

**CHINA'S PERSONNEL RESHUFFLE IN
2022: NEW POWER STRUCTURE FROM
CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL PARTY
COMMITTEES**

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Executive Summary

1. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) significantly reshuffled leaders in its party committees in 2022. At the central level, the 20th Party Congress elected the new 20th Central Committee (CC).
2. The new CC is well educated, consisting of a few technocrats and professionals. The 205 full CC members are different from alternates. They are relatively older, mainly aged between 55 and 64, and include fewer females and ethnic minorities, compared with alternates.
3. New faces constitute half of the full CC members who were not part of the 19th CC. These new cadres are younger – two thirds of them fall between the age of 55 and 59. Among them, there are only four females and two ethnic minorities.
4. The CCP mainly selected full members from the party, government and military organisations. More than a half of new faces came from the latter two.
5. The 20th CC soon created the CCP's new leadership, the Politburo with a seven-member Standing Committee (PSC). According to their resumes, four of the 13 newly promoted non-PSC cadres once worked with two PSC leaders. He Lifeng, Li Shulei and Shi Taifeng were Xi Jinping's colleagues, while Yuan Jianjun and Shi Taifeng were Li Qiang's subordinates.
6. According to the working networks between the seven PSC leaders and non-Politburo CC full members, Li Xi, Cai Qi and Li Qiang may have more influence in promoting their allies to the 20th CC than other PSC leaders including Xi Jinping.
7. Before the 20th Congress, Xi Jinping and former Politburo members had played a decisive role in selecting candidates for the new CC. The CCP had also revised cadre management rules to support its personnel decisions shortly before the congress. A direct consequence of these new rules is that some cadres who reached the age or term limits remain in the 20th CC.

8. At the local level, 31 provincial-level party committees (PPCs) had fulfilled personnel reshuffle by 2022. Six members from each PPC have been singled out for analysis. Findings show that, compared with the CC, the PPCs include fewer females and ethnic minorities but more younger members in terms of percentage.
9. The CC and PPC cadres' working experiences show that three PSC leaders, Li Qiang, Li Xi and Cai Qi, once worked with five PPC cadres. Some non-PSC leaders from the Politburo have personal connections with 20 PPC members. Zhang Guoqing, Chen Min'er and Ma Xingrui shine in the number of connections.
10. A few organisations are known for their extensive personal connections, including Zhejiang PC, Fujian PC and the Department of Publicity. Shanghai PC has four Politburo members, three of whom are PSC leaders now. These organisations are important sources of political power.
11. The CCP's personnel reshuffle in 2022 is shaping power structure for the coming years. The new PSC members, Li Qiang, Li Xi and Cai Qi, who originated from Zhejiang, Shanghai and Fujian, have strong connections with CC and PPC members. They may play significant roles in changing China's power structure.