

XI JINPING'S ADVISORS

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Executive Summary

1. Since taking over as general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), chairman of the Central Military Commission and president of the People's Republic of China (PRC), Xi Jinping (习近平) has a group of advisors assisting him.
2. Li Zhanshu (栗战书), director of the General Office of the CCP Central Committee and a Politburo member as well as a member of the Secretariat of the CCP Central Committee, is a relatively familiar face. He is in charge of the daily operations of the General Office.
3. Ding Xuexiang (丁薛祥), Xi Jinping's assistant in Shanghai, is a new face in Beijing. Formerly a standing member of the Shanghai Municipal Party Committee and secretary of its Politics and Law Commission, Ding became deputy director of the General Office of the CCP Central Committee in May 2013.
4. He Yiting (何毅亭), a full member of the 18th Central Committee of the CCP, is deputy director of the Central Institute of Policy Research under Wang Huning (王沪宁). He is a strong candidate to replace Wang as Xi's key advisor on ideological issues.
5. Zhu Guofeng (朱国锋) is Xi's personal secretary in the Office of the President and the General Secretary of the CCP, while Zhong Shaojun (钟绍军) assists Xi in the Office of the Chairman of the Central Military Commission.
6. Li Shulei (李书磊), vice president of the Central Party School, and Liu He (刘鹤), director of the General Office of the Leading Small Group on Financial and Economic Affairs and vice minister of the National Development and Reform Commission, are believed to be Xi's advisors on cultural and economic affairs, respectively.

7. Finally, Chen Xi (陈希), Xi's classmate from Tsinghua University, is now in charge of personnel issues as the executive deputy director of the Central Organization Department.
8. Like his immediate predecessors, Xi Jinping plays three important functions. He is the head of state, general secretary of the ruling party, and commander-in-chief of the People's Liberation Army. His advisors assist him in different capacities.
9. It is not clear to what extent these advisors are independent thinkers and remonstrators. They have yet to assist the new leader in presenting an image of a modern politician with an international orientation and a forward outlook who would move China toward modernization in the next five to 10 years.