

**CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY UNDER
XI JINPING'S STEWARDSHIP
IN 2015: RE-BUILDING THE
LENINIST PARTY RULE**

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EAI Background Brief No. 1104

Date of Publication: 20 January 2016

Executive Summary

1. Entering 2015, Chinese Communist Party (CCP) membership hit the 87.793 million mark, from 86.686 million a year ago. Consistent with Chinese President Xi Jinping's policy of quality over quantity, the CCP recruited 2.057 million new members, 351,000 fewer than the previous year. At the base level the CCP now has in excess of 4.36 million organisations across the polity, society and economy.
2. Xi Jinping has pursued "Party-nationalism". As a princeling he takes upon himself the mission to reinvigorate the Party in order to accomplish China's national rejuvenation. To him party building is nation building and a competent Leninist party is the key to Xi's nationalist mission.
3. Under Deng Xiaoping the CCP made the transition from a revolutionary party to a ruling party. Xi Jinping intends to further evolve it into an administrative party so that it is un-detachable from state power. It is a key move to perpetuate the CCP's ruling position.
4. Xi's party building in 2015 took measures to increase the Party's governing capability, revive its spirit, tighten discipline and better re-orient it towards society. He regards the CCP as first and foremost a meritocratic organisation.
5. He tightened internal control with a three-pronged approach. Firstly, he has waged a massive anti-corruption campaign to establish his authority. Secondly he has rewritten or updated many formal rules (*jilu*) and emphasised informal norms (*guiju*); finally, he continues the effort to revive the ideological bond of the Party.
6. Xi's party building also strives to learn from traditional rituals, family teachings, village and folk customs, and the moral ideals that undergirded the Confucian political order in Imperial China, hoping to make communist cadres the equivalents of the gentry/scholar-officials of the past.

7. In May 2015 the Politburo made the decision to extend “Party groups” (*dangzu*) to non-governmental organisations, non-profit organisations and other social organisations traditionally outside of the CCP’s organisational grip, a decision hailed as a “key step and a milestone in party building”.
8. Xi’s Leninist thrust has been resented by liberal political reformers and rights activists. Abroad it has increased the anxiety about China, not only among Western powers but also from China’s neighbours. They are wary of China’s intention and uncertain about the long-term stability of its foreign policy.