

CHINA'S THINK TANK FEVER (I)

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Executive Summary

1. The Xi Jinping government has high expectation of the role of Chinese think tanks in achieving its Chinese Dream. The think tank fever promoted by the Chinese government over two years ago has not subsided.
2. To scholars researching on think tanks, a think tank's independence from the government is crucial and is one of its major defining features; for the Chinese government, it has little space for independent think tanks.
3. According to the Chinese government's definition, there are four types of think tanks in China: the think tank affiliated with the party, government and army; the Academy of Social Sciences system; the university think tank; and the private think tank.
4. The most apparent feature of Chinese think tanks is their different levels of integration with China's governing system.
5. The think tank affiliated with the party, government and army is the most closely integrated with the governing system, while the private think tank enjoys the greatest independence from the governing system.
6. A comparison between the American and Chinese think tank systems shows some major disadvantages of the Chinese think tank system in terms of the demand from the government, the permeability of the government, the tax code and the tradition of foundation and philanthropy favouring think tank development.
7. It is still unclear how the Chinese government will handle these disadvantages and to what extent the old and new Chinese think tanks have contributed to Xi's Chinese Dream in this period of a think tank fever.