

**WANG QISHAN AND CHINA'S
CENTRAL COMMISSION FOR
DISCIPLINE INSPECTION**

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Executive Summary

1. The two-year anti-corruption campaign has significantly expanded the power base of Wang Qishan, head of the Party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), in the Chinese party-state system.
2. The CCDI unprecedentedly held two plenums in three months, which signalled the possibility of an escalation of the anti-graft drive in 2015 and the investigation of more incumbent or retired state leaders.
3. A son-in-law of Yao Yilin, a late revolutionary leader who became China's vice premier from 1982 to 1993, Wang has won the deep trust of Chinese President Xi Jinping who comes from similar revolutionary family background.
4. Wang is empowered to target any top brass in the Politburo and its Standing Committee, including retired party elders who still retain the final vestiges of political influence.
5. Ranked sixth in the seven-man Politburo Standing Committee, Wang is now believed to be the second most powerful man only after Xi himself.
6. CCDI's revelation of faction politics within the Party indicates that cliques disloyal to the central leadership may be slapped with corruption or political charges.
7. The reform of the discipline inspection system revealed the party leadership's awareness of its organisational problems and willingness to fight corruption through institutional building.
8. The CCDI has rolled out a "fox hunt" to clamp down fugitive corrupt officials who have fled the country. Its Department of International Cooperation is now in charge of these overseas operations.

9. Nevertheless, due to concerns over the fairness of CCDI investigations, China's ranking in the global Corruption Perceptions Index dropped from 80 out of 177 countries in 2013 to 100 out of 175 countries in 2014.