

= Communist Party of China =

The Communist Party of China ( CPC ) is the founding and ruling political party of the People 's Republic of China ( PRC ) . The CPC is the sole governing party of China , although it coexists alongside eight other legal parties that comprise the United Front . It was founded in 1921 , chiefly by Chen Duxiu and Li Dazhao . The party grew quickly , and by 1949 the CPC had driven the Kuomintang ( KMT ) government from mainland China after the Second Chinese Civil War , thus leading to the establishment of the People 's Republic of China . The CPC is currently the world 's second largest political party with a membership of 88 @. @ 76 million as of 2016 .

The CPC is , officially , organized on the basis of democratic centralism , a principle conceived by Russian Marxist theoretician Vladimir Lenin which entails democratic and open discussion on policy on the condition of unity in upholding the agreed upon policies . The highest body of the CPC is the National Congress , convened every fifth year . When the National Congress is not in session , the Central Committee is the highest body , but since the body meets normally only once a year , most duties and responsibilities are vested in the Politburo and its Standing Committee . The party 's leader holds the offices of General Secretary ( responsible for civilian party duties ) , Chairman of the Central Military Commission ( CMC ) ( responsible for military affairs ) and state president ( a largely ceremonial position ) . Through these posts the party leader is the country 's paramount leader . The current party leader is Xi Jinping , elected at the 18th National Congress ( held in 2012 ) .

The CPC is still committed to communist thought and continues to participate in the International Meeting of Communist and Workers ' Parties each year . According to the party constitution the CPC adheres to Marxism ? Leninism , Mao Zedong Thought , socialism with Chinese characteristics , Deng Xiaoping Theory , Three Represents and the Scientific Outlook on Development . The official explanation for China 's economic reforms is that the country is in the primary stage of socialism , a developmental stage similar to the capitalist mode of production . The planned economy established under Mao Zedong was replaced by the socialist market economy , the current economic system , on the basis that " Practice is the Sole Criterion for the Truth " ( i.e. the planned economy was deemed inefficient ) .

Since the collapse of Eastern European communist regimes in 1989 ? 1990 and the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 , the CPC has emphasized its party @-@ to @-@ party relations with the ruling parties of the remaining socialist states . While the CPC still maintains party @-@ to @-@ party relations with non @-@ ruling communist parties around the world , since the 1980s it has established relations with several non @-@ communist parties , most notably with ruling parties of one @-@ party states ( whatever their ideology ) , dominant parties in democratic systems ( whatever their ideology ) , and social democratic parties .

= = History = =

= = = Founding and early history ( 1921 ? 27 ) = = =

The CPC has its origins in the May Fourth Movement of 1919 , during which radical ideologies like Marxism and anarchism gained traction among Chinese intellectuals . Li Dazhao was the first leading Chinese intellectual who publicly supported Leninism and world revolution . In contrast to Chen Duxiu , Li did not renounce participation in the affairs of the Republic of China . Both of them regarded the October Revolution in Russia as groundbreaking , believing it to herald a new era for oppressed countries everywhere . The CPC was modeled on Vladimir Lenin 's theory of a vanguard party . Study circles were , according to Cai Hesen , " the rudiments [ of our party ] " . Several study circles were established during the New Culture Movement , but " by 1920 skepticism about their suitability as vehicles for reform had become widespread . "

The founding National Congress of the CPC was held on 23 ? 31 July 1921 . While it was originally planned to be held in Shanghai French Concession , police officers interrupted the meeting on 3

July . Because of that , the congress was moved to a tourist boat on South Lake in Jiaxing , Zhejiang province . Only 12 delegates attended the congress , with neither Li nor Chen being able to attend . Chen sent a personal representative to attend the congress . The resolutions of the congress called for the establishment of a communist party ( as a branch of the Communist International ) and elected Chen as its leader .

The communists dominated the left wing of the KMT , a party organized on Leninist lines , struggling for power with the party 's right wing . When KMT leader Sun Yat -sen died in March 1925 , he was succeeded by a rightist , Chiang Kai -shek , who initiated moves to marginalize the position of the communists . Fresh from the success of the Northern Expedition to overthrow the warlords , Chiang Kai -shek turned on the communists , who by now numbered in the tens of thousands across China . Ignoring the orders of the Wuhan -based KMT government , he marched on Shanghai , a city controlled by communist militias . Although the communists welcomed Chiang 's arrival , he turned on them , massacring 5000 with the aid of the Green Gang . Chiang 's army then marched on Wuhan , but was prevented from taking the city by CPC General Ye Ting and his troops . Chiang 's allies also attacked communists ; in Beijing , 19 leading communists were killed by Zhang Zuolin , while in Changsha , He Jian 's forces machine gunned hundreds of peasant militiamen . That May , tens of thousands of communists and their sympathizers were killed by nationalists , with the CPC losing approximately 15 ,000 of its 25 ,000 members .

The CPC continued supporting the Wuhan KMT government , but on 15 July 1927 the Wuhan government expelled all communists from the KMT . The CPC reacted by founding the Workers ' and Peasants ' Red Army of China , better known as the " Red Army " , to battle the KMT . A battalion led by General Zhu De was ordered to take the city of Nanchang on 1 August 1927 in what became known as the Nanchang Uprising ; initially successful , they were forced into retreat after five days , marching south to Shantou , and from there being driven into the wilderness of Fujian . Mao Zedong was appointed commander -in -chief of the Red Army , and led four regiments against Changsha in the Autumn Harvest Uprising , hoping to spark peasant uprisings across Hunan . His plan was to attack the KMT -held city from three directions on 9 September , but the Fourth Regiment deserted to the KMT cause , attacking the Third Regiment . Mao 's army made it to Changsha , but could not take it ; by 15 September , he accepted defeat , with 1000 survivors marching east to the Jinggang Mountains of Jiangxi .

= = = Chinese Civil War and World War II ( 1927 ? 49 ) = = =

The near -total destruction of the CPC 's urban organizational apparatus led to institutional changes within the party . The party adopted democratic centralism , a way to organize revolutionary parties , and established a Politburo ( functioned as the standing committee of the Central Committee ) . The result was increased centralization of power within the party . At every -level of the party this was duplicated , with standing committees now in effective control . After Chen Duxiu 's dismissal , Li Lisan was able to assume de facto control of the party organization by 1929 ? 30 . Li Lisan 's leadership was a failure , and by the end of it , the CPC was on the brink of destruction . The Comintern became involved , and by late -1930 , his powers had been taken away . By 1935 Mao had become the party 's informal leader , with Zhou Enlai and Zhang Wentian , the formal head of the party , serving as his informal deputies . The conflict with the KMT led to the reorganization of the Red Army , with power now centralized in the leadership through the creation of CPC political departments charged with supervising the army .

The Second Sino -Japanese War caused a pause in the conflict between the CPC and the KMT . The Second United Front was established between the CPC and the KMT to tackle the invasion . While the front formally existed until 1945 , all collaboration between the two parties had ended by 1940 . Despite their formal alliance , the CPC used the opportunity to expand and carve out independent bases of operations to prepare for the coming war with the KMT . In 1939 the KMT began to restrict CPC expansion within China . This led to frequent clashes between CPC and KMT forces . It did not take long before the situation were deescalated , since none of the parties considered a civil war an option at this time . Despite this , by 1943 the CPC was again actively

expanding its territory at the expense of the KMT .

From 1945 until 1949 , the war had been reduced to two parties ; the CPC and the KMT . This period lasted through four stages ; the first was from August 1945 ( when the Japanese surrendered ) to June 1946 ( when the peace talks between the CPC and the KMT ended ) . By 1945 , the KMT had three @-@ times more soldiers under its command than the CPC , and because of it , it looked early on like it was winning . With the cooperation of the Americans and the Japanese , the KMT was able to retake major parts of the country . However , KMT rule over the reconquered territories would prove unpopular because of endemic corruption within the party . Despite this advantage , the KMT , with 2 million more troops than the CPC , failed to reconquer the rural territories which made up the CPC 's stronghold . Around the same time , the CPC launched an invasion of Manchuria , where they were given assistance by the Soviet Union . The second stage , lasting from July 1946 to June 1947 , saw KMT extend its control over major cities , such as Yan 'an ( the CPC headquarter for much of the war ) . The KMT 's successes were hollow ; the CPC had tactically withdrawn from the cities , and instead attacked KMT authorities by instigating protests amongst students and intellectuals in the cities ( the KMT responded to these events with heavy @-@ handed repression ) . In the meantime , the KMT was struggling with factional infighting and Chiang Kai @-@ shek 's autocratic control over the party , which weakened the KMT 's ability to respond to attacks . The third stage , lasting from July 1947 to August 1948 , saw a limited counteroffensive by the CPC . The objective was to clear " Central China , strengthening North China , and recovering Northeast China . " This policy , coupled with desertions from the KMT military force ( by spring 1948 KMT military had lost an estimated 2 million troops , having 1 million troops left ) and the increasing unpopularity of KMT rule . The result was that the CPC was able to cut off KMT garrisons in Manchuria and retake several lost territories . The last stage , lasting from September 1948 to December 1949 , saw the communist take the initiative and the collapse of KMT rule in mainland China . On 1 October 1949 , Mao declared the establishment of the PRC , which signified the end of the Chinese Revolution ( as it is officially described by the CPC ) .

= = = Single Ruling party ( 1949 ? present ) = = =

The Chinese Revolution , directed by Mao Zedong and the CPC , led to the establishment of the ( PRC ) in 1949 . The PRC was founded on Marxist ? Leninist principles , or more precisely , the sinification of Marxism ? Leninism ( officially known as Mao Zedong Thought , referred to in the West as Maoism ) . During the 1960s and 1970s , the CPC experienced a significant ideological separation from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union . By that time , Mao had begun saying that the " continued revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat " stipulated that class enemies continued to exist even though the socialist revolution seemed to be complete , leading to the Cultural Revolution .

Following Mao 's death in 1976 , a power struggle between CPC General Secretary Hua Guofeng and Deng Xiaoping erupted . Deng won the struggle , and became the " paramount leader " . Deng , alongside Chen Yun and Li Xiannian , spearheaded the Reform and opening policy , and introduced the ideological concept of socialism with Chinese characteristics . In reversing some of Mao 's " leftist " policies , Deng argued that a socialist state could use the market economy without itself being capitalist . While asserting the political power of the Party , the change in policy generated significant economic growth . The new ideology , however , was contested on both sides of the spectrum , by Maoists as well as by those supporting political liberalization . With other social factors , the conflicts culminated in the 1989 Tiananmen Square Protests . Deng 's vision on economics prevailed , and by the early 1990s the concept a socialist market economy had been introduced . In 1997 , Deng 's beliefs ( Deng Xiaoping Theory ) , were embedded in the CPC constitution .

CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin succeeded Deng as ? paramount leader ? in the 1990s , and continued most of his policies . As part of Jiang Zemin 's nominal legacy , the CPC ratified the Three Represents for the 2003 revision of the Party constitution , as a " guiding ideology " to encourage the Party to represent " advanced productive forces , the progressive course of China 's culture , and the fundamental interests of the people . " The theory has legitimized the entry of private

business owners and bourgeois elements into the party . Hu Jintao , Jiang Zemin 's successor as paramount leader , took office in 2002 . Unlike Mao , Deng and Jiang Zemin , Hu laid emphasis on collective leadership and opposed one @-@ man dominance of the political system . The insistence on focusing on economic growth has led to a wide range of serious social problems . To address these , Hu introduced two main ideological concepts : the Scientific Outlook on Development and Harmonious Socialist Society . Hu resigned from his post as CPC General Secretary and Chairman of the CMC at the 18th National Congress held in 2012 , and was succeeded in both posts by Xi Jinping . Since taking power Xi has initiated the most concerted anti @-@ corruption effort in decades , while centralizing powers in the office of CPC General Secretary at the expense of the collective leadership which has led foreign commentators to liken him to Mao .

= = Governance = =

= = = Collective leadership = = =

Currently , in a bid to curtail the powers of the individual , collective leadership , the idea that decisions will be taken through consensus , has become the ideal in the CPC . The concept has its origins back to Vladimir Lenin and the Russian Bolshevik Party . At the level of the central party leadership this means that , for instance , all members of the Politburo Standing Committee are of equal standing ( each member having only one vote ) . A member of the Politburo Standing Committee often represents a sector ; during Mao 's reign , he controlled the People 's Liberation Army , Kang Sheng , the security apparatus , and Zhou Enlai , the State Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs . This counts as informal power . Despite this , in a paradoxical relation , members of a body are ranked hierarchically ( despite the fact that members are in theory equal to each others ) . In spite of this , the CPC is led by an informal leader principle , each collective leadership is led by a core , that is a paramount leader ; a person who holds the offices of CPC General Secretary , CMC chairman and President of the PRC . Before Jiang Zemin 's tenure as paramount leader , the party core and collective leadership were indistinguishable . In practice , the core was not responsible to the collective leadership . However , by the time of Jiang , the party had begun propagating a responsibility system , referring to it in official pronouncements to the " core of the collective leadership " .

= = = Democratic centralism = = =

The CPC 's organizational principle is democratic centralism , which is based on two principles ; democracy ( synonymous in official discourse with " socialist democracy " and " inner @-@ party democracy " ) and centralism . This has been the guiding organizational principle of the party since the 5th National Congress , held in 1927 . In the words of the party constitution , " The Party is an integral body organized under its program and constitution and on the basis of democratic centralism " . Mao once quipped that democratic centralism was " at once democratic and centralized , with the two seeming opposites of democracy and centralization united in a definite form . " Mao claimed that the superiority of democratic centralism laid in its internal contradictions , between democracy and centralism , and freedom and discipline . Currently , the CPC is claiming that " democracy is the lifeline of the Party , the lifeline of socialism " . But for democracy to be implemented , and functioning properly , there needs to be centralization . Democracy in any form , the CPC claims , needs centralism , since without centralism there will be no order . According to Mao , democratic centralism " is centralized on the basis of democracy and democratic under centralized guidance . This is the only system that can give full expression to democracy with full powers vested in the people 's congresses at all levels and , at the same time , guarantee centralized administration with the governments at each level exercising centralized management of all the affairs entrusted to them by the people ? s congresses at the corresponding level and safeguarding whatever is essential to the democratic life of the people " .

## == Multi @-@ party Cooperation System ==

The Multi @-@ party Cooperation and Political Consultation System is led by the CPC in cooperation and consultation with the 8 parties which make up the United Front . Consultation takes place under the leadership of the CPC , with mass organizations , the United Front parties , and " representatives from all walks of life " . These consultations contribute , at least in theory , to the formation of the country 's basic policy in the fields of political , economic , cultural and social affairs . The CPC 's relationship with other parties is based on the principle of " long @-@ term coexistence and mutual supervision , treating each other with full sincerity and sharing weal or woe . " This process is institutionalized in the Chinese People 's Political Consultative Conference ( CPPCC ) . All the parties in the United Front support China 's road to socialism , and hold steadfast to the leadership of the CPC . Despite all this , the CPPCC is a body without any real power . While discussions do take place , they are all supervised by the CPC .

## == Organization ==

### == Central organization ==

The National Congress is the party 's highest body , and , since the 9th National Congress in 1969 , has been convened every five years ( prior to the 9th Congress they were convened on an irregular basis ) . According to the party 's constitution , a congress may not be postponed except " under extraordinary circumstances . " The party constitution gives the National Congress six responsibilities :

- electing the Central Committee ;
- electing the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection ( CCDI ) ;
- examining the report of the outgoing Central Committee ;
- examining the report of the outgoing CCDI ;
- discussing and enacting party policies ; and :
- revising the party 's constitution . :

In practice , the delegates rarely discuss issues at length at the National Congresses . Most substantive discussion takes place before the congress , in the preparation period , among a group of top party leaders . In between National Congresses , the Central Committee is the highest decision @-@ making institution . The CCDI is responsible for supervising party 's internal anti @-@ corruption and ethics system . In between congresses the CCDI is under the authority of the Central Committee .

The Central Committee , as the party 's highest decision @-@ making institution between national congresses , elects several bodies to carry out its work . The 1st Plenary Session of a newly elected central committee elects the General Secretary of the Central Committee , the party 's titular leader , the Central Military Commission ( CMC ) , the Politburo , the Politburo Standing Committee ( PSC ) , and since 2013 , the Central National Security Commission ( CNSC ) . The first plenum also endorses the composition of the Secretariat and the leadership of the CCDI . According to the party constitution , the General Secretary must be a member of the Politburo Standing Committee ( PSC ) , and is responsible for convening meetings of the PSC and the Politburo , while also presiding over the work of the Secretariat . The Politburo " exercises the functions and powers of the Central Committee when a plenum is not in session " . The PSC is the party 's highest decision @-@ making institution when the Politburo , the Central Committee and the National Congress are not in session . It convenes at least once a week . It was established at the 8th National Congress , in 1958 , to take over the policy @-@ making role formerly assumed by the Secretariat . The Secretariat is the top implementation body of the Central Committee , and can make decisions within the policy framework established by the Politburo ; it is also responsible for supervising the work of organizations that report directly into the Central Committee , for example departments ,

commissions , publications , and so on . The CMC is the highest decision @-@ making institution on military affairs within the party , and controls the operations of the People 's Liberation Army . The General Secretary has , since Jiang Zemin , also served as Chairman of the CMC . Unlike the collective leadership ideal of other party organs , the CMC Chairman acts as commander @-@ in @-@ chief with full authority to appoint or dismiss top military officers at will . The CNSC " co @-@ ordiates security strategies across various departments , including intelligence , the military , foreign affairs and the police in order to cope with growing challenges to stability at home and abroad . " The General Secretary serves as the Chairman of the CNSC .

A first plenum of the Central Committee also elects several departments , bureaus , central leading groups and other institutions to pursue its work during a term ( a " term " being the period elapsing between national congresses , usually five years ) . The General Office is the party 's " nerve centre " , in charge of day @-@ to @-@ day administrative work , including communications , protocol , and setting agendas for meetings . The CPC currently has four main central departments : the Organization Department , responsible for overseeing provincial appointments and vetting cadres for future appointments , the Publicity Department ( formerly " Propaganda Department " ) , which oversees the media and formulates the party line to the media , the International Department , functioning as the party 's " foreign affairs ministry " with other parties , and the United Front Work Department , which oversees work with the country 's non @-@ Communist parties and other mass organizations . The CC also has direct control over the Central Policy Research Office , which is responsible for researching issues of significant interest to the party leadership , the Central Party School , which provides political training and ideological indoctrination in communist thought for high @-@ ranking and rising cadres , the Party History Research Centre , which sets priorities for scholarly research in state @-@ run universities and the Central Party School , and the Compilation and Translation Bureau , which studies and translates the classical works of Marxism . The party 's newspaper , the People 's Daily , is under the direct control of the Central Committee . The theoretical magazines Seeking Truth from Facts and Study Times are published by the Central Party School . The various offices of the " Central Leading Groups " , such as the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office , the Taiwan Affairs Office , and the Central Finance Office , also report to the central committee during a plenary session .

= = = Lower @-@ level organizations = = =

Party committees exist at the level of provinces ; autonomous regions ; municipalities directly under the central government ; cities divided into districts ; autonomous prefectures ; counties ( including banners ) ; autonomous counties ; cities not divided into districts ; and municipal districts . These committees are elected by party congresses ( at their own level ) . Local party congresses are supposed to be held every fifth year , but under extraordinary circumstances they may be held earlier or postponed . However that decision must be approved by the next higher level of the local party committee . The number of delegates and the procedures for their election are decided by the local party committee , but must also have the approval of the next higher party committee .

A local party congress has many of the same duties as the National Congress , and it is responsible for examining the report of the local Party Committee at the corresponding level ; examining the report of the local Commission for Discipline Inspection at the corresponding level ; discussing and adopting resolutions on major issues in the given area ; and electing the local Party Committee and the local Commission for Discipline Inspection at the corresponding level . Party committees of " a province , autonomous region , municipality directly under the central government , city divided into districts , or autonomous prefecture [ are ] elected for a term of five years " , and include full and alternate members . The party committees " of a county ( banner ) , autonomous county , city not divided into districts , or municipal district [ are ] elected for a term of five years " , but full and alternate members " must have a Party standing of three years or more . " If a local Party Congress is held before or after the given date , the term of the members of the Party Committee shall be correspondingly shortened or lengthened .

A local Party Committee is responsible to the Party Committee at the next higher level . The

number of full and alternate members at the local Party Committee is decided by the Party Committee at the next higher level . Vacancies in a Party Committee shall be filled by an alternate members according to the order of precedence , which is decided by the number of votes an alternate member got during his or hers election . A Party Committee must convene for at least two plenary meetings a year . During its tenure , a Party Committee shall " carry out the directives of the next higher Party organizations and the resolutions of the Party congresses at the corresponding levels . " The local Standing Committee ( analogous to the Central Politburo ) is elected at the first plenum of the corresponding Party Committee after the local party congress . A Standing Committee is responsible to the Party Committee at the corresponding level and the Party Committee at the next higher level . A Standing Committee exercises the duties and responsibilities of the corresponding Party Committee when it is not in session .

= = = Members = = =

To join the party , an applicant must be 18 years of age , and must spend a year as a probationary member . In contrast to the past , when emphasis was placed on the applicants ' ideological criteria , the current CPC stresses technical and educational qualifications . To become a probationary member , the applicant must take an admission oath before the party flag . The relevant CPC organization is responsible for observing and educating probationary members . Probationary members have duties similar to those of full members , with the exception that they may not vote in party elections nor stand for election . Many join the CPC through the Communist Youth League . Under Jiang Zemin , private entrepreneurs were allowed to become party members . According to the CPC constitution , a member , in short , must follow orders , be disciplined , uphold unity , serve the Party and the people , and promote the socialist way of life . Members enjoy the privilege of attending Party meetings , reading relevant Party documents , receiving Party education , participating in Party discussions through the Party 's newspapers and journals , making suggestions and proposal , making " well @-@ grounded criticism of any Party organization or member at Party meetings " ( even of the central party leadership ) , voting and standing for election , and of opposing and criticizing Party resolutions ( " provided that they resolutely carry out the resolution or policy while it is in force " ) ; and they have the ability " to put forward any request , appeal , or complaint to higher Party organizations , even up to the Central Committee , and ask the organizations concerned for a responsible reply . " No party organization , including the CPC central leadership , can deprive a member of these rights .

As of 30 June 2016 , individuals who identify as farmers , herdsman and fishermen make up 26 million members ; members identifying as workers totalled 7 @. @ 2 million . Another group , the " Managing , professional and technical staff in enterprises and public institutions " , made up 12 @. @ 5 million , 9 million identified as working in administrative staff and 7 @. @ 4 million described themselves as party cadres . 22 @. @ 3 million women are CPC members . The CPC currently has 88 @. @ 76 million members , making it the second largest political party in the world after India 's Bharatiya Janata Party .

= = = Communist Youth League = = =

The Communist Youth League ( CYL ) is the CPC 's youth wing , and the largest mass organization for youth in China . According to the CPC 's constitution the CYL is a " mass organization of advanced young people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China ; it functions as a party school where a large number of young people learn about socialism with Chinese characteristics and about communism through practice ; it is the Party 's assistant and reserve force . " To join , an applicant has to be between the ages of 14 and 28 . It controls and supervises Young Pioneers , a youth organization for children below the age of 14 . The organizational structure of CYL is an exact copy of the CPC 's ; the highest body is the National Congress , followed by the Central Committee , Politburo and the Politburo Standing Committee . However , the Central Committee ( and all central organs ) of the CYL work under the guidance of the CPC central

leadership . Therefore , in a peculiar situation , CYL bodies are both responsible to higher bodies within CYL and the CPC , a distinct organization . As of the 17th National Congress ( held in 2013 ) , CYL has 89 million members .

= = Symbols = =

According to the Article 53 of the CPC constitution , " the Party emblem and flag are the symbol and sign of the Communist Party of China . " At the beginning of its history , the CPC did not have a single official standard for the flag , but instead allowed individual party committees to copy the flag of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union . On 28 April 1942 , the Central Politburo decreed the establishment of a sole official flag . " The flag of the CPC has the length @-@ to @-@ width proportion of 3 : 2 with a hammer and sickle in the upper @-@ left corner , and with no five @-@ pointed star . The Political Bureau authorizes the General Office to custom @-@ make a number of standard flags and distribute them to all major organs " . According to People 's Daily , " The standard party flag is 120 centimeters ( cm ) in length and 80 cm in width . In the center of the upper @-@ left corner ( a quarter of the length and width to the border ) is a yellow hammer @-@ and @-@ sickle 30 cm in diameter . The flag sleeve ( pole hem ) is in white and 6 @. 5 cm in width . The dimension of the pole hem is not included in the measure of the flag . The red color symbolizes revolution ; the hammer @-@ and @-@ sickle are tools of workers and peasants , meaning that the Communist Party of China represents the interests of the masses and the people ; the yellow color signifies brightness . " In total the flag has five dimensions , the sizes are " no . 1 : 388 cm in length and 192 cm in width ; no . 2 : 240 cm in length and 160 cm in width ; no . 3 : 192 cm in length and 128 cm in width ; no . 4 : 144 cm in length and 96 cm in width ; no . 5 : 96 cm in length and 64 cm in width . " On 21 September 1966 , the CPC General Office issued " Regulations on the Production and Use of the CPC Flag and Emblem " , which stated that the emblem and flag were the official symbols and signs of the party .

= = Ideology = =

It has been argued in recent years , mainly by foreign commentators , that the CPC does not have an ideology , and that the party organization is pragmatic and interested only in what works . This view is considered wrong by some in many ways , since official statements make it very clear the party does have a coherent worldview . For instance , Hu Jintao stated in 2012 that the Western world is " threatening to divide us " and that " the international culture of the West is strong while we are weak ... Ideological and cultural fields are our main targets " . The CPC puts a great deal of effort into the party schools and into crafting its ideological message . Before the " Practice Is the Sole Criterion for the Truth " campaign , the relationship between ideology and decision @-@ making was a deductive one , meaning that policy @-@ making was derived from ideological knowledge . Under Deng this relationship was turned upside down , with decision @-@ making justifying ideology and not the other way around . Lastly , Chinese policy @-@ makers believe that one of the reasons for the dissolution of the Soviet Union was its stagnant state ideology . They therefore believe that their party ideology must be dynamic to safeguard the party 's rule , unlike the Soviet Union 's communist party , whose ideology they believe became " rigid , unimaginative , ossified , and disconnected from reality . "

= = = Formal ideology = = =

Marxism ? Leninism was the first official ideology of the Communist Party of China . According to the CPC , " Marxism ? Leninism reveals the universal laws governing the development of history of human society . " To the CPC , Marxism ? Leninism provides a " vision of the contradictions in capitalist society and of the inevitability of a future socialist and communist societies " . According to the People 's Daily , Mao Zedong Thought " is Marxism ? Leninism applied and developed in China " . Mao Zedong Thought was conceived not only by Mao Zedong , but by leading party officials .



While non @-@ Chinese analysts generally agree that the CPC has rejected orthodox Marxism ? Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought ( or at least basic thoughts within orthodox thinking ) , the CPC itself disagrees . Certain groups argue that Jiang Zemin ended the CPC 's formal commitment to Marxism with the introduction of the ideological theory , the Three Represents . However , party theorist Leng Rong disagrees , claiming that " President Jiang rid the Party of the ideological obstacles to different kinds of ownership [ ... ] He did not give up Marxism or socialism . He strengthened the Party by providing a modern understanding of Marxism and socialism ? which is why we talk about a ? socialist market economy ? with Chinese characteristics . " The attainment of true " communism " is still described as the CPC 's and China 's " ultimate goal " . While the CPC claims that China is in the primary stage of socialism , party theorists argue that the current development stage " looks a lot like capitalism " . Alternatively , certain party theorists argue that ? capitalism is the early or first stage of communism . ? Some have dismissed the concept of a primary stage of socialism as intellectual cynicism . According to Robert Lawrence Kuhn , a China analyst , " When I first heard this rationale , I thought it more comic than clever ? a wry caricature of hack propagandists leaked by intellectual cynics . But the 100 @-@ year horizon comes from serious political theorists " .

Deng Xiaoping Theory was added to the party constitution at the 14th National Congress . The concepts of " socialism with Chinese characteristics " and " the primary stage of socialism " were credited to the theory . Deng Xiaoping Theory can be defined as a belief that state socialism and state planning is not by definition communist , and that market mechanisms are class neutral . In addition , the party needs to react to the changing situation dynamically ; to know if a certain policy is obsolete or not , the party had to " seek truth from facts " and follow the slogan " practice is the sole criterion for the truth " . At the 14th National Congress , Jiang reiterated Deng 's mantra that it was unnecessary to ask if something was socialist or capitalist , since the important factor was whether it worked .

The " Three Represents " , literally a Marxism adapted to Chinese conditions , was adopted by the party at the 16th National Congress . Certain segments within the CPC criticized the Three Represents as being un @-@ Marxist and a betrayal of basic Marxist values , supporters viewed it as a further development of socialism with Chinese characteristics . Jiang disagreed , and had concluded that attaining the communist mode of production , as formulated by earlier communists , was more complex than had been realized , and that it was useless to try to force a change in the mode of production , as it had to develop naturally , by following the economic laws of history . The theory is most notable for allowing capitalists , officially referred to as the " new social strata " , to join the party on the grounds that they engaged in " honest labor and work " and through their labour contributed " to build [ ing ] socialism with Chinese characteristics . " The 3rd Plenary Session of the 16th Central Committee conceived and formulated the ideology of the Scientific Outlook on Development . It is considered to be Hu Jintao 's contribution to the official ideological discourse . To apply the Scientific Outlook on Development to Chinese conditions , the CPC must adhere to building a Harmonious Socialist Society .

= = = Economics = = =

Deng did not believe that the fundamental difference between the capitalist mode of production and the socialist mode of production was central planning versus free markets . He said , " A planned economy is not the definition of socialism , because there is planning under capitalism ; the market economy happens under socialism , too . Planning and market forces are both ways of controlling economic activity " . Jiang Zemin supported Deng 's thinking , and stated in a party gathering that it did not matter if a certain mechanism was capitalist or socialist , because the only thing that mattered was whether it worked . It was at this gathering that Jiang Zemin introduced the term socialist market economy , which replaced Chen Yun 's " planned socialist market economy " . In his report to the 14th National Congress Jiang Zemin told the delegates that the socialist state would " let market forces play a basic role in resource allocation . " At the 15th National Congress , the party line was changed to " make market forces further play their role in resource allocation " ; this line

continued until the 3rd Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee , when it was amended to " let market forces play a decisive role in resource allocation . " Despite this , the 3rd Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee upheld the creed " Maintain the dominance of the public sector and strengthen the economic vitality of the State @-@ owned economy . "

The CPC views the world as organized into two opposing camps ; socialist and capitalist . They insist that socialism , on the basis of historical materialism , will eventually triumph over capitalism . In recent years , when the party has been asked to explain the capitalist globalization occurring , the party has returned to the writings of Karl Marx . Despite admitting that globalization developed through the capitalist system , the party 's leaders and theorist argue that globalization is not intrinsically capitalist . The reason being that if globalization was purely capitalist , it would exclude an alternative socialist form of modernity . Globalization , as with the market economy , therefore does not have one specific class character ( neither socialist or capitalist ) according to the party . The instance that globalization is not fixed in nature , comes from Deng 's insistence that China can pursue socialist modernization by incorporating elements of capitalism . Because of this there is considerable optimism within the CPC that despite the current capitalist dominance of globalization , globalization can be turned into a vehicle supporting socialism .

= = Party @-@ to @-@ party relations = =

= = = Communist parties = = =

The CPC continues to have relations with non @-@ ruling communist and workers ' parties and attends international communist conferences , most notably the International Meeting of Communist and Workers ' Parties . Delegates of foreign communist parties still visit China ; in 2013 , for instance , the General Secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party ( PCP ) , Jeronimo de Sousa , personally met with Liu Qibao , a member of the Central Politburo . In another instance , Pierre Laurent , the National Secretary of the French Communist Party ( FCP ) , met with Liu Yunshan , a Politburo Standing Committee member . In 2014 Xi Jinping , the CPC General Secretary , personally met with Gennady Zyuganov , the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation ( CPRF ) , to discuss party @-@ to @-@ party relations . While the CPC retains contact with major parties such as the PCP , FCP , the CPRF , the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia , the Communist Party of Brazil , the Communist Party of Nepal ( Unified Marxist ? Leninist ) and the Communist Party of Spain , the party retains relations with minor communist and workers ' parties , such as the Communist Party of Australia , the Workers Party of Bangladesh , the Communist Party of Bangladesh ( Marxist ? Leninist ) ( Barua ) , the Communist Party of Sri Lanka , the Workers ' Party of Belgium , the Hungarian Workers ' Party , the Dominican Workers ' Party and the Party for the Transformation of Honduras , for instance . In recent years , noting the self @-@ reform of the European social democratic movement in the 1980s and 1990s , the CPC " has noted the increased marginalization of West European communist parties . "

= = = Ruling parties of socialist states = = =

The CPC has retained close relations with the remaining socialist states still espousing communism : Cuba , Laos , North Korea and Vietnam and their respective ruling parties . It spends a fair amount of time analyzing the situation in the remaining socialist states , trying to reach conclusions as to why these states survived when so many did not , following the collapse of the Eastern European socialist states in 1989 and the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 . In general , the analyses of the remaining socialist states and their chances of survival have been positive , and the CPC believes that the socialist movement will be revitalized sometime in the future .

The ruling party which the CPC is most interested in is the Communist Party of Vietnam ( CPV ) . In general the CPV is considered a model example of socialist development in the post @-@ Soviet era . Chinese analysts on Vietnam believe that the introduction of the Doi Moi reform policy at the

6th CPV National Congress is the key reason for Vietnam 's current success .

While the CPC is probably the organization with most access to North Korea , writing about North Korea is tightly circumscribed . The few reports accessible to the general public are those about North Korean economic reforms . While Chinese analysts of North Korea tend to speak positively of North Korea in public , in official discussions they show much disdain for North Korea 's economic system , the cult of personality which pervades society , the Kim family , the idea of hereditary succession in a socialist state , the security state , the use of scarce resources on the Korean People 's Army and the general impoverishment of the North Korean people . There are those analysts who compare the current situation of North Korea with that of China during the Cultural Revolution . Over the years , the CPC has tried to persuade the Workers ' Party of Korea ( or WPK , North Korea 's ruling party ) to introduce economic reforms by showing them key economic infrastructure in China . For instance , in 2006 the CPC invited the WPK General Secretary Kim Jong @-@ il to Guangdong province to showcase the success economic reforms have brought China . In general , the CPC considers the WPK and North Korea to be negative examples of a communist ruling party and socialist state .

There is a considerable degree of interest in Cuba within the CPC . Fidel Castro , the former First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba ( PCC ) , is greatly admired , and books have been written focusing on the successes of the Cuban Revolution . Communication between the CPC and the PCC has increased considerably since the 1990s , hardly a month going by without a diplomatic exchange . At the 4th Plenary Session of the 16th Central Committee , which discussed the possibility of the CPC learning from other ruling parties , praise was heaped on the PCC . When Wu Guanzheng , a Central Politburo member , met with Fidel Castro in 2007 , he gave him a personal letter written by Hu Jintao : " Facts have shown that China and Cuba are trustworthy good friends , good comrades , and good brothers who treat each other with sincerity . The two countries ' friendship has withstood the test of a changeable international situation , and the friendship has been further strengthened and consolidated . "

= = = Non @-@ communist parties = = =

Since the decline and fall of communism in Eastern Europe , the CPC has begun establishing party @-@ to @-@ party relations with non @-@ communist parties . These relations are sought so that the CPC can learn from them . For instance , the CPC has been eager to understand how the People 's Action Party of Singapore ( PAP ) maintains its total domination over Singaporean politics through its " low @-@ key presence , but total control . " According to the CPC 's own analysis of Singapore , the PAP 's dominance can be explained by its " well @-@ developed social network , which controls constituencies effectively by extending its tentacles deeply into society through branches of government and party @-@ controlled groups . " While the CPC accepts that Singapore is a democracy , they view it as a guided democracy led by the PAP . Other differences are , according to the CPC , " that it is not a political party based on the working class ? instead it is a political party of the elite ... It is also a political party of the parliamentary system , not a revolutionary party . " Other parties the CPC studies and maintains strong party @-@ to @-@ party relations with are the United Malays National Organisation , which has ruled Malaysia democratically since 1957 , and the Liberal Democratic Party in Japan , which dominated Japanese politics for over five uninterrupted decades .

The CPC has , since Jiang Zemin 's time , made friendly overtures to its erstwhile foe , the Kuomintang . The CPC emphasizes strong party @-@ to @-@ party relations with the KMT so as to strengthen the probability of the reunification of Taiwan with mainland China . However , several studies have been written on the KMT 's loss of power in 2000 , after having ruled Taiwan since 1949 ( the KMT officially ruled China from 1928 to 1949 ) . In general , one @-@ party states or dominant @-@ party states are of special interest to the party , and party @-@ to @-@ party relations are formed so that the CPC can study them . For instance , the longevity of the Syrian Regional Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba 'ath Party is attributed to the personalization of power in the al @-@ Assad family , the strong presidential system , the inheritance of power , which passed

from Hafez al @-@ Assad to his son Bashar al @-@ Assad , and the role given to the Syrian military in politics .

In recent years , the CPC has been especially interested in Latin America , as shown by the increasing number of delegates sent to and received from these countries . Of special fascination for the CPC is the 71 @-@ year @-@ long rule of the Institutional Revolutionary Party ( PRI ) in Mexico . While the CPC attributed the PRI 's long reign in power to the strong presidential system , tapping into the machismo culture of the country , its nationalist posture , its close identification with the rural populace and the implementation of nationalization alongside the marketization of the economy , the CPC concluded that the PRI failed because of the lack of inner @-@ party democracy , its pursuit of social democracy , its rigid party structures that could not be reformed , its political corruption , the pressure of globalization , and American interference in Mexican politics . While the CPC was slow to recognize the Pink tide in Latin America , it has strengthened party @-@ to @-@ party relations with several socialist and anti @-@ American political parties over the years . The CPC has occasionally expressed some irritation over Hugo Chavez 's anti @-@ capitalist and anti @-@ American rhetoric . Despite this , in 2013 the CPC reached an agreement with the United Socialist Party of Venezuela ( PSUV ) , which was founded by Chavez , for the CPC to educate PSUV cadres in political and social fields . By 2008 , the CPC claimed to have established relations with 99 political parties in 29 Latin American countries .

Social democratic movements in Europe have been of great interest to the CPC since the early 1980s . With the exception of a short period in which the CPC forged party @-@ to @-@ party relations with far @-@ right parties during the 1970s in an effort to halt " Soviet expansionism " , the CPC 's relations with European social democratic parties were its first serious efforts to establish cordial party @-@ to @-@ party relations with non @-@ communist parties . The CPC credits the European social democrats with creating a " capitalism with a human face " . Before the 1980s , the CPC had a highly negative and dismissive view of social democracy , a view dating back to the Second International and the Leninist and Stalinist view on the social democratic movement . By the 1980s that view had changed , and the CPC concluded that it could actually learn something from the social democratic movement . CPC delegates were sent all over Europe to observe . It should be noted that by the 1980s most European social democratic parties were facing electoral decline , and were in a period of self @-@ reform . The CPC followed this with great interest , laying most weight on reform efforts within the British Labour Party and the Social Democratic Party of Germany . The CPC concluded that both parties were re @-@ elected because they modernized , replacing traditional state socialist tenets with new ones supporting privatization , shedding the belief in big government , conceiving a new view of the welfare state , changing negative views of the market , and moving from their traditional support base of trade unions to entrepreneurs , younger members and students .