

**CHINA'S MASSIVE RESTRUCTURING
OF PARTY AND STATE APPARATUS
IN 2018**

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Executive Summary

1. The Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee has taken steps to deepen reform of Party and state institutions. On 21 March 2018, it released a plan that involved the restructuring of important Party, state, military and parliamentary organisations to strengthen the Party's grip on other apparatus.
2. The Party now has jurisdiction over six State Council institutions previously dealing with the work of civil servants, the press and publication, the film sector, ethnic affairs, religious affairs, overseas Chinese affairs, and computer network and information security.
3. At the Party level, four central leading groups have been promoted to central committees to deepen overall reform and manage cyberspace affairs, financial and economic affairs, foreign affairs, reflecting some of the top concerns at the Party level.
4. The Party has set up three high-level committees that have coordinating functions. It includes a committee to coordinate the strengthening of the rule of law across China, a committee to gather national audit and supervision efforts and a working committee in charge of Party building and ideological control in Party and state apparatus.
5. There is extensive reorganisation of the various ministries and departments under the State Council. Seven new ministries have been created while six ministries were abolished.
6. The Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources have been set up to promote sustainable growth in China. The two ministries took over issues related to climate change, land, farming, forests, water resources, and urban housing from the National Development and Reform Commission and other government entities.

7. From the 12th Party National Congress (1982), the CPC has been experimenting with greater separation of power between the Party and government to avoid overconcentration of power in the Party and to improve administrative efficiency.
8. The latest Party-State reforms are a significant reversal of Deng's Party-state separation (*dangzheng fenkai*), highlighting President Xi Jinping's desire to strengthen Party control over all aspects of China, including the vast administrative bureaucracy.
9. The persistent concern of "old wine in new bottles" remains as new regulatory ministries may not be able to overcome longstanding problems concerning fast growth and sustainability.