

China Politics Weekly

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PBSC Week in Review

Xi Jinping

Jan 24

[Xi returned to Beijing.](#)

Jan 23

[Xi held talks with Iranian President Hasan Rouhani in Tehran, Iran.](#)

Xi clearly very eager to show China's goodwill towards the Iranians. Was the second head of state to visit post-sanctions (after Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was there on Tuesday).

China and Iran upgraded their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership and agreed to increase bilateral trade more than 10-fold to USD600 billion in the next decade. They have agreed to set up an annual meeting mechanism between their foreign ministers to deepen mutual strategic trust. China supported Iran's application for full membership of the SCO. The two countries also signed cooperation deals in various fields such as energy, finance, investment, media and climate change.

[Xi met with Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran, Iran.](#)

[Xi attended a welcome ceremony held by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in Tehran, Iran.](#)

[Xi met with Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani in Tehran, Iran.](#)

Jan 22

[Xi arrived in Tehran, Iran.](#)

[Xi sent a written instruction to the Central Political and Legal Work Conference.](#)

Xi sent a congratulatory message to Lao Vice President Bounnhang Vorachit on his election as the secretary-general of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

Jan 21

Xi held talks with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Cairo, Egypt.

Officials signed 21 deals that could ramp up Chinese investments in Egypt, spanning development and infrastructure. The two countries are planning 15 projects in electricity, infrastructure and transport.

Xi gave a speech at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo, Egypt.

Full text of his speech (in Chinese).

Latest instance of "new style international relations" as Xi presents China as offering alternative to US (and Russia): "Instead of looking for proxies, China promotes peace talks in the Middle East; instead of seeking any sphere of influence, China calls on all nations in the region to take part in the Belt and Road Initiative; and instead of attempting to fill any 'vacuum,' China aspires to build a network of mutually beneficial partnerships".

Checkbook diplomacy also in full effect: China will set up funds with the UAE and Qatar worth \$20 billion to invest in conventional energy, extend contracts to buy oil from the region and dedicate \$300 million to helping train police.

Xi met with Arab League Secretary General Nabil Arabi in Cairo, Egypt.

Xi met with Egyptian Parliament Speaker Ali Abdel-Aal in Cairo, Egypt.

Xi attended an inauguration ceremony of the second phase of the China-Egypt Suez Economic Trade and Cooperation Zone.

Xi and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi attended a celebration of the beginning of the new Egyptian-Chinese cultural year and the 60th anniversary of Egyptian-Chinese diplomatic relations in Luxor, Egypt.

Xi sent a letter of congratulations to Indonesian President Joko Widodo on the ground-breaking of a high-speed rail linking Jakarta with Bandung.

Xi published an article in an Iranian newspaper.

The article was titled "Work Together for a Bright Future of China-Iran Relations". Full text of the article (in English).

Jan 20

Xi met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Cairo, Egypt.

China and Egypt signed a memorandum of understanding on boosting cooperation in the Belt and Road Initiative. They also agreed to promote people-to-people exchanges, expand bilateral cooperation in trade, finance, space technology, development and security. The two sides also signed other cooperation agreements covering electricity, space, infrastructure, trade, energy, finance, media and climate change. Xi invited al-Sisi to attend the G20 summit in Hangzhou in September.

The two countries upgraded relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership in

2014.

Xi met with Egyptian Prime Minister Sherif Ismail in Cairo, Egypt.

Xi encouraged Chinese enterprises to participate in large-scale projects in Egypt and proposed that the two sides make efforts to link their development strategies, step up coordination within the Belt and Road Initiative and strengthen coordination in international affairs.

Xi and Egyptian Prime Minister Ismail visited a China Science and Technology Exhibition.

Xi met with ten people awarded for their outstanding contribution to the China-Egypt friendship.

Xi published an article in *China Today* magazine's Arabic edition dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Egypt.

Xi traveled from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to Cairo, Egypt.

Xi and King Salman inaugurated an energy research center and opened the Yasref oil refinery outside Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The Yasref oil refinery is a joint venture between Aramco and Sinopec.

Xi and King Salman visited Murabba' Palace in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Jan 19

Xi arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to begin state visits to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Iran.

Xi and Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

First state visit by a Chinese president to Saudi Arabia in seven years.

The two leaders lifted bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership. At the talks, they decided to establish a high-level committee to guide and coordinate bilateral cooperation. They also signed MOUs on industrial capacity cooperation and to build a high-energy nuclear reactor. They also signed cooperation deals across many sectors including energy, communications, and science and technology. The two countries signed a joint statement stressing the need for continuation of aid and relief to Syrian refugees.

Xi met with Saudi Arabian Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Xi met with Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary General Abdul Latif bin Rashid al Zayani in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Xi called for efforts to broaden cooperation, promote dialogue between Chinese and Islamic civilizations and establish a China-GCC free trade area.

Xi met with Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation Iyad Ameen Adani in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Jan 18 Xi spoke at a study session on implementing the spirit of the fifth plenum, attended by ministers and provincial officials.
Said that “new normal” is an inevitability. Sounded a bit like he was trying to excuse the leadership from any blame for slower growth, while also trying to lay the groundwork for slower growth ahead.

Xi published an article in Saudi Arabian media.

Li Keqiang **Jan 22** **Li chaired a plenary meeting of the State Council.**
The meeting discussed a draft of the annual Government Work Report and a draft of the 13th FYP.

Jan 21 **Li and German Prime Minister Angela Merkel spoke on the phone.**

Jan 20 **Li chaired a special meeting of the State Council.**
The meeting discussed key work for this year, including the need to cultivate new growth engines, reform traditional industries and implement supply-side reforms.

Jan 19 **Li and Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras held a telephone conversation on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership.**
They discussed further promoting ties and increasing high-level exchanges.

Jan 18 **Li chaired a symposium on implementing the spirit of the fifth plenum, attended by ministers and provincial officials.**
Xi addressed the symposium.

Zhang Dejiang **Jan 18** **Zhang attended a symposium on implementing the spirit of the fifth plenum, attended by ministers and provincial officials.**

Yu Zhengsheng **Jan 21** **Yu chaired a bi-weekly CPPCC symposium.**
The meeting discussed establishing regulations for the express delivery industry, calling for better regulation of courier services, standardizing the sector and protecting customers’ rights.

Jan 20 **Yu attended a symposium to commemorate the centenary of late Chinese general Xiao Hua.**

Jan 18 **Yu attended a symposium on implementing the spirit of the fifth plenum, attended by ministers and provincial officials.**

Liu Yunshan **Jan 21** **Liu spoke at a closing ceremony of a seminar at the Party School.**

Jan 18 **Liu attended a symposium on implementing the spirit of the fifth plenum,**

attended by ministers and provincial officials.

Wang Qishan	Jan 18	Wang attended a symposium on implementing the spirit of the fifth plenum, attended by ministers and provincial officials.
Zhang Gaoli	Jan 22	Zhang attended the State Council plenary session.
	Jan 20	Zhang attended a special meeting of the State Council.
	Jan 18	Zhang attended a symposium on implementing the spirit of the fifth plenum, attended by ministers and provincial officials.

About CPW

China Politics Weekly aims to keep business leaders, investors, diplomats, scholars and other China hands up to date on important trends in China. It is produced by Trey McArver, a London-based consultant providing advice and intelligence to firms and investors engaged in China and the region. You can find out more about Trey and CPW in [this interview](#).

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