

100 years of fortitude

By Liu Yi/Bu Yingna/Wang Jing | China Daily Global | Updated: 2021-07-07 07:51



Editor's note: At the occasion of the centenary of the Communist Party of China, China Watch Institute, a think tank powered by China Daily, has invited dozens of prominent contributors and scholars from across the world to have a discussion on why the CPC works in China. Here 10 scholars share their views from various perspectives including governance, poverty reduction, economic development and international relations. Reports by Liu Yi and Bu Yingna, and Wang Jing contributed.

Primed for success

China's remarkable achievements in both pandemic control and poverty alleviation are thanks to the leadership and organizational capacity of the CPC

The structural similarities between anti-pandemic and antipoverty campaigns are striking: CPC leadership, CPC senior leader commitment and CPC mobilization.

First, the operational leadership of the CPC—not just giving directives and making pronouncements, but implementing programs and operating projects through the CPC organizational structure—central government and several levels of local government (provincial, municipal, county, township).

Second, the commitment of Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee—who sets an example that leaders and officials must follow. Almost everywhere Xi goes, he stresses poverty alleviation and encourages Party officials to visit impoverished areas regularly and interact with poor people directly. Similarly, during the pandemic, when Xi visited hospitals and spoke with frontline workers, the whole country got the message.

Third, the mobilization capacity of the CPC—commanding the country's resources in personnel and materials. To contain the pandemic, China's mobilization was unprecedented in global health history: locking down Wuhan and neighboring cities, 60 million or more people; house-to-house temperature checks; the CPC's grid management system of social administration; postponing the return to work after the Lunar New Year break of hundreds of millions of travelers; recruiting major companies, State-owned enterprises and the private sector for support and logistics; assigning "sister" relationships between strong provinces and hard-hit cities in Hubei, a strategy long employed in poverty alleviation between eastern and western provinces and cities.

Robert Lawrence Kuhn, an international investment banker and corporate strategist and chairman of the Kuhn Foundation. He received the China Reform Friendship Medal in 2018.

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