

**XI JINPING'S NEW STRATEGY
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Executive Summary

1. Xinjiang, a Uyghur autonomous region in the far western part of China, remains one of the most serious challenges for the new leadership under Xi Jinping (习近平).
2. In his first year in office as president of the People's Republic of China in 2013, there were at least seven serious riots in this restive region. Following a series of terrorist attacks in Xinjiang, the Uyghurs even managed to create an uproar in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.
3. In response, Xi Jinping has adopted a new strategy toward the Xinjiang problem, urging Chinese leaders to refocus on social stability as their first priority.
4. In June 2013, Xi dispatched a group of senior leaders to Xinjiang for investigation. The group was led by Yu Zhengsheng (俞正声), No. 4 ranking member of the Politburo Standing Committee and chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) as well as the head of the Central Xinjiang Affairs Coordination Small Group (中央新疆工作协调小组).
5. Yu was joined by three other senior leaders: Meng Jianzhu (孟建柱), Politburo member and secretary of the Politics and Law Commission of the Chinese Communist Party; Guo Shengkun (郭声琨), state councilor and minister of Public Security; and Wang Zhengwei (王正伟), vice chairman of the CPPCC and minister of State Ethnic Affairs Commission.
6. As in the past, the Chinese authorities blamed three evil forces (separatism, extremism, and terrorism) for these riots. To deter these forces, they staged a large military exercise on 29 June 2013.

7. On the other hand, Xi also instructed them to pay close attention to economic development and livelihood improvement of all ethnic groups in the region. In his view, without economic development and actual improvement of the livelihood of the local people, sustainable stability could not be achieved.
8. Moreover, measures adopted should be relevant to the problems in question. For ideological issues, an ideological solution should be found; for cultural issues, there should be corresponding measures; and for violent riots, using force and the law will be necessary.
9. In the past, neither hard nor soft approaches worked. While Beijing's hard approach made the Uyghur more rebellious and violent, its soft approach further marginalized the same people in their perceived homeland.
10. It remains to be seen whether this new strategy of combining the hard approach with the soft approach works.