

CHINA'S NEW STATE LEADERS

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Executive Summary

1. Following the leadership reshuffle at the 18th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), China has completed its prolonged process of leadership transition and replaced its state leaders.
2. Though collectively called “*lianghui* (两会)” (i.e., two meetings), they are in fact two different meetings. Held from 3 to 12 March 2013, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), an advisory council, elected its new leaders on 11 March 2013.
3. Yu Zhengsheng (俞正声), No. 4 ranking member of the 18th Politburo Standing Committee, was elected chairman of the 12th CPPCC, along with 23 vice chairmen as well as other standing members.
4. Held from 5 to 17 March 2013, the National People’s Congress (NPC), the highest organ of state power in theory, elected its new leaders as well as new president and vice president of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and new chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) on 14 March 2013.
5. Zhang Dejiang (张德江), No. 3 ranking member of the 18th Politburo Standing Committee, was elected chairman of the 12th NPC Standing Committee, along with 13 vice chairmen and other standing members.
6. Xi Jinping (习近平), general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party and chairman of the CMC, was elected president of the PRC as well as chairman of the CMC of the state.
7. Li Yuanchao (李源潮), one of the three remaining 17th Politburo members who failed to enter the 18th Politburo Standing Committee, was elected vice president of the PRC.

8. With Xi Jinping's nominations, the NPC elected other members of the CMC of the state on 15 March 2013. Along with Xi Jinping, the same set of People's Liberation Army generals has been elected to the CMC of the Party.
9. With Xi Jinping's nomination as president of the PRC, the NPC also elected Li Keqiang (李克强), No. 2 ranking member of the 18th Politburo Standing Committee, as premier on the same day.
10. Zhou Qiang (周强), party secretary of Hunan with professional legal training, was elected president of the Supreme People's Court. Cao Jianming (曹建明) was reelected as Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate.
11. With Premier Li Keqiang's nominations, the NPC elected vice premiers, state councilors, and ministers of the new State Council. As expected, the new vice premiers are Zhang Gaoli (张高丽), Liu Yandong (刘延东), Wang Yang (汪洋), and Ma Kai (马凯).
12. Since all new key leaders of China have received more than 96 percent of favorable votes, the new Xi-Li administration seems to have received a strong mandate. But it will have to adopt new policies to deal with daunting domestic and external challenges.