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### **Brief observation of five generations of China's leaders**

This article is a brief review of five generations of political leaders in China. The article describes the history of the development of the political system and the results of the country's leadership during the governance of each generation of China's leaders, starting with the first generation, which is represented by Mao Zedong and completing with Xi Jinping, who is the head of the country right now.

**Key words:** China's leadership, five generations of China's leaders, Xi Jinping, new government of China.

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#### **Краткий обзор пяти поколений китайских лидеров**

Статья посвящена краткому обзору пяти поколений политических лидеров Китая. В статье раскрываются история развития политической системы и результаты руководства страной за время пребывания у власти каждого поколения лидеров Китая. Презентуется политическая система и ее лидеры, начиная с первого поколения, представителем которой является Мао Цзэдун, и завершая Си Цзиньпином, стоящим на посту руководителя в данный момент.

**Ключевые слова:** пять поколений лидеров Китая, Си Цзиньпин, новое руководство Китая.

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#### **Қытай бес саяси буынының басшыларына қысқаша шолу**

Мақалада Қытайдың саяси жетекшілерінің бес буыны таныстырылады. Мақалада Қытай саяси жүйесінің даму тарихы бірінші буынның өкілі Мао Цзэдуннан бастап, қазіргі мемлекет басшысы Си Цзиньпинге дейін талданып көрсетілген.

**Түйін сөздер:** Қытай саяси жетекшілерінің бес буыны, Си Цзиньпин, Қытайдың жаңа басшылығы.

In November 2012 at the congress of the Communist Party of China Xi Jinping was elected General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, in March 2013 at the 1st session of the National People's Congress (NPC) of the 12th convocation of the President of the People's Republic. Since coming to power of a new "fifth generation" of the Communists, this event marked a new stage in China's development.

Generations of leaders don't consist only of presidents of the republic, but even more. This term

developed in November 1987 and it has the meaning of every changing generation since the formation of PRC.

The reign of Mao Zedong – "first generation" - has been controversial. On one hand, under his leadership country was industrialized, with an increase in the material standard of the poor. On the other hand, there were reprisals, which were criticized not only in the capitalist world, but even in socialist countries. Also at that time there was a cult of Mao [1].

In the early period of reform and modernization of the PRC to the “second generation” of the party and state leadership headed by Deng Xiaoping the most important social task was “to feed and clothe” billion people of the country. Chinese president put forward a set that was incompatible with the common understanding of socialism - the initial enrichment of the regions and people. At the same time emphasized the inadmissibility of the division of society into “two poles” and the duty of the state to draw on the potential of the accelerated development of the country to help lagging regions.

However, the rapid development on the basis of the actively developing the market economy had its inevitable consequences such as sharply increased the gap in the development of towns and villages and between the main regions of the country, there was worsening shortage of natural resources and the destruction of the natural environment, passing in its quality degradation. The rapid development of market relations and the formation of private property accompanied by the corruption of the party-state apparatus, as well as the inevitable devaluation of both socialist and traditional ideological and moral foundations of society. The solution of all these problems, the complex was laid on the shoulders of the “third and fourth generations” of the Chinese leadership [2].

It should be noted that at the period of Deng Xiaoping the management system of Party and the country was based on the principle of collective leadership. In this system, the highest head no longer has the full power as it was in Mao Zedong's era, all the important decision are made by authorities of the Party, and results of primary importance for the development of the country are approved by the CPC Central Committee plenums. But still the figure of general secretary of CC CPC as the leader of the Party and whole country plays big role in country's development strategy.

The “third generation”, headed by Jiang Zemin put forward in 2000 proposed the concept of «Three Represents» of CPC. According to this concept, the Communist Party of China was declared a representative “of the advanced productive forces of society”, “of advanced culture” and “of the fundamental interests of the broad masses of the people” [3]. In accordance with the time requirements restructuring the ideological foundations of the Chinese Communist Party had

began. It was based on a consideration of its own positive and negative historical experiences and «lessons» of the collapse of socialism in the USSR and Eastern Europe. This concept has been specified in the outcomes of the 2002 XVI Congress of the CPC, approved the course of building a moderately prosperous society, and led to the new government of “fourth generation” of Chinese leaders, led by Hu Jintao.

After the Congress under the leadership of Hu Jintao “the concept of scientific development” has started, that was aimed at the rejection of the one-sided emphasis on quantitative indicators of economic growth in favor of the overall quality of growth, achieved through a balanced and coordinated development of all spheres of society. Priority was given to economic efficiency and resource conservation turn China into a state of innovation, solution of the accumulated serious social problems and bridging the gaps in socio-economic development between urban and rural areas and between the developed of the coastal belt and the backward hinterland.

The change of leadership is characterized by complex and contradictory processes in China, whose leaders have set a goal to achieve in the next quarter-century transformation of the largest Asian country into a regional, and possibly global superpower. It is only natural that the world community cannot but be of concern in what way and by what methods the Chinese government intends to pursue its ambitious goals and in what direction will change Chinese society. The most important development in China has been a shift of power in the country, the so-called “fifth generation” of political leaders.

In any communist state change occurs as a result of the leaders of military coups, conspiracies, and, in rare cases, on the basis of a compromise between the different clans of the party. Some historians claim that Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping, in fact, have been used by Chinese emperors and the communist postulates only to strengthen their regimes. Mao relied on the “egalitarianism”, allowing all Chinese to conduct semi-starvation. The transition of power after the death of the creator of the totalitarian state of Mao Zedong to the reformer Deng Xiaoping was carried out in conditions of acute inner struggle. As soon as the latter came to the conclusion that with the help of “egalitarianism” cannot feed the people,

he called for the implementation of market reforms, which became the foundation of China's economic success. The third generation of Chinese leaders are now already, the former leaders of the country, President Jiang and Premier Zhu continued reforms of Deng at the same time, avoiding weakening the leading role of the CPC and the main ideological principles [4].

The newly elected leadership of the CPC will face enormous challenges at their way to change the country's development model outlined in the report of the Central Committee of CPC during XVIII Congress of the Party.

Even more complex problems to Chinese leaders will have to face inside the country. In China there are process of increasing of population's gradual aging, growing dissatisfaction with the excessive income gap between different strata of Chinese society, corruption, bureaucracy, spreading sentiment in favor of greater democratization. In China, there is a significant increase in the proportion of the urban middle class in the country, largely due to the new social strata associated with the development of market relations, as well as a steady increase in the number of educated youth at social environment receptive to this kind of sentiment.

This is an objective process, which is a problem that the new leadership of the CPC to be addressed to, and that will affect the preservation of social and political stability.

At the last session of Congress shortly after the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, chaired by Xi Jinping, there were taken "eight rules to improve the style of work", including refrain from formalism, stick understated style, to minimize the number of meetings, in normal circumstances, do not block the road and not to close institutions specifically for the management of visits, economical use of resources in the organization of accommodation and travel managers, etc [5].

The need to further expand domestic demand, stimulating the growth of investment and optimizing the economic structure, the development of agriculture, the maintenance of a stable general price level, the progress of reforms in key areas of the economy, raising living standards and level of social security.

These decisions reflected the desire of the new party leadership to act in the spirit of the times, to become closer to the people, following the line of the

former leadership of the progressive social issues, improving the competitiveness of the Chinese economy and the transformation of the domestic market in the main driving force of development.

The main characteristic of the previous generations of leaders of China was priority of China's development, which has been depended on its domestic economic situation. We have determined that for the "fifth generation" there is a feature of great importance of China's international political, economic, socio-cultural, perhaps even the military arena [6].

Yu Zhenshen, the fourth-largest member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China, said that the meeting behind closed doors in November would be "devoted to the problem of deep and comprehensive reforms. Reforms at this time will be broad, indigenous and unprecedented. They will inevitably lead to transformations in the economy, society and other spheres" [7].

Historically, the third in row plenums became a point of reference for key economic reforms. It is expected that political reforms will not be discussed yet. During the Plenary Session on the agenda is likely to prove financial reform and tax reform. May be subject to review issues of accelerating urbanization through land reform and the liberalization of the household registration system that limits migration between rural and urban areas.

Over the last few decades, China has transformed from an underdeveloped agrarian state into one of the world leaders, and this is based on the successful management of leaders. That's why it's becoming difficult to ignore the importance of proper governing of the country.

According to some Chinese experts about real change in China can be expected from the leaders of the "fifth generation". Over the years, first of all, in their opinion, will undergo a change in the nature of the Communist Party, and, secondly, the future leaders will mainly graduates of American and European higher education institutions who are familiar with Western democratic values [8].

In this article we traced the transformation of every generation of leaders, research on their regularities among the CPC. As we can see "first generation" included the leaders of the revolution such as Zhou Enlai and Zhu De, who worked alongside with Mao Zedong before. This period

characterized as the class struggle and socialist construction, also ideas of Maoism were confirmed.

Next generation with leadership of Deng is characterized as a shift from class struggle to economic and political reforms, the combination of capitalism and socialism in "socialism with Chinese characteristics". At that time country is opening to the world, Deng's famous "one country - two systems" and pragmatism "seek the truth of the facts" coming to a start.

"Third generation" was led by the successor of Deng, Jiang Zemin, he also brought major changes into CPC. Transformation of the CPC in the majority party, which «represents»: advanced productive forces (economic production), progressive course of China's advanced culture (cultural development), fundamental interests of the majority (political consensus).

"Fourth generation" in the face of Hu Jintao brought to China new concept of scientific development and the creation of a harmonious society. Which consisted of social security, sustainable development, society was focused on the individual, policy should have been more democratic with technocratic style and less central structured.

However the last two generations of Chinese leaders were "elected" at the party congress. They have been selected for a number of years on the basis of compromise and hard struggle between different factions of the Chinese party cadres. All of them, in contrast to earlier generations of Chinese leaders, who were technocrats with extensive experience in the party and government activities, now are so-called "princelings" with Xi Jinping as the leader.

The information about Xi Jinping himself is very little. Almost all official specifications describe him as a positive, self-confident person. He differs from typical Chinese functionaries because of his emotional restraint, openness and sincerity in assessments and statements. Surprising for journalists was that after the announcement of his election to the post of General Secretary Xi Jinping delivered a speech to the press, the former general

secretaries only made static photo shoot. Before, the Communist Party strongly hid or restricted incoming information about them.

Furthermore, he has to himself the ability of find a common language with representatives of virtually all segments of society. Very often, Xi Jinping positions himself as a commoner. «Humble, down-to-earth, pragmatic, who has dinner with all in government canteens, modern politician, who is on the short leg with big business, but is not included into it» – that's how his biographer Ho Pin characterizes Xi Jinping [9].

Generally, the analysis of various sources, which tell about the biography and personality of PRC's President, suggests the idea that the main motto of Xi Jinping – "never leave the back open". He is a man who does everything in order to make it impossible to accuse him in anything. He is very accurate and friendly with everyone: from the wait-staff to the comrades in the Politburo. Xi Jinping was not involved practically in one major scandal, even though that led the regions and cities where these scandals occurred regularly.

He hasn't been seen in the disreputable ties, avoids sharp statements, but he gives the impression of quite a spirited person who knows how to get pleasure from life and how to please others. Apparently, this ability to «not to be substituted» plays a very important role in the building of a career in modern China. Combined with outstanding managerial talent, political ambitions, leadership skills and dedication of Xi Jinping a motto of his life has become a key to the success of the new leader of China.

With the advent of new government in the country changed path of development of the state, in this case China, the new leadership is facing new challenges and they decide whether they will continue to follow the course or choose a new path of development. However, for the Chinese leadership is not acceptable recline back all that has been done to them, in their practice, you can observe the application of the achievements of the previous management and more reform and improvement of the same achievements.

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