



# CHINA'S 19<sup>th</sup> COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS FACT SHEET

## Major Outcomes

- Xi Jinping announced his new Standing Committee, Politburo and Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC).
- Xi Jinping Thought was enshrined in the Constitution, which has only been granted for two out of seven heads of the Party – Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping.
- No significant policy changes announced despite the 3.5-hour speech by General Secretary Xi.
- Paved the way for a focus on policy implementation, which should be easier for two reasons:
  - Xi effectively neutralized opposing forces – in government and in the former leadership camp; and,
  - He succeeded in getting his own team in place
- Policy priorities included continuing the anti-corruption campaign, economic reform and further market opening for foreign firms, restructuring and professionalization of the military, improving central-provincial relations, handling the corporate and provincial debt issues, legal reform, upgrading the environment and improving the standard and quality of life, especially in rural areas.
- A focus on economic growth will remain, but Xi has indicated that he will willing to accept slower progress if it helps to restructure the economy and to improve the environment. In fact, he did not announce a new growth target.

## China's 19<sup>th</sup> Communist Party Congress Fact Sheet

- The war against pollution will amp up. Xi actually used the word “environment” more than the word “economy” in his marathon remarks.

### Why it Matters

- Xi's consolidation of power will make him China's most powerful leader in modern history especially as he dominates all aspects of the Chinese system – government, military, legal – through his elevated role in the Communist Party.
- In a traditionally consensus building system, Xi now has the authority to be the one person who can say yes – and things will happen. Before no single person could say “yes”, but many could say “no”.
- Expect to see streamlining of the government structure on his agenda ahead to facilitate easier implementation of his policies. This has been his biggest challenge as leader. While he could decree change from the top, enforcement and implementation did not necessarily follow at the bottom.
- While support will increase for the private sector as a driver of China's economy (particularly small and medium sized firms), and more foreign firms will be allowed into the market, it will be commensurate with a greater role for the Party in the private sector. Expect to see mandatory Party Committees in all firms, even foreign.

### New Leadership Line Up

- Xi Jinping has selected a group of seven men who are all known to have worked with him previously or have ties to him.
- The only surprise in the new line up – which is not really a surprise but was perhaps more wishful thinking by China watchers – was that Wang Qishan retired. He will likely remain very influential though on the economy.
- In selecting this group, Xi ignored traditional protocol party rankings and promoted those he believed most suited to support him in achieving his ambitious goals.
- There is much ballyhoo over the fact that he has not selected an heir and is setting himself up for another term. Time will tell, but so far, Mr. Xi has been eager to win the international community's support and hanging onto power has a funny way of eroding that support.

China's 19<sup>th</sup> Communist Party Congress  
Fact Sheet

Standing Committee of  
the Politburo

Career Highlights

**XI JINPING**



- General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, President of the People's Republic of China, and Chairman of the Central Military Commission
- Xi joined Politburo Standing Committee in 2007
- Born in Fuping, Shaanxi, June 1953
- PhD in Law from Tsinghua University

**LI KEQIANG**



- Premier and Secretary of Party Leadership since 2013
- Joined Politburo Standing Committee in 2007
- Born in Dingyuan, Anhui, July 1955
- PhD in Economics and a B.A. in Law from Peking University

**LI ZHANSHU**



- Joined Politburo in 2012
- Served as Director of Central Committee General Office
- Born Pingshan, Hebei Province August 1950
- MBA from Harbin Institute of Technology

He is seen as a major Xi confidant whose chances of elevation to the Standing Committee are considered likely. He would be the top candidate to take over the CCDI if Wang retires or moves.

**WANG YANG**



- Served as Vice Premier since 2013
- Member of Politburo since 2007
- Born in Suzhou, Anhui Province, March 1955
- B.A. from Party School of the CPC Central Committee and an M.S. in Engineering from University of Science and Technology of China

The former party chief of Chongqing and Guangdong province, he has been a Politburo member since 2007; He's seen as one of the more "liberal" members of the ruling elite. He was speculated as a candidate for the 17th Standing Committee but ultimately did not make it. He has been in charge of international economic affairs among other issues.

Standing Committee of  
the Politburo

Career Highlights

**WANG HUNING**



- Member of Politburo and Director of Central Committee Policy Research Office since 2012
- Born Laizhou, Shandong, October 1955
- J.D. in Law from Fudan University

Wang also serves as secretary general and office head of Central Leading Group for Comprehensively Deepening Reforms, and was a member of Secretariat of CPC Central Committee from 2007 to 2012. Wang is regarded as "chief thinktanker of Zhongnanhai" and a scholar official. He has served three generations of Chinese leadership (Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping). He's a fixture on Xi Jinping's international delegations. Rumors are that Liu He might replace him.

**ZHAO LEJI**



- Announced as new Secretary of the Central Commission for Disciplinary Inspection
- Member of Politburo and Head of Organizational Department since 2012
- Born Xi'an, Shaanxi, March 1957
- B.A. in Philosophy from Peking University and a M.A. from the Party School of CPC

Having served as party chief and head of a central department, he has a flawless – and some say "boilerplate" – resume for elevation to the Standing Committee; however, he is, relatively speaking, younger than some of his colleagues, and thus could conceivably vie for a seat in 2022 instead. He is also a long time confidant of Xi Jinping.

**HAN ZHENG**



- Member of Politburo and served as Party Secretary of Shanghai since 2012
- Born in Cixi, Zhejiang, April 1954
- Master's Degree in Economics from East China Normal University.

Han is generally seen as having a strong technocratic record. He has spent his entire career in Shanghai, and is a part of the Jiang Zemin clique. Was viewed as a rising star, and worked with Xi when he was Party Secretary. More likely to be brought to Beijing, but as a deputy at the NPC or CCPPCC. Long shot now for the Standing Committee.