**Communist Party of China**

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| **Communist Party of, China中国共产党** |
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| **Chairman** | [Hu Jintao](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hu_Jintao) |
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| **Founded** | [July 1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/July_1), [1921](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1921) (official)[July 23](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/July_23), [1921](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1921) (de facto) |
| **Headquarters** | [Zhongnanhai](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhongnanhai), [Beijing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing) |
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| **Political ideology** | [Marxism-Leninism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxism-Leninism) (official), [Maoism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maoism) (official), [Deng Xiaoping Theory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deng_Xiaoping_Theory) with [Socialism with Chinese characteristics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialism_with_Chinese_characteristics) (official), [Three Represents](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Represents) (official), [Harmonious Society](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harmonious_Society) (informal) |
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| **No. of members** | Around 70 million |

The **Communist Party of China (CPC)** ([Simplified Chinese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simplified_Chinese): 中国共产党; [Traditional Chinese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_Chinese): 中國共產黨; [Pinyin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinyin): *Zhōngguó Gòngchǎndǎng*), also known as the *Chinese Communist Party (CCP)*, is the [ruling political party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruling_party) of the [People's Republic of China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China), a position guaranteed by the country's constitution. The Communist Party of China was founded in [1921](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1921), and fought the National Government of China ([Republic of China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_China)) led by the [Kuomintang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuomintang) (KMT) during the [Chinese Civil War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Civil_War), which ended with the Communist Party of China's victory in the [Chinese Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Revolution). With more than 70 million members,[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist_Party_of_China#_note-0#_note-0) the CPC is the largest [political party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_party) in the world, although the party prides itself on its exclusivity, with this number being but 5% of the total population of [China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China).

**History**

**As Revolutionary Party**

Flag of the Communist Party of China

The Communist Party of China was initially founded by [Chen Duxiu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chen_Duxiu) and [Li Dazhao](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Li_Dazhao) in [Shanghai](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanghai) in [1921](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1921) as a study society and an informal network. There were informal groups in China in 1920, and also overseas, but the official beginning was the 1st Congress attended by 13 men in [July](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/July) [1921](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1921), when the formal and unified name *Communist Party of China* was adopted and all other names of communist groups were dropped. [Mao Zedong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mao_Zedong) was present as one of two delegates from a Hunan communist group, which had maybe 10 members out of 53 for all China. Other 12 members attended included [Zhang Guotao](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhang_Guotao), [Wang Jingwei](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wang_Jingwei), [Dong Biwu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dong_Biwu), Li Hanjun, Li Da, [Chen Tanqiu](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Chen_Tanqiu&action=edit), Liu Renjing, [Zhou Fohai](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhou_Fohai), He Shuheng, Deng Enming, [Chen Gongbo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chen_Gongbo), Bao Huiseng (represented by [Chen Duxiu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chen_Duxiu) sheltering in Canton at that time) and a representative from the [Comintern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comintern).

Flag of the [Chinese Soviet Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Soviet_Republic), or Jiangxi Soviet, which existed from 1931 to 1934 in Jiangxi Province.

Under the guidance of the [Soviet Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union), the party was reorganized along [Leninist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leninist) lines in [1923](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1923), while party members were encouraged to join the [Kuomintang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuomintang) as individual members in preparation for the [Northern Expedition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Expedition) - a policy recommended by the [Dutch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_people) communist [Henk Sneevliet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henk_Sneevliet), then [Comintern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comintern) representative in China (see [Henk Sneevliet#Working for the Comintern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henk_Sneevliet#Working_for_the_Comintern)).

The party was small at first, but grew intermittently through the first Chinese Revolution of 1925-27. Even during that revolution, which was far before the rapid growth of the [1940s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1940s) and [1950s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1950s), the party was the largest communist party in the world, larger even than the [CPSU](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CPSU). With the collapse of the revolution in 1927 the party was [massacred](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_12_Incident) at the hands of the [Kuomintang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuomintang) with more than 4 in 5 members being killed. The only major section of the party which survived was the section built around Mao Zedong, which through its loyalty to the [Comintern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comintern) [line](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Party_line) and short-lived strategic "alliances" with the [Kuomintang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuomintang), was able to survive the slaughter. Mao Zedong achieved success using [Mobile Warfare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_Warfare), which was at first rejected by the leadership and then resumed on the famous [Long March](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_March). The [Western world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_world) first got a clear view of the Communist Party of China through [Edgar Snow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edgar_Snow)'s [*Red Star Over China*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Star_Over_China).

After 1945, the [civil war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_war) resumed and despite initial gains by the [Kuomintang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuomintang), it was defeated and forced to flee to off-shore islands, the biggest among which is [Taiwan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiwan). The Kuomintang's defeat marked the onset of the [Chinese Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Revolution) whence Mao Zedong proclaimed the [People's Republic of China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China) in [Beijing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing) on [October 1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_1), [1949](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1949).

**As Ruling Party**

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| Part of a series on[**Maoism**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maoism) |
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| **Basic concepts** |
| [Marxism-Leninism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxism-Leninism) |
| [Anti-Revisionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Revisionism) |
| [3 Worlds Theory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Worlds_Theory) |
| [Social-imperialism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social-imperialism) |
| [People's war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_war) |
| [New Democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Democracy) |
| **Prominent Maoists** |
| [Mao Zedong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mao_Zedong) |
| [Prachanda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prachanda) |
| [Charu Majumdar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charu_Majumdar) |
| [Zhou Enlai](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhou_Enlai) |
| [Jiang Qing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jiang_Qing) |
| [Abimael Guzmán](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abimael_Guzm%C3%A1n) |
| [José María Sison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9_Mar%C3%ADa_Sison) |
| [İbrahim Kaypakkaya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C4%B0brahim_Kaypakkaya) |
| **Related subjects** |
| **Communist Party of China** |
| [Cultural Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_Revolution) |
| [Little Red Book](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Red_Book) |
| [Naxalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naxalism)  |

The CPC's ideologies have significantly evolved since its founding. Mao's revolution that founded the PRC was nominally based on [Marxism-Leninism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxism-Leninism) with a rural focus based on China's social situations at the time. During the [1960s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1960) and [1970s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970), the CCP experienced a significant [ideological breakdown](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Soviet_split) with the [Communist Party of the Soviet Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist_Party_of_the_Soviet_Union) under [Nikita Khrushchev](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikita_Khrushchev) and their allies. Since then Mao's peasant revolutionary vision and so-called "continued revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat" stipulated that class enemies continued to exist even though the socialist revolution seemed to be complete, giving way to the disastrous [*Cultural Revolution*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_Revolution). This fusion of ideas became known officially as "[Mao Zedong Thought](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maoism)", or Maoism outside of China. It represented a powerful branch of communism that existed in opposition to the [Soviet Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union)'s "[Marxist revisionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxist_revisionism)".

Following the death of [Mao Zedong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mao_Zedong) in 1976, however, the CCP under the leadership of [Deng Xiaoping](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deng_Xiaoping) moved towards [*Socialism with Chinese characteristics*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialism_with_Chinese_characteristics) and instituted [Chinese economic reform](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_economic_reform). In reversing some of Mao's "extreme-leftist" policies, Deng argued that a socialist country and the [market economy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Market_economy) model were not mutually exclusive. While asserting the political power of the Party itself, the change in policy generated significant economic growth. The ideology itself, however, came into clash on both sides of the spectrum with Maoists as well as progressive liberals, culminating with other social factors to cause the [1989 Tiananmen Square Protests](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1989_Tiananmen_Square_Protests). Deng's vision for economic success and a new socialist market model became entrenched in the Party constitution in 1997 as [*Deng Xiaoping Theory*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deng_Xiaoping_Theory).

The "third generation" of leadership under [Jiang Zemin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jiang_Zemin), [Zhu Rongji](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhu_Rongji), and associates largely continued Deng's progressive economic vision while overseeing the re-emergence of [Chinese nationalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_nationalism) in the 1990's. Nationalist sentiment has seemingly also evolved to become informally the part of the Party's guiding doctrine. As part of Jiang's nominal legacy, the CPC ratified the [*Three Represents*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Represents) into the 2003 revision of the Party Constitution as a "guiding ideology", encouraging the Party to represent "advanced productive forces, the progressive course of China's culture, and the fundamental interests of the people." There are various interpretations of the *Three Represents*. Most notably, the theory has legitimized the entry of private business owners and quasi-"[bourgeoisie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bourgeoisie)" elements into the party.

The insistent road of focusing almost exclusively on economic growth has led to a [wide range of serious social problems](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_issues_in_the_People%27s_Republic_of_China). The CPC's "fourth generation" of leadership under [Hu Jintao](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hu_Jintao) and [Wen Jiabao](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wen_Jiabao), after taking power in 2003, attempted reversing such a trend by bringing forth an integrated ideology that tackled both social and economic concerns. This new ideology was known as the creation of a [Harmonious Society](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harmonious_Society) using the *Scientific Development Perspective*.

The degree of power the Party had on the state has gradually decreased as economic liberalizations progressed. The evolution of CCP ideology has gone through a number of defining changes that it no longer bears much resemblance to its founding principles. The CCP's current policies are fiercely rejected as [capitalist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitalist) by most communists, especially [anti-revisionists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-revisionist), and by adherents of the [Chinese New Left](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_New_Left) from within the PRC. Today, [college-educated people](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tertiary_education) within the People's Republic of China are said to be more likely to join because of [economic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic) benefits of membership.[[*citation needed*]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACiting_sources)

The CCP both practices and supports a [single-party state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single-party_state) form of government. In periods of relative political [liberalization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberalization), the influence of people and organizations outside the formal party structure has tended to increase, but such opportunities have vacillated repeatedly over time. Since the 1980s, as its commitment to [Marxist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxism) ideology has appeared to wane, the party has begun to increasingly invoke [Chinese nationalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_nationalism) as a legitimizing principle as opposed to the [socialist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist) construction for which the party was originally created. The change from [socialism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialism) to [nationalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nationalism) has pleased the CCP's former enemy, the [Kuomintang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuomintang) (KMT), which has warmed its relations with the CCP since [2003](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003).

**Role within the People's Republic of China**

The CPC is one of the three centers of power within the [People's Republic of China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China), the other two being the state apparatus and the [People's Liberation Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Liberation_Army). It is the main center of power in the PRC.

The relationship between party and state is somewhat different from that of the [Communist Party of the Soviet Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist_Party_of_the_Soviet_Union) under [Stalin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalin)'s successors, in which the party controlled the state. In the current PRC structure, power derives from the state position, but key state positions are invariably held by members of the party and the party through its organization department makes crucial decisions on who occupies what position. However, in contrast to the Soviet situation where the party had extra-legal authority, since the early 1990s, it has been established that the party is subject to [rule of law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rule_of_law) and is therefore subject to the authority of the state and the [Constitution of the People's Republic of China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_the_People%27s_Republic_of_China).

Within the central government, the Party and state structures are fused with the leader of a ministry or commission also being the leader of the party body associated with that ministry. At the provincial or lower levels, the party and state heads are invariably separate, although the party head has a high state position and the state head has a high party position.

**Organization**

The party's organizational structure was destroyed during the [Cultural Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_Revolution) and rebuilt afterwards by [Deng Xiaoping](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deng_Xiaoping), who subsequently initiated "[Socialism with Chinese characteristics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialism_with_Chinese_characteristics)" and brought all state apparatuses back under the control of the CPC.

Theoretically, the party's highest body is the [National Congress of the Communist Party of China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Congress_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China), which meets at least once every 5 years. The primary organization of power in the Communist Party which are listed in the [party constitution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China) include:

[Jiang Zemin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jiang_Zemin) with [Hu Jintao](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hu_Jintao), the current General Secretary of the party.

* The [Politburo Standing Committee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politburo_Standing_Committee_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China), which currently consists of nine members; see [Politburo Standing Committee - Current members](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politburo_Standing_Committee_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China#Curren_members) for a complete list.
* The [Politburo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politburo_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China), consisting of 24 full members (including the members of the Politburo Standing Committee) and one alternate; see [Politburo - Current members](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politburo_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China#Current_Members) for a complete list.
* The [Secretariat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secretariat_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China), the principal administrative mechanism of the CPC, headed by the [General Secretary of the Communist Party of China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Secretary_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China);
* The [Central Military Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Military_Commission_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China) (a parallel organization of the government institution of the same name);
* The [Discipline Inspection Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discipline_Inspection_Commission_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China), which is charged with rooting out [corruption](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_corruption) and malfeasance among party cadres.

Other central organizations include:

* General Office;
* Organization Department;
* Propaganda (Publicity) Department;
* International Liaison Department; and
* [United Front](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Front_%28China%29) Department

The [People's Liberation Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Liberation_Army) in dress uniform.

In addition, there are numerous commissions and leading groups, the most important of which are:

* Commission for Politics and Law
* Work Committee for Organs under the Central Committee
* Work Committee for Central Government Organs
* Central Financial and Economic Leading Group
* Central Leading Group for Rural Work
* Central Leading Group for Party Building
* Central Foreign Affairs Leading Group
* Central Taiwan Affairs Leading Group
* Commission for Protection of Party Secrets
* Leading Group for State Security
* Party History Research Centre
* Party Research Center
* Central Party School

Every five years, the Communist Party of China holds a *National Congress*. Formally, the Congress serves two functions: to approve changes to the Party constitution and to elect a [Central Committee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Committee_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China), about 300 strong. The Central Committee in turn elects the [Politburo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politburo_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China). In practice, positions within the Central Committee and Politburo are determined before a Party Congress, and the main purpose of the Congress is to announce the party policies and vision for the direction of China in the following few years.

The party's central focus of power is the Politburo Standing Committee. The process for selecting Standing Committee members, as well as Politburo members, occurs behind the scenes in a process parallel to the National Congress. The new power structure is announced obliquely through the positioning of portraits in the [*People's Daily*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Daily), the official newspaper of the Party. The number of Standing Committee members varies and has tended to increase over time. The Committee was expanded to nine at the 16th Party National Congress in 2002.

There are two other key organs of political power in the People's Republic of China: the formal government and the [People's Liberation Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Liberation_Army).

There are, in addition to decision-making roles, advisory committees, including the [People's Political Consultative Conference](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Political_Consultative_Conference). During the 1980s and 1990s there was a [Central Advisory Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Advisory_Commission) established by [Deng Xiaoping](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deng_Xiaoping) which consisted of senior retired leaders, but with their passing this has been abolished.

**Internal groupings**

Political scientists have identified two groupings within the Communist Party [[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist_Party_of_China#_note-2#_note-2) leading to a structure which has been called "one party, two factions". The first is the "elitist coalition" or "Shanghai coalition" which contains mainly officials which have risen from the more prosperous provinces. The second is the "populist coalition" or "Youth League faction" which consists mainly officials which have risen from the rural interior, through the [Communist Youth League](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist_Youth_League). The interaction between these two factions is largely complementary with each faction possessing a particular expertise and both committed to the continued rule of the Communist Party and not allowing intra-party factional politics threaten party unity. It has been noted that party and government positions have been given to create a very careful balance between these two groupings.

Within his "one party, two factions" model, Li Chen has noted that one should avoid labeling these two groupings with simplistic ideological labels, and that these two groupings do not act in a zero-sum, winner take all fashion. Neither group has the ability or will to dominant the other completely.

**Viewpoints: criticism and support**

There are a variety of opinions about the Communist Party of China, and opinions about the CPC often create unexpected political alliances and divisions. For example, many [chief executive officers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_executive_officer) of Western companies tend to have favorable impressions of the CPC, while many revolutionary [Maoists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maoism) and other [Marxists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxism) have strongly negative opinions. [Trotskyists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trotskyists) argue that the party lost its Marxist credentials in the 1920s and adhered to a [Stalinist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalinist) political doctrine, with many calling for [political revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_revolution). Opinions about the CPC also create very strong divisions among groups normally ideologically united such as [conservatives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservatism_in_the_United_States) in the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States).

Many of the unexpected opinions about the CPC result from its rare combination of attributes as a party formally based on [Marxism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxism) which has overseen a dynamic [market economy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Market_economy), yet maintains an authoritarian political system.

Supporters of the [International Tibet Independence Movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Tibet_Independence_Movement), the [Republic of China (Taiwan)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_China), [Falun Gong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falun_Gong), a spiritual group, [Taiwan independence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiwan_independence), [neoconservatives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoconservatism_%28United_States%29) in the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) and [Japan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan), international human rights groups, proponents of civil liberties and freedom of expression, advocates of democracy, along with many [left-wing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Left-wing_politics) forces in those same countries, are among the groups which have opposed the CPC government because it is said to be a repressive [single-party state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single-party_state) regime.

In addition, American neoconservatives sometimes argue that the Communist Party of China is a grave threat to peace because of its authoritarian nature, its military build-up of offensive capabilities, and threats made to Taiwan.

Some of the opponents of the Party within the [Chinese democracy movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_democracy_movement) have tended not to argue that a strong Chinese state is inherently bad, but rather that the Communist leadership is corrupt. The [Chinese New Left](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_New_Left), meanwhile, is a current within China that seeks to "revert China to the [socialist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist) road" -- i.e., to return China to the days after [Mao Zedong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mao_Zedong) but before the reforms of [Deng Xiaoping](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deng_Xiaoping) and his successors.

Another school of thought argues that the worst of the abuses took place decades ago, and that the current leadership is not only unconnected with them, but were actually victims of that era. They have also argued that while the modern Communist Party may be flawed, it is comparatively better than previous regimes, with respect to improving the general standard of living, than any other government that has governed China in the past century and can be put in more favorable light against most governments of the [developing nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developing_nation). However, farmers and other rural people have been marginalized, and their standard of living and national influence have been greatly reduced, as a result, the CPC has recently taken sweeping measures to regain support from the countryside, to limited success.

In addition, some scholars contend that China has never operated under a decentralized democratic regime in its several thousand years of history, and therefore it can be argued that the structure present, albeit not up to western moral standards, is the best possible option when compared to its alternatives. A sudden transition to [democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy), they contend, would result in the economic and political upheaval that occurred in the [Soviet Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union) in the 1990s, and that by focusing on economic growth, China is setting the stage for a more gradual but more sustainable transition to a more liberal system. This group sees Mainland China as being similar to [Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain) in the 1960s, and [South Korea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Korea) and [Taiwan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiwan) during the 1970s.

As with the first group, this school of thought brings together some unlikely political allies. Not only do most intellectuals within the Chinese government follow this school of thinking, but it is also the common belief held amongst pro-[free trade](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_trade) liberals in the West.

There is also a common misconception that Communist Party members are supportive of their party's policies, and that the party line is united nationally. In fact, many regional party organizations pursue their own ideological deviants from the conventional ideologies promoted by the party, and can be antagonistic to the party at the national level.

**Current Leadership**

The Members of the [Politburo Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politburo_Standing_Committee_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China) are:

* [Hu Jintao](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hu_Jintao) - [President of the People's Republic of China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_People%27s_Republic_of_China), [General Secretary of the Communist Party of China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Secretary_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China) and [Chairman of the Central Military Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Chairman_of_the_Central_Military_Commission&action=edit)
* [Wu Bangguo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wu_Bangguo) - Chairman of the [Standing Committee of the National People's Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standing_Committee_of_the_National_People%27s_Congress)
* [Wen Jiabao](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wen_Jiabao) - [Premier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_of_the_People%27s_Republic_of_China) of the [State Council of the People's Republic of China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Council_of_the_People%27s_Republic_of_China)
* [Jia Qinglin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jia_Qinglin) - Chairman of the National Committee of the [Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_People%27s_Political_Consultative_Conference)
* [Zeng Qinghong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeng_Qinghong) - [Vice President of the People's Republic of China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice_President_of_the_People%27s_Republic_of_China), member of the CPC CC Secretariat
* [Huang Ju](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huang_Ju) (deceased) - Vice Premier, State Council
* [Wu Guanzheng](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wu_Guanzheng) - Secretary of the CPC Discipline Inspection Commission
* [Li Changchun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Li_Changchun) - Head of the CPC CC Central Leading Group for Propaganda [Publicity] and Ideological Work
* [Luo Gan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luo_Gan) - Secretary of the National People’s Congress Commission for Politics and Law. Educated in [Germany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany).

Members of the Politburo of the CPC Central committee:

[Wang Lequan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wang_Lequan), [Wang Zhaoguo](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Wang_Zhaoguo&action=edit), [Hui Liangyu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hui_Liangyu), [Liu Qi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liu_Qi_%28Communist%29), [Liu Yunshan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liu_Yunshan), [Li Changchun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Li_Changchun), [Wu Yi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wu_Yi), [Wu Bangguo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wu_Bangguo), [Wu Guanzheng](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wu_Guanzheng), [Zhang Lichang](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Zhang_Lichang&action=edit), [Zhang Dejiang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhang_Dejiang), [Chen Liangyu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chen_Liangyu) (dismissed in September 2006), [Luo Gan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luo_Gan), [Zhou Yongkang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhou_Yongkang), [Hu Jintao](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hu_Jintao), [Yu Zhengsheng](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Yu_Zhengsheng&action=edit), [He Guoqiang](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=He_Guoqiang&action=edit), [Jia Qinglin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jia_Qinglin), [Guo Boxiong](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Guo_Boxiong&action=edit), [Huang Ju](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huang_Ju), [Cao Gangchuan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cao_Gangchuan), [Zeng Qinghong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeng_Qinghong), [Zeng Peiyan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeng_Peiyan), [Wen Jiabao](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wen_Jiabao).

Alternate member of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee: [Wang Gang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wang_Gang)

Members of Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee: Zeng Qinghong, [Liu Yunshan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liu_Yunshan), [Zhou Yongkang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhou_Yongkang), He Guoqiang, [Wang Gang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wang_Gang), [Xu Caihou](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xu_Caihou), [He Yong](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=He_Yong_%28politician%29&action=edit).