



CGTN

R.L.Kuhn Live in Tiananmen Square

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HOST: I believe Robert Kuhn is joining us from the venue of this parade. Dr. Kuhn, what would you want to share with us from with your observations there?

KUHN: Sure. It's really a pleasure being here. I had the opportunity last night to hear President Xi in the Great Hall of the People delivering his speech. I was impressed at the beginning with his first three paragraphs, which talked about "Over the 70 years..." — very elegant in Chinese.



KUHN: The first was the Chinese system, and China's path and socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The second was China's achievements — and he specifically pointed out poverty alleviation over all other things. China has had great achievements in its economy, science and technology, culture. But he focused on poverty alleviation that is a major historical milestone that China has created.

And then the third part was on international relations and China's engagement with the world, and a community with a shared future for all humanity. And today, ready to witness the parade, one can reflect on China's 70 years to appreciate the achievements and to look forward and to anticipate the next 30 years, until China's 100th anniversary. So, it's a very pivotal time to reflect on how China has achieved what it has done and what challenges lie ahead.



HOST: And Robert, Americans have diverse views on China. You are an American. You are a lot of exposure to China and the Chinese. How do you see China's path?

KUHN: I think this is a really important question. I've said that when future historians look back at the history of the world, these 70 years of China will be a major feature— because it is such an important historical milestone. And as I look back, what are the drivers, what are the principles that have generated China's success?



KUHN: I've looked at six principles and I start with the Chinese people who are willing to work hard and to work long to improve their own lives, their families, but also to rejuvenate the country. And I would single out 'migrant workers' as typifying. I mean all Chinese have participated, but migrant workers have made a special contribution.

Second is clearly the leadership of the Party and the one-party system that can enforce political stability, which is the foundation of success.

Third, reform and opening up. That's obvious. It energizes innovation. It energizes the economy, built the second largest economy in the world.



KUHN: Fourth is a strategic vision that has long term goals, mid-term objectives short term policies that are monitored continuously and modified as they as they have to be. And policies that need long-term commitment — for example, Great Western development or water resources — can have the long-term development.

KUHN: The fifth reason is China's unique approach to experimentation and testing before rolling things out, to be very safe. China has 1.4 billion people. It cannot afford to make mistakes. And so, the Special Economic Zones in the early 1980s and more recently the free trade zones, beginning with the China (Pilot) Free Trade Zone in Shanghai, 2013 2016, testing, changing, to go forward.



KUHN: And the final or sixth point I look upon is a willingness to admit mistakes and to correct them. So, you see all of these six have contributed and have generated China's remarkable achievement which, in the history of the world, will be noted.

HOST: Well thanks so much Dr. Kuhn - and Dr. Kuhn is also a China Reform Friendship Medalist.

