

**ENSURING THE PERMANENCY  
OF THE PARTY RULE: THE  
INSTITUTIONAL RESTRUCTURING  
UNDER XI JINPING**

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## Executive Summary

1. Xi Jinping's policy programmes and institutional restructuring are driven by his passion to ensure the permanency of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) rule via a complete restructuring of party-state organisations in the name of “modernising the national governance system and governing capabilities”.
2. Continuation and comprehensiveness define Xi Jinping's policy and reform programmes. For continuation, he emphasised when he took over the rein in late 2012 that he would continue with building socialism, the single cause led by the CCP under the three decades of Mao's rule and the 30 years of reform and opening up.
3. The continuation is evidenced by the officially embraced ideological lineage—Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the “Three Represents”, the scientific outlook on development and Xi Jinping thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era. The comprehensiveness is in his simultaneous push for a wide range of policy and reform programmes.
4. While all previous seven rounds of institutional reforms in the reform and opening up era were economy-centred and primarily carried out by the State Council, the two rounds under Xi were implemented as a comprehensive package involving all main governing bodies—the CCP, State Council, National People's Congress and Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.
5. The 2018 round of institutional restructuring resulted in the merger of Party and government organs with similar responsibilities to ensure the migration of power from the government to the Party. The 2023 round was a continuation and deepening of the tasks in the 2018 round.
6. Altogether, 14 new Party organisations have been created, along with the expansion of the portfolios of pre-existing Party organs, after the Party takes over the duties of government bureaucracies considered important to its rule.

7. Many non-party affairs-related organs and functions have been added to the Party after the two rounds of integrated party-state institutional reform, making the CCP's organisational structure resemble that of a state administration.
8. The ruling party is very much part and parcel of the "modernisation of the governance system and governing capabilities" as the CCP is being professionalised to become competence-oriented.
9. No longer a conventional political party, the CCP's evolution may further distinguish itself, both conceptually and in practice, from the traditional political party. A party-centred administrative regime is emerging to add to the diversity of regime types of the world. The CCP has thus evolved from a revolutionary party to a ruling party, and now to a competence-based administrative party.
10. By embedding itself in the centre of government operation, the CCP becomes indispensable, effectively excluding multi-party competition or electoral democracy. The permanency of the state has become the permanency of the Party, evidently the purpose of Xi Jinping.