

**XI JINPING'S BUILDING OF NEW
CENTRAL LEADERSHIP FOR
THE 19TH PARTY CONGRESS**

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Executive Summary

1. The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) announced its new leading teams, namely, the 19th Central Committee (19th CC) and 19th Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (19th CCDI), on 24 October 2017. Central members from the two teams will determine China's direction in the following five to 10 years.
2. After this congress, the First Plenum of the 19th CC made personnel decisions on new ruling bodies, including the Political Bureau (PB), the Political Bureau Standing Committee (PBSC), the Central Military Commission and the Standing Committee of the CCDI.
3. According to official reports, the two processes reshuffled China's central leadership under the direction of President Xi Jinping. For the 19th CC and 19th CCDI, Xi set up a cadre investigation group, which dispatched several teams to review officials in the country for more than a year and listed candidates before the congress.
4. Xi also put much effort on selecting the elites of ruling bodies such as those in the 19th PB and 19th PBSC. He oversaw to the implementation of a ruling elites recommendation plan from April to September 2017, which required face-to-face interviews with officials conducted by Xi and other central party leaders before forming a personnel proposal for the First Plenum of the 19th CC.
5. Both the cadre investigation group and the ruling elite recommendation plan gave preference to candidates who showed firm faith and loyalty to the party central, abided by integrity rules and demonstrated outstanding performance in profession, leadership and governance.
6. In general, Xi has built young teams with a high level of education. The average age of the two teams was 58.42 in 2017. Over 85% of them were undergraduates and 67.7% held postgraduate degrees. Almost a third of them were born in eastern

coastal provinces such as Shandong (47), Jiangsu (32), Hebei (25) and Zhejiang (22).

7. A total of 102 provincial chiefs formed the main body of the two teams, followed by 85 officials from the party central, 63 the military system and 62 the State Council.
8. Particularly, Xi has installed 81 new members in the 19th CC who were neither CC nor CCDI members before. Many of them came from the military (28), provincial ruling bodies (20) and the State Council (18). It indicates that Xi has specially strengthened his military forces.
9. Since the 19th party congress, Xi has taken a significant step to place his forces at both central and local levels. However, many of them are still in the process of developing governance capacity and building up their own effective teams for policy implementation.