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New Era, New Thinking

China's New Era and the Road to 2050

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A New Era —— 新时代

A New Historical Starting Point

19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China

Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era



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What is the New Era?



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The New Era

**Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era —
习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想**

Policy-energizing, Policy-directing term of art. Conceptual lens.

**Three “Core Interests” remain constant: political system, economic development,
national sovereignty (territorial integrity).**



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Characteristics of the New Era



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Dislocations and disruptions. Unprecedented, complex challenges:

Domestically, slower growth, industrial overcapacity, endemic pollution, income disparity, social imbalances, social injustice, social service demands, interest groups blocking reform, people's rising expectations.

Internationally, regional conflicts, sluggish economies, trade protectionism, volatile markets, ethnic clashes, terrorism, geopolitical rivalries, territorial disputes.

Corruption



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Goals and Time Periods of the New Era



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Three Periods - What Happens

- **2018 to 2020 / 2021 – Three Battles: Financial Risk, Poverty Alleviation, Pollution**
- **2020 to 2035 – Basically realize “socialist modernization”**
- **2035 to 2049 / /2050 - prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, beautiful; China moving to center stage of the world**





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Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

Three Primary Principles

Five Frameworks of the New Era



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Three Primary Principles of the New Era





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People Orientation

National Rejuvenation – Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese People

First and second combined is the “Chinese Dream”

CPC Leadership



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People Orientation

Xi: “most pressing concerns”: education, employment, income, social security, health care, elderly care, housing, environmental protection

Targeted Poverty Alleviation



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National Rejuvenation

Strength (all around), confidence

Belt and Road Initiative – Project of the Century

China moving to center stage of the world



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CPC Leadership

Renewing and purifying the CPC

**Strengthening Leading Role in All Facets of Society
(e.g., corporations, universities)**

CPC reaching out to world political parties



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Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

Five Primary Frameworks of the New Era



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- **Vision – Five in One construction (economic, political, cultural, social, ecological)**
- **Governance – Four Comprehensives**
- **Economy – New Concept of Development (Five Major)**
- **Society – Principal Contradiction**
- **International / Diplomacy – Community of Shared Future**



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Four Comprehensives

'Moderately prosperous society' is a *goal*

'Deepen reform' is a *means*

'Rule of law' is a *principle*

'Strict discipline of the Party' is an *action*



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New (Five Major) Concept(s) of Development

Innovation

Coordination

Green

Open

Sharing



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Principal Contradiction

In Deng Xiaoping's Era, the principal contradiction was "the ever-growing material and cultural needs of the people versus backward social production."

Now, in Xi Jinping's "New Era", the principal contradiction is "between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for *a better life*" – material & cultural needs grown; democracy, rule of law, fairness & justice, security, environment.

This "New-Era Contradiction" replaces quantitative GDP growth with qualitative quality-of-life development - and this is what now drives policy.



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International / Diplomacy

A Community of Shared Future (Common Destiny) for All Humankind (Mankind)

- Win-Win Cooperation
 - Economic Globalization
 - New Kind of Global Governance
 - New Kind of Big Power Relationship
 - Expanding Cooperation while Managing Differences
 - Multilateralism and Democratization of International Relations
- People-to-People Exchanges

The Belt and Road Initiative exemplifies several [Xi'an Conference].



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Challenges of the New Era - Domestic



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- **Can the Chinese people have a better life sufficiently rapidly to keep pace with their rising expectations — with respect to employment, income, healthcare, education, retirement, social services, etc.?**
- **Can debt be sufficiently controlled to reduce financial system risk without seriously impeding economic growth?**
- **Can pollution be reduced substantially without seriously impeding growth?**



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- **Can oversight and management of state-owned enterprises be substantially improved with real boards of directors and managerial professionalism - without the state giving up its ultimate control?**
- **Can rural reforms, especially rural land reform, reduce severe imbalances between urban and rural sectors? Should collective ownership be maintained even while contractual and managerial rights are separated? How and when will the hukou household registration system be reformed nationally and what is the cost? Could there be unintended consequences of rural reform?**



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- **Will China open up additional markets to private and foreign businesses? What are potential dangers from too little opening up? Or from too much?**
- **Is poverty alleviation sustainable? What happens to poverty alleviation after 2020? Even though extreme poverty may be eliminated, many tens of millions of people will still be living in relative poverty.**



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- **Although the CPC leads society, it faces challenges:**
Furthering economic reform and transformation, and guiding social development and transition — while at the same time — improving transparency and checks-and-balances, and building institutions that are self-regulating — and all in an open environment of instant information everywhere.



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Challenges of the New Era - International



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- **How can China balance issues of sovereignty and territoriality with good neighborly relations and alleviation of “China threat” theories (and anxieties)?**
- **How can China deal with balance of trade issues, especially with the US? How should China respond to US protectionism measures?**
- **How to handle Belt and Road problems, from debt repayment to physical destruction and personal violence? How to think long term, endure difficulties, recognize Belt and Road as the “project of the century”?**



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- **What to do if/when there is backlash in some countries against Chinese influence abroad (actual or perceived)?**
- **How should China respond to neo-containment moves, such as the so-called “Quadrilateral Security Dialogue”, among the US, Japan, India, and Australia? And what about South Korea, Vietnam, and the Philippines?**



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- **As China increases its pro-active global engagement, is China prepared to assume the responsibilities and bear the burdens of a sometimes chaotic world? What happens if Chinese assets and Chinese citizens are attacked abroad?**
- **How should China respond to suspicion or worry in various nations? (To say that the world is entirely confident or comfortable with the trajectory of China's rise, would be telling a falsehood.)**



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Xi's Vision

- **Xi Jinping's consistency: people oriented, pride in achievements, dangers of complacency, assessing ourselves objectively, avoiding empty talk.**
- **To pick one message to characterize the New Era, it is this. Under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China set the trajectory, in all vital areas, of the country's domestic development and international engagement for the next 30-plus years, to mid-century, to 2050.**



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