

**LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AT THE  
18TH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY**

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## Executive Summary

1. Once-in-a-decade leadership transition took place at the 18th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The fourth generation leadership under Hu Jintao (胡锦涛) transferred its power to the fifth generation leadership under Xi Jinping (习近平).
2. With 8% more candidates than actual seats, the Party Congress elected on 14 November 2012 a new central committee of 376 members (including 205 full members and 171 alternate members) and a new central disciplinary commission of 130 members.
3. As expected, the number of seats on the Politburo Standing Committee, the most powerful organ of the Party, has been reduced from nine to seven. Besides Xi Jinping and Li Keqiang (李克强), the new Politburo Standing Committee also includes Zhang Dejiang (张德江), Yu Zhengsheng (俞正声), Liu Yunshan (刘云山), Wang Qishan (王岐山), and Zhang Gaoli (张高丽).
4. In addition to three 17th Politburo members who stayed on such as Wang Yang (汪洋), Li Yuanchao (李源潮), and Liu Yandong (刘延东), there are 15 other new full members in the 18th Politburo.
5. One of the most surprising outcomes is Vice Premier Wang Qishan's appointment as secretary of the Central Disciplinary Inspection Commission (CDIC), the watchdog of the CCP. In spite of his economic and financial expertise, he is given the task of anti-corruption, an important task in Xi's agenda.
6. The Secretariat, the operational organ of the Politburo, has also witnessed a major reshuffle. Liu Yunshan has entered his third term as a member of the Secretariat, but all the other six are new.

7. The Central Military Commission is almost completely new. In a significant move, President Hu Jintao retired from not only the Politburo and its Standing Committee but also the Central Military Commission (CMC) (the highest decision-making organ of the military in China). This institutionalizes leadership transition at the pinnacle of the power hierarchy in China.
8. Xi Jinping took over as chairman of the CMC, with General Fan Changlong (范长龙) and General Xu Qiliang (许其亮) as vice chairmen of the CMC. In addition to two older members [General Chang Wanquan (常万全) and Admiral Wu Shengli (吴胜利)], the CMC has six new members.
9. “The scientific concept of development,” Hu Jintao’s signature ideology, has been upgraded in the CCP Constitution to be a guideline for the overall work of the Party along with Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, and “Three Represents.”
10. In his inaugural speech, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized his commitment to continue rejuvenating the Chinese nation as the CCP has done in the past 91 years and made anti-corruption one of his highest priorities. It remains to be seen, however, whether the new leadership will undertake substantial political, economic, and social reforms in the years ahead.