

China Politics Weekly

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Dear friends and colleagues,

Still far from full strength, so another abbreviated newsletter this week.

I will be stopping through Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong over the next two to three weeks; if any of you would like to meet, let me know. I'm particularly interested in understanding how the rhetoric on environmental protection is being translated into action, and what effect it is having on business. If you've got thoughts on the matter, make sure to get in touch! Old issues are always available at www.chinapoliticsweekly.com.

Under siege

The bloodshed in Kunming on Saturday night is the latest in a string of worryingly frequent attacks carried out by Uighurs over the past year or so. At the same time, Tibetan immolations continue unabated. The bomb attack on Communist Party offices in Taiyuan and the Beijing Airport bomber remind us that the violence is not confined to ethnic minorities.

Xi is beefing up the internal state security apparatus in response. This week he also chaired the first meeting of the Internet Security and Informatization Leading Small Group, which likely means that China will increase oversight of the media and online content, while also spending more resources to monitor electronic communications.

The Party appears to be looking increasingly at anti-Japanese nationalism to promote its legitimacy and a sense of social cohesion. This week the government created two new national holidays, one to commemorate defeat of Japan in 1945, the other to memorialize the victims of the Nanjing Massacre perpetrated by the Japanese.

All of this is making China look like an increasingly risky place to do business. Domestic terrorism is never good for business; increasing nationalism could spur anti-foreign sentiments that damage multinationals.

The business of government

By the time you read this, China's biggest political event of the year, the *lianghui* (Two Meetings) will have gotten underway with the opening of the CPPCC's annual session on Monday morning. The real fun starts on Wednesday when the NPC opens its annual session. If the program is unchanged from recent years, then on

Wednesday Premier Li will deliver the government work report, NDRC Chairman Xu Shaoshi will deliver the social and economic development plan, and Minister of Finance Lou Jiwei will present the national budget.

The *lianghui* is always a fun time for China watchers. There will be a lot of ink spilt on the GDP target and the amount of military spending, but the real substance will be in the details of the work reports. Make sure you do a deep read to see how your sector is likely to be affected.

PBSC Week in Review

Xi Jinping	Mar 2	Xi calls for crackdown on terrorist activities after Kunming attack.
	Feb 28	Xi chaired a meeting of the Deepening Reform Leading Small Group.
	Feb 27	Xi appointed seven new ambassadors.
		Xi presided over the first meeting of the Central Internet Security and Informatization Leading Small Group. <i>Building an "internet great power."</i>
	Feb 26	Xi chairs a meeting on Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei integration. Xi said that "Local governments should abandon parochial mindsets and take a more sharing and cooperative approach." Good to see Xi so prominently promoting cross-provincial cooperation, as local protectionism is one of largest roadblocks to reform.
		Xi met with Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar.
	Feb 25	Xi visited the Beijing City Planning Exhibition Hall, encouraged more parks and open spaces for the people. Xi visited the Beijing Urban Rail Transit Control Center Xi visited Beijing Water Group's Factory No. 9. Xi visited the neighborhood committee in Beijing's Yu'er Hutong.
	Feb 24	Xi presided over a Politburo meeting to study core socialist values.
Li Keqiang	Feb 28	Xinhua publishes an announcement that Li signed State Council Decree No. 648, "Decision of the State Council on Annuling and Amending Certain Administrative Regulations". <i>The Decision was signed on Feb. 19.</i>
		Xinhua published an announcement that Li signed the Tentative Measures for Social Assistance.

		Xinhua announced that Li signed the Administrative Regulations for Water Supply of South-North Water Transfer Project.
	Feb 27	Li sent comments to the National Family Planning Work Conference, urging prudent implementation of the revised One Child Policy.
		Li attended the first meeting of the Central Internet Security and Informatization Leading Small Group.
	Feb 26	Li chaired an executive meeting of the State Council.
	Feb 25	Li met with Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar.
Zhang Dejiang	Feb 27	Zhang presided over the standing committee meeting of the NPC. <i>Approved NPC work report to be delivered next week. Also ratified two new holidays, one on September 3 to commemorate the victory against Japan, and one on December 13 to memorialize massacre victims.</i>
	Feb 26	Zhang chaired a meeting of the NPC Standing Committee.
	Feb 25	Zhang chaired a meeting of the NPC Standing Committee.
Yu Zhengsheng	Feb 26	Yu chaired a meeting of the CPPCC Standing Committee.
	Feb 25	Yu met with Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar.
Liu Yunshan	Mar 1	Liu spoke at the opening of the Central Party School spring semester.
	Feb 27	Liu attended the first meeting of the Central Internet Security and Informatization Leading Small Group.
Wang Qishan	Feb 28	Wang chaired a standing committee meeting of the Central Discipline Inspection Committee. <i>Circular issued at the meeting stated that the names of officials breaking the "eight rules" will be published on the CDIC website.</i>
Zhang Gaoli	Feb 26	Zhang attended the meeting on Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei integration.

China Politics Weekly aims to keep business leaders, investors, diplomats, scholars and other China hands up to date on important trends in China.

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.