

# China Politics Weekly

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Dear friends and colleagues,

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## Building a Party that promotes economic development

This week's Politburo meeting confirmed that the 6<sup>th</sup> Plenum will be held from October 24-27 and will focus on Party-building. At the top of the plenum agenda will be the deliberation and adoption of the Norms for Party Political Life under the New Situation and a revised version of the Chinese Communist Party Internal Supervision Regulations.

What, you may ask, is the “new situation”? Good question! Frankly, it's not completely clear. There is no shortage of references to the new situation in speeches, articles and policies. These describe how diplomacy or employment or intellectual property should be promoted under the new situation, without ever actually discussing what the new situation is.

(Fellow China political dorks will no doubt be thinking that they know what the new situation is. But beware! The new situation we are discussing is 新形势 *not* 新情况, the latter being a concept that has been around since the time of Jiang Zemin and is also translated in English as the “new situation”. The two terms seem to be related and overlapping; Xi Jinping sometimes will put them together and say “we need to do X under the new situation new situation”, but I have yet to see any clear explanation of how the two relate to each other...)

The closest thing that I have found to an explanation of the new situation is a 2010 article by former vice president of the Central Party School Li Junru entitled “What is the New Situation that has been Encountered in Building a Governing Party?”. I'm not sure how much weight to give Li's article, which was published in the Beijing Daily News, but his article does discuss an important point relevant to this year's Plenum.

In describing the new situation, Li is quick to remind his readers that China is still in the primary stage of socialism, and that the “major contradiction” facing the Party remains that between the “rising material and cultural demands of the people” and “backwards means of production”. Put in layman's terms, the Party's main job is economic development.

This remains the case today, and Xi's ongoing Party-building project should be understood in this context. The 6<sup>th</sup> Plenum is all about strengthening Party discipline and reinvigorating the Party's *esprit de corps*. But these are not ends in and of themselves, but rather efforts to make the Party better at doing its job, a main component of which remains economic development.

I bring this up to emphasize again the point that I made last week. Namely, that the Party is motivated by more than just “power”. One of its key motivations is creating a strong, prosperous country.

## PBSC Week in Review

### Xi Jinping

Party General  
Secretary; PRC  
President;  
Chairman of  
Central Military  
Commission

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|---------|---|
| Sept 30 | <p><a href="#">Xi attended a ceremony at Tian'anmen Square for Martyrs' Day.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Xi attended a State Council reception to celebrate National Day.</a></p>  |
| Sept 29 | <p><a href="#">Xi spoke at and attended a study session of selected works by former Chinese President Hu Jintao.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Xi met with President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko.</a></p>  |
| Sept 28 | <p><a href="#">Xi attended and spoke at a symposium to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Liu Huaqing, former vice chairman of the Central Military Commission.</a><br/><i>Full text of his speech (in Chinese).</i></p> <p><a href="#">Xi sent condolences to Israeli President Reuven Rivlin over the passing of former President Shimon Peres.</a></p> |
| Sept 27 | <p><a href="#">Xi chaired a meeting of the Politburo.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Xi attended a study session of the Politburo focusing on global governance.</a><br/><i>China Foreign Affairs University professor Gao Fei gave a lecture on the themes of the G20 summit and global governance reform.</i></p>   |
| Sept 26 | <a href="#">Xi inspected the PLA Rocket Force.</a>  |
| Sept 25 | <a href="#">Xi sent a congratulatory letter to scientists, engineers, and builders as the world's largest radio telescope was officially put into use in Guizhou Province.</a>  |

### Li Keqiang

Premier

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Sept 30 | <p><a href="#">Li attended a ceremony at Tian'anmen Square for Martyrs' Day.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Li spoke at the State Council reception to celebrate National Day.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Li met with President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko.</a></p> |
| Sept 29 | <a href="#">Li attended a study session of selected works of former Chinese President Hu Jintao.</a>   |
| Sept 28 | <a href="#">Li returned to Beijing.</a>  |

		Li sent a message of condolence to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the passing of former President Shimon Peres.
	Sept 26	Li traveled from Havana, Cuba to Terceira Island, Portugal.
		Li met with Portuguese Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva in Terceira Island, Portugal.
	Sept 25	Li met with Cuban Revolution Leader Fidel Castro in Havana, Cuba.
		Li experienced a vehicle imported by China's Yuton Group in Havana, Cuba.
	Sept 24	Li held talks with Cuban President Raoul Castro in Havana, Cuba.
		Li laid a wreath to the monument of Jose Marti, a Cuban national hero, in Havana, Cuba.
<b>Zhang Dejiang</b> <i>Chair of the National People's Congress</i>	Sept 30	Zhang attended a ceremony at Tian'anmen Square for Martyrs' Day.
		Attended State Council reception to celebrate National Day.
	Sept 29	Zhang met with President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko.
		Zhang attended a study session of selected works by former Chinese President Hu Jintao.
	Sept 27	Zhang held talks with French National Assembly Speaker Claude Bartolone in Paris, France.
		Zhang held talks with the French Senate President Gerard Larcher in Paris, France.
	Sept 26	Zhang met with French President Francois Hollande in Paris, France.
		Zhang met with French Prime Minister Manuel Valls in Paris, France.
<b>Yu Zhengsheng</b> <i>Chair of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference</i>	Sept 30	Yu attended a ceremony at Tian'anmen Square for Martyrs' Day.
		Attended State Council reception to celebrate National Day.
	Sept 29	Yu met with President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko.
		Yu chaired a chairpersons' meeting of the CPPCC. The meeting decided the schedule and agenda of the next meeting of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC National Committee Yu attended a study session of selected works by former Chinese President

		Hu Jintao.
	Sept 28	Yu spoke at a National Day reception attended by over 2,800 representatives from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan as well as overseas Chinese communities.
	Sept 27	Yu met a delegation of Chinese ethnic minorities.
	Sept 26	Yu attended and spoke at the 60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese.
<b>Liu Yunshan</b> <i>Head of Party Secretariat; Head of Propaganda</i>	Sept 30	Liu attended a ceremony at Tian'anmen Square for Martyrs' Day.
		Attended State Council reception to celebrate National Day.
	Sept 29	Liu attended a study session of selected works by former Chinese President Hu Jintao.
	Sept 28	Liu attended a symposium to commemorate the 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Liu Huaqing, former vice chairman of the Central Military Commission.
<b>Wang Qishan</b> <i>Secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection</i>	Sept 30	Wang attended a ceremony at Tian'anmen Square for Martyrs' Day.
		Attended State Council reception to celebrate National Day.
	Sept 29	Wang attended a study session of selected works by former Chinese President Hu Jintao.
	Sept 28	Wang spoke at a symposium on anti-corruption inspections.
<b>Zhang Gaoli</b> <i>Executive Vice Premier</i>	Sept 30	Zhang attended a ceremony at Tian'anmen Square for Martyrs' Day.
		Presided over State Council reception to celebrate National Day.
	Sept 29	Zhang attended a study session of selected works by former Chinese President Hu Jintao.

### **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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