



# STRIDING INTO ‘NEW ERA’

At 19th Party Congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping unveils breakthrough theory to guide China’s future

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General Secretary Xi Jinping pledged on Wednesday to usher in a new era in building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Speaking at the opening session of the Communist Party of China’s 19th National Congress, Xi laid out his vision for an increasingly prosperous China as the country embarks on a journey to build a “great modern socialist country”.

“This is a new historic juncture in China’s development,” said Xi, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. It will be an era that sees China moving closer to center stage and making greater contributions to mankind, he added.

During the session, Xi unveiled “Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era”, which analysts said is the most important improvement on the original theory raised over three decades ago.

The congress, whose opening on Wednesday was attended by 2,338 Party delegates and specially invited delegates, is the country’s most important political meeting in five years. The delegates will deliberate on and adopt an amendment to the Party’s Constitution, and they will also elect the Party’s 19th Central Committee and Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

In the report, Xi outlined a two-step approach to build China into a great modern socialist country after the completion of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020.

China will make sure that socialist modernization is basically realized from 2020 to 2035. From 2035 to the mid-21st century, China will develop into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful, Xi said.

By then, China will have become a global leader in terms of composite national strength and international influence. Common prosperity for everyone will be basically achieved, Xi said.

## Today’s agenda

- 9 am:** 15 delegations open to media
- 10 am:** The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee hold a news conference on Party building and strict Party governance
- 3 pm:** Another 15 delegations open to media
- 3 pm:** Group interview on China pushing forward the rule of law
- 7 pm:** Group interview on China’s industrialization

Xi pointed out that the two-step approach is an important part of the new Thought, a long-term guide to action the Party must adhere to and develop.

In his report, Xi listed a 14-point basic policy that underpins the endeavors to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

The principal contradiction facing Chinese society has evolved to be the one between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people’s ever-growing needs for a better life, Xi said.

The needs to be met in order for the people to live a better life are increasingly broad, Xi said, and that not only have the people’s material and cultural needs grown, their demands are increasing for democracy, rule of law, fairness and justice, security and a better environment.

It is the first time that the definition of the principal contradiction set 36 years ago has been changed. The Sixth Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee held in 1981 said that the principal contradiction facing Chinese society was the one between “the ever-growing material and cultural needs of the people and the backwardness of social production.”

The report drew up a road map of developing a modernized economy and socialist democracy, building stronger

See *Era*, page 4



General Secretary Xi Jinping prepares to address the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, which began on Wednesday in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Xi delivered a report on behalf of the CPC’s 18th Central Committee. XU JINGXING / CHINA DAILY

## Xi’s words

### • NEW ERA

With decades of hard work, socialism with Chinese characteristics has crossed the threshold into a new era. This is a new historic juncture in China’s development.

### • NEW THOUGHT

The Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era represents the latest achievement in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context and encapsulates the practical experience and ... wisdom of our Party and the people.

### • NEW CONTRADICTION

As socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, the principal contradiction facing ... society has evolved. What we now face is the contradiction between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people’s ever-growing needs for a better life.

### • NEW GOAL

The overarching goal of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics is to realize socialist modernization and national rejuvenation, and, on the basis of finishing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, a two-step approach should be taken to build China into a great modern socialist country.

## What they say



**Masood Khalid,**  
Pakistani ambassador to China

“The report contains a vision and a strategy to meet challenges through deepening of reform, ensuring law-based governance and pursuing an advanced and harmonious society.”



**Mark Gibbs,**  
president of SAP in China

“It is clear that (Xi) continues to emphasize innovation as one of China’s key principles to empower the next phase of economic and social development.”



**Dolana Msimang,**  
South African ambassador to China

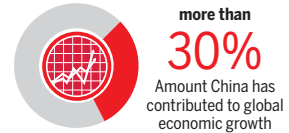
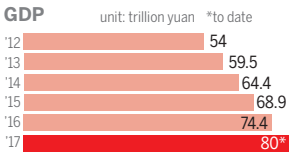
“China’s development, in all aspects, has shown the rest of the world what is possible when the leadership of the country is totally committed to improving the lives of the people.”



**Fredrik Erixon,**  
director of the Brussels-based European Centre for International Political Economy

“With collapsing confidence about the West and declining authority of Western leadership, President Xi sees an opportunity for China to help fashion the world.”

## Major achievements



**STAGE 1 2020 to 2035**  
Build on the foundation created by the moderately prosperous society with a further 15 years of hard work to ensure that socialist modernization is basically realized.

**STAGE 2 2035 to mid-21st century**  
Develop China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful.

Words frequently used in report  
Research by Haina Media Big Data Technology Development Co Ltd.

DEVELOPMENT  
PEOPLE CONSTRUCTION  
ADHERE TO SOCIALISM

## EDITORIAL

# Report is road map to nation’s dream

For those desiring a heads-up on the future orientation of the Communist Party of China, and thus that of the country, there can be no better guide than the report General Secretary Xi Jinping delivered to the 19th National Congress on Wednesday.

Arguably the most watched of its kind in recent times, Xi’s speech may have attracted so much global interest in part because of its timing; coming as it did at a moment when the entire world is looking for clues as to how China will wield its newfound influence.

This need has been met, since Xi’s report is the CPC’s most comprehensive road map for its own, and the country’s development, to date. It is also the authoritative source for answers to the many questions that have arisen so far. Thus the report assumes a distinct place in the annals of CPC history because it goes above and beyond the regular charting of the course for the next five years.

It is a momentous report since it

signals that the ruling party’s governance philosophy, included in the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, has not been updated, but rather upgraded.

For the first time since the concept of “socialism with Chinese characteristics” was proposed in Deng Xiaoping’s speech inaugurating the 12th CPC National Congress in 1982, all the strategic arrangements laid out in the report derive from new historical coordinates.

For the past almost four decades, the definition of the “principal contradiction” has been that between “the ever-growing material and cultural needs of the people and the backwardness of social production”.

Xi’s report boiled down to two strategic judgments: That socialism with Chinese characteristics has now entered a new era, and that the principal contradiction in society is between people’s ever-growing needs for a better life and unbalanced, inadequate development.

Such a change necessarily entails

fresh thinking and responses.

But as the report stated, the designation of a new era does not change the judgment that China remains in the “primary stage” of socialism with Chinese characteristics, nor change the reality of it being a developing country.

And it revealed the essential truth that the CPC remains focused on development. From the judgments made and policy initiatives proposed, the report bears testament to the Party’s longstanding conviction that development is the key to all the problems the country faces.

Thus, attributing the historic achievements made in nation-building to the CPC’s strong, efficient leadership, the report prioritized strengthening the Party’s leadership “in all undertakings”.

Judging from the CPC’s confidence in the path it has taken, as well as its resolve to continue refining its governance mechanisms and capabilities, there is no reason not to be optimistic about the country’s future.

