

China Politics Weekly

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Dear friends and colleagues,

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Xi's march

Xi and most of the Politburo visited a new exhibition on the Long March in Beijing, where he said: "Times have changed, the situation has changed, but the ideals and causes that we communists have been fighting for have not changed." This was Xi's second time to pay homage to the march in as many months. In late July, he visited the spot in Ningxia where the march ended in October 1936, laying wreaths at a memorial hall there.

Most interpret Xi's visits to these and other revolutionary sites (he has also visited Yan'an, Zunyi and Jinggangshan among others since becoming General Secretary) as calculated political moves to prove his red *bona fides*. These analyses tend to overlook the fact that many of China's elites, including Xi, are genuine patriots who believe in the historic mission of the Communist Party to restore China to greatness. Political debates in China are about how the Party should go about achieving this goal, but not about whether or not the Party is the most appropriate vehicle for doing so.

This is why Xi has spent so much of his time on Party-building and ideological work. When he came into office he believed that the most pressing issue was renewing the Party's sense of purpose after a couple of decades in which most officials focused primarily on lining their own pockets.

Whether or not Xi can succeed in reinvigorating the Party is an open question. It is a difficult battle in a place as hardened with cynicism as China. And Xi's tactics and strategy are also open for debate. But, for all of us watching Chinese politics, I think it's important to remember that it's not all just about "power", but also what one can do with that power.

PBSC Week in Review

Xi Jinping

Party General
Secretary; PRC
President;
Chairman of
Central Military

Sept 23

Xi visited an exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the Long March.

Sept 20

Xi commended all individuals and agencies who contributed to the success of the G20 Hangzhou summit.

Commission

Xi sent a congratulatory letter to the first Silk Road International Cultural Expo in Dunhuang, China.

Sept 19 Xi sent a congratulatory note to the opening of the 19th International Leprosy Congress.

Li Keqiang
Premier

Sept 24 Li traveled from Montreal, Canada to Havana, Cuba.

Sept 23 Li attended and spoke at the China-Canada Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum in Montreal, Canada.

Full text of his remarks (in Chinese).

Li met with Montreal Mayor Denis Corderre in Montreal, Canada.

Li was presented with the key to the city.

Li met with Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard in Montreal, Canada.

Li dropped the first puck at a training match for the Montreal Canadiens hockey team in Montreal, Canada.

Li attended and spoke at a welcome banquet hosted by the Chinese community in Montreal.

Sept 22 Li held talks with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Ottawa, Canada.

Li met with Canadian Governor-General David Johnston in Ottawa, Canada.

Li met with Canada's Senate Speaker George Furey and Speaker of the House of Commons Geoff Regan in Ottawa, Canada.

Li met with former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien in Ottawa, Canada.

Li and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau held a joint press conference in Ottawa, Canada.

Sept 21 Li spoke at the United Nations General Assembly annual high-level debate.

Li met with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in New York.

Li traveled from New York to Ottawa, Canada for an official visit.

Sept 20 Li attended and spoke at the United Nations Leaders' Summit on Refugees.

Li met with leading figures in U.S. financial, think tank, and media circles to discuss bilateral ties and issues of common concern in New York.

Attendees included: former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, IBM Chairman, President and CEO Ginni Rometty, Chairman and CEO of the Blackstone Group Stephen Schwarzman, President of Columbia University Lee C. Bollinger, and PBS host and journalist Charlie Rose.

Li met with French President Francois Hollande in New York.

Li addressed a welcoming dinner party organized by the Economic Club of New York, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, and the U.S.-China Business Council in New York.

Sept 19 **Li spoke at the United Nations General Assembly Summit for Refugees and Migrants in New York, USA.**
Full text of his speech (in Chinese).
Full text of his speech (in English).

Li chaired a roundtable on the Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

He unveiled China's national plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Li met with United States President Barack Obama in New York.

Li met with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in New York.

Li met with New Zealand Prime Minister John Key in New York.

Sept 18 **Li arrived in New York.**

Zhang Dejiang
*Chair of the
National People's
Congress*

Sept 24 **Zhang met with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto in Helsinki, Finland.**

Zhang met with Finnish Prime Minister Juha Sipila in Helsinki, Finland.

Zhang held talks with Speaker of Finnish Parliament Maria Lohela in Helsinki, Finland.

Zhang attended a forum of Chinese-Finnish enterprises.

Sept 19-22 **Zhang went on an official visit to Israel.**
Met with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein among others.

Sept 21 **Zhang went on an official visit to Palestine.**
He attended a welcome banquet and held talks with Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah in Ramallah, Palestine.

Yu Zhengsheng Sept 23 Yu visited an exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the Long March.
Chair of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

Liu Yunshan Sept 23 Liu visited an exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the Long March.
Head of Party Secretariat; Head of Propaganda

Sept 21 [Liu met with the Chinese delegation for the Rio Paralympics.](#)

Sept 19 [Liu spoke at the opening ceremony of the 2016 China Cybersecurity Week.](#)

Wang Qishan Sept 23 Wang visited an exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the Long March.
Secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection

Zhang Gaoli Sept 23 Zhang visited an exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the Long March.
Executive Vice Premier

Sept 21 [Zhang met with a delegation of more than 200 Japanese businessmen.](#)

[Zhang attended a national teleconference on how to push forward the reform that asks for 'random inspections of businesses by randomly selected law enforcement officers on inspectors' and the prompt release of results.](#)

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](#).

Want to help? Please tell us how we can make this newsletter more useful to you. Feedback on both form and content are always welcome, as are suggestions for topics to be covered. Please contact us at info@chinapoliticsweekly.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

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