership, consciously maintain a high degree of consistency with the Party Central Committee in ideological and political actions, improve the system and mechanism for upholding the party's leadership, and maintain stability. Ensure that the party always takes the lead overall.
 - b) Persist in putting people as the centre. Implement the party's mass line into all activities in governance and take the people's yearning for a better life as a struggle.
 - c) Persist in comprehensively deepening reforms. Only socialism can save China, and only reform and opening up can develop China, develop socialism, and develop Marxism. We must uphold and improve the socialist system with Chinese characteristics.
 - d) Adhere to the new development concept. We must uphold and improve China's socialist basic economic system and distribution system, unswervingly consolidate and develop the public-owned economy, unswervingly encourage, support, and guide the development of the non-public-owned economy.

- e) Adhere to the party's leadership, adhere to the path of socialist political development with Chinese characteristics, uphold and improve the people's congress system, the multi-party cooperation and political consultation system under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, and the ethnic regional autonomy system.
- f) Adhere to the comprehensive rule of law. Unswervingly follow the path of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics, improve the socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics centred on the Constitution.
- g) Adhere to the socialist core value system. We must adhere to Marxism, firmly establish the lofty ideals of communism and the common ideals of socialism with Chinese characteristics, cultivate and practice the core values of socialism, continuously strengthen the dominant and discourse power in the ideological field, inherit the revolutionary culture, absorb foreigners, better build Chinese values, and Chinese power.
- h) Persist in safeguarding and improving people's livelihood in development. New progress has been made in providing for housing, and support for the weak, in-depth efforts to fight poverty to continuously promote the all-round development of people and the common prosperity of all people. Build a safe China, strengthen and innovate social governance, maintain social harmony and stability.
- i) Building an ecological civilization is a millennial plan for the sustainable development of the Chinese nation. We must adhere to the basic national policy of saving resources and protecting the environment.
- j) Adhere to the overall national security concept. enhancing the awareness of danger, and being prepared for danger in times of peace is a major principle of our party's governance of the country. We must adhere to the supremacy of national interests, take people's security as the purpose, and political security as the fundamental, coordinate external and internal security, homeland security and national security, traditional and non-traditional security, self-security and common security, and improve the national security system. Strengthen the building of national security capabilities and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests.
- k) Uphold the party's absolute leadership over the people's army. Building a people's army that obeys the party's command, can win battles, and has a good

style is the strategic support for realizing the "two centenary" goals and realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. It is necessary to fully implement a series of fundamental principles and systems for the party's leadership of the people's army, establish the guiding role of the party's thinking on strengthening the army in the building of national defense and the army in the new era, and insist on rejuvenating the army through science and technology, pay more attention to military-civilian integration, and achieve the party's goal of strengthening the military in the new era.

- l) Adhere to "One Country, Two Systems" and promote the reunification of the motherland. Maintaining the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao and realizing the complete reunification of the motherland are inevitable requirements for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Our "One Country, Two Systems" policy will not change or waver, and that the practice of "One Country, Two Systems" will not be deformed or out of shape. We must adhere to the one-China principle and the "92 Consensus", to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.
- m) Persist in building a community with a shared future for mankind. The dreams of the Chinese people are closely related to the dreams of people of other countries. The realization of the Chinese dream cannot be achieved without a peaceful international environment and a stable international order.
- n) Persist in administering the party strictly in an all-round way. Insist on democratic centralism, serious inner-party political life, strict party discipline, strengthen inner-party supervision, develop a positive and healthy inner-party political culture, comprehensively purify the inner-party political ecology, resolutely correct various unhealthy practices, and punish with zero tolerance Corruption, and constantly enhance the party's ability to purify, improve, renovate, and improve itself, and always maintain a flesh-and-blood relationship between the party and the people.
- o) The above fourteen articles constitute the basic strategy for upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. All party comrades must fully implement the party's basic theory, basic line, and basic strategy, and better lead the development of the party and the people's cause.

- p) "Decisively win over the completion of a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way, and win the great victory of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.
- xi) Constitution is the fundamental legal basis for our party's long-term governance. The constitution of our country confirms the ruling position of the CCP and the core position of the party in the overall structure of state power and coordination of all parties.
- xii) Anyone who denies the leadership of the CCP and our socialist system under any pretext is wrong. Both are absolutely unacceptable and fundamentally violate the Constitution.
- xiii) Party, government, military and civilian entities, the East, West, South North and Centre, the party is leading everything. The party is the highest political leadership and the party's leadership is our greatest institutional advantage.
- xiv) The leadership of the CCP is the most essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The CCP is the country's highest political leadership and the fundamental guarantee for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.
- xv) It is up to the CCP to do things well in China. The most essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the leadership of the CCP, and the greatest advantage of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics is the leadership of the CCP.
- xvi) East, West, South, North, Party, government, military and civilian entities, the party is leading everything. To uphold the party's leadership, the first thing is to uphold the party's central authority and centralised and unified leadership. This is the supreme principle of the party's leadership. It must not be vague and must be unshakeable at any time and under any circumstances.
- xvii) The practice of 40 years of reform and opening up has inspired us to uphold the party's leadership. We must constantly improve the party's leadership and make the party's leadership more acceptable to the requirements of practice, the times and people.
- xviii) The socialist system with Chinese characteristics is a strict and complete scientific system. According to Marx and Engels, not only revolutionary authority and political authority play an important role, but personal authority and the leader's authority also play an important role in the building of proletarian political parties. Lenin also attached great importance to maintaining the authority of the party and the authority of the revolutionary leader. He pointed out: "In history, any class

cannot achieve a dominant position without recommending its own political leaders and advanced representatives who are good at organizing and leading movements.” He also pointed out: “Creating a group of experienced, The leader of a highly prestigious party is a long-term and difficult task. But if this is not done, the dictatorship of the proletariat and the 'unity of will' of the proletariat can only be empty talk.

(The author is a former Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India and is presently President of the Centre for China Analysis and Strategy.)

