

**THE GUO WENGUI EXPOSÉ: A POLITICAL
LIGHTNING ROD BEFORE THE
19TH PARTY CONGRESS**

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Executive Summary

1. Since Chinese New Year of 2017, Guo Wengui, a Chinese tycoon has been making a series of allegations of corruption at the highest level that have attracted wide attention both abroad and at home, injecting uncertainties to the carefully choreographed lead-up to the 19th Party Congress.
2. The politicians implicated in his exposes include He Guoqiang, former Politburo Standing Committee (PSC) member, Li Yuanchao, China's vice president, Meng Jianzhu, a Politburo member in charge of security apparatuses and Huang Yan, vice minister of housing and urban development. Guo claimed that he had spent US\$70 million and six years to collect the evidences.
3. The most sensational and potentially most damaging allegations are those against Wang Qishan, a PSC member and China's anti-corruption tsar.
4. According to Guo, Wang's family and relatives have over a hundred properties in the United States worth billions of dollars and are in control of business empires with assets in the trillions; Wang have children born out of wedlock and his wife is a US citizen. Guo paraded in his online interviews photos of properties, bank account information, ID cards, passport and social security numbers.
5. Guo claimed that the individuals controlling these business empires played a big role in the Chinese stock market crash of 2015-6.
6. Guo also released information about Chinese spy network in the United States and Chinese activities in Hong Kong and Taiwan, claiming to have obtained the information when he worked for the Chinese security apparatus.
7. Various political forces are making use of Guo's exposes to manipulate politics before the 19th Party Congress. There appears to be a concerted effort to remove Wang Qishan by driving a wedge between Wang and President Xi.

8. As Xi's signature achievement in his first term of office is anti-corruption, it is unlikely that Xi will purge Wang despite Guo's damaging allegations. However, Guo's exposes have left too many questions unanswered, leaving Wang vulnerable to attacks from many quarters at an opportune timing.
9. While rumours and misinformation campaigns are normal before all major political events such as the 19th Party Congress, Guo's exposes indicate that Chinese politics at the top level is intense, vicious and unpredictable. Xi still has powerful opponents and his position may not be as secure as it seems. Social media and international dimensions have made Chinese politics infinitely more complicated.