



New Concepts, New Ideas and New Strategies of Xi Jinping's  
Thought on the Governance of China: A RUC Book Series (A 10-Volume Set)

Chief Editors: Jin Nuo Liu Wei

Volume 4:  
Law-Based Governance

**A New Journey to  
Law-Based Governance**

By Feng Yujun  
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China Renmin University Press

· Beijing ·

## 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

全面依法治国新征程：英文/冯玉军著；谢江南译。—北京：中国人民大学出版社，2017.9

（“治国理政新理念新思想新战略”研究丛书）

ISBN 978-7-300-24647-5

I. ①全… II. ①冯… ②谢… III. ①社会主义法制-建设-研究-中国-英文  
IV. ①D920.0

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2017) 第 138612 号

“治国理政新理念新思想新战略”研究丛书

法治卷

全面依法治国新征程（英文版）

冯玉军 著

谢江南 译

王建平 校

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出版发行 中国人民大学出版社

社 址 北京中关村大街 31 号

邮政编码 100080

电 话 010-62511242（总编室）

010-62511770（质管部）

010-82501766（邮购部）

010-62514148（门市部）

010-62515195（发行公司）

010-62515275（盗版举报）

网 址 <http://www.crup.com.cn>

<http://www.ttrnet.com>（人大教研网）

经 销 新华书店

印 刷 北京玺诚印务有限公司

规 格 160 mm×235 mm 16 开本

版 次 2017 年 9 月第 1 版

印 张 17.5 插页 2

印 次 2017 年 9 月第 1 次印刷

字 数 203 000

定 价 118.00 元

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# **Toward a Comprehensive and Profound Grasp of the Scientific System of Xi Jinping's Thought on the Governance of China**

Jin Nuo; Liu Wei

In the past three decades since China implemented the policy of reform and opening up to the outside world, China has entered a brand new period of development. By 2010, China's economic aggregate has surpassed Japan as the second largest economy in the world. China has entered a period of all-round in-depth reform, a period that is at once marked by a number of new characteristics and full of great contradictions and strategic opportunities. The period of "New Normal," which appeared as a result of decades of high economic growth, proves to be a catalyst for the transition and upgrading of economic structure and radical shift of economic development mode. As a result, China has crossed the "middle income trap" and is quickly moving towards the ranks of moderately developed countries. In political construction, with the top level design of the Communist Party and its unique model of political development, its institutional regulations

and rules will become more mature and solid by 2020, its style and method of governance more scientific and democratic, ushering a new phase of modernization of state governance. In cultural construction, further reform of the cultural system will be pushed ahead, with the core socialist values more deeply rooted and China's cultural soft power globally extended. In the field of social construction, the goal is to complete the process of building a moderately well-off society in all aspects by 2020, when society will be more harmonious and people's life will be improved. With respect to building an eco-civilization, the system of ecological civilization will be more perfect, and the construction of a beautiful China will be more fruitful. In the international context, the impact of the global financial crisis has not ended, and the world order is undergoing extensive and profound changes. The world order, dominated by the West for the past three hundred years, is now on the decline.

With these rapid changes occurring in domestic and world situation, we have entered an era that is badly in need of theories and full of potential for generating new ones, an era in urgent need of innovative thought and capable of generating new ideas. It is against such background, since the Eighteenth National Congress of the CPC, that the Party Central Committee under the leadership of comrade Xi Jinping at the core has carried out theoretical innovation on the basis of practice, and proposed a set of new concepts, new ideas and new strategies concerning the governance of China, constituting Xi Jinping's thought for running the country.

## 1. The Formation of Xi Jinping's Thought on the Governance of China

Since the 18th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, in the great practice of further building socialism with Chinese characteristics, Xi Jinping has deepened the understanding of the ruling law of the Communist Party, laws for building socialism, laws of the development of human society, by putting forward a series of new concepts, ideas and strategies for managing China's reform and development stability, internal affairs, foreign affairs and national defense, as well as governing the Party, state and army. Xi's theory of statecraft, gradually formed over the past years, is rich in content, complete in system, deep in thought and logic. This system of thought will serve as the guiding principle for the new historical period, for deepening reform in a comprehensive way, expanding the scope of its opened-up areas, speeding up socialist modernization process, and realizing the goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Briefly, the main content of Xi Jinping's thought on the governance of China include "realizing the Chinese dream of the Great Revival," upholding and developing "socialism with Chinese characteristics," adhering to the principle of "People Centered" value orientation, a new concept of development based upon "Five Major Ideas" as its main focus, "Four Comprehensives" strategic layout, the theory of economic development based upon "supply-side structural reform" as the main line, resulting in a national governance theory consisting of

national governance system and modernization of governance capability, legal theory for “a comprehensive framework for promoting the rule of law,” Party building thought of “comprehensive and strict Party management,” “the concept of the overall national security” and the theory of global governance for “human destiny community.”

Xi Jinping’s theory of state governance consists of several levels, aspects and dimensions. First of all, the theory lays out the blueprint for the goal, the idea and the basic path of the country’s development, thus resolving the fundamental problem as to the direction and the route of such development. Secondly, Xi derives the concept of development from value orientation and designs the strategic layout accordingly, thus completing the task of global overall deployment once for all. Lastly, Xi has extended the theory and put forward a series of new ideas concerning economic reform, political, legal, and social construction, cultivation of ecology-based civilization, an all-out effort to enforce strict Party discipline, national security and global governance, thus solving the governance problems in key areas. The above-mentioned set of ideas form an organic whole, constituting a scientific ideological and theoretical system.

Xi Jinping’s theory of national governance is based upon a series of scientific thoughts and methods, with Marxist doctrine as guiding principle, which may be summed up as follows: find the law, view the general situation, size up the overall situation, set the key, control the bottom line and co-ordinate.

First, the notion of “find the law” suggests that Xi Jinping is particularly keen on exploring the laws behind the evolution of human society through a historical vision, summarizing past development



experience, and pointing out the direction for the future.

Second, “to view the general situation” suggests that Xi Jinping has always been observant of the tide of the times and capable of grasping the potential trend of situations both at home and abroad. In order to correctly assess the situation, we must take advantage of opportunities, strategically confront new situations, resolve unfavorable factors and turn disadvantages into an advantage.

Third, “to size up the overall situation” means that Xi is capable of strategic and systematic thinking, strategizing ultimate solutions to issues of basic, global, long-term, integral significance, thus firmly in control of the whole situation.

Fourth, “to set the key” suggests that Xi is adept at distinguishing major and minor contradictions on the one hand, and the major and minor aspects of these contradictions on the other, finding the key points and seeking correct solutions. All these constitute a theory of thought that can meet the demands of the times.

Fifth, “to control the bottom line,” according to Xi, means to be good at “bottom-line thinking.” We should always be prepared against the bad and strive for the best, so that the initiative can be firmly grasped. It is imperative that we aim at the problems and challenges, set the minimum goal objectively and strive for the best result.

Lastly, “to co-ordinate.” Xi is good at scientifically coordinating reform tasks, organizing and orchestrating various reform initiatives according to the tasks and measures of heavy and light, anxious and slow, primary and secondary difficulty, and prerequisite conditions.

Xi Jinping's theory of governance integrates the logic of scientific

socialism and the historical logic of China's economic and social development. On the one hand, Xi stresses the necessity of adhering to the fundamental principles of scientific socialism, as we should not forget our ancestors, so to speak. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is the Chinese version of scientific socialism, the epitome of five hundred years of international socialism. On the other hand, Xi pays special attention to the inherent historical logic of Chinese social development, suggesting that "we are destined to follow a route of our own, a route suitable for our own characteristics because of our singular cultural tradition, unique historical destiny and the particular fundamental conditions of the nation." In this way, theoretical self-confidence, institutional self-confidence and cultural self-confidence will be increased.

Furthermore, Xi's theory of state governance embodies the unity of theoretical inheritance and theoretical innovation. It answers a series of important theoretical and practical questions concerning the development of the Party and the state under the new circumstances, thus carrying on the best of the Chinese cultural heritage and at the same time closely integrating with the current world situation and China's development practice. The set of new concepts, new ideas and new strategies aim to maintain and inherit the practical experience, theoretical achievements, glorious tradition and the Party's fine style of work. Xi's theory of governance of China is imbued with the spirit, outlook, methodology, and the fundamental principles of Marxism. Therefore, Xi's theory of governance has carried forward the tradition of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important thought of "Three Represents" and the theoretical system of "Scientific Outlook on Development." At the same time,

the theory has kept up with the times.

Xi's theory of the governance of China has taken into account the concerns of the present and the experience of the past. Xi has pointed out that adherence to problem-oriented methods is a distinctive feature of Marxism. Xi's art of statecraft embodies such problem-oriented consciousness. In conforming to the trend of the times and grasping the trend of the times, Xi has based his theory upon the historical practice of the Chinese people as well as the advanced experience of various countries in the world, deriving nourishment from China's excellent traditional culture and summing up the new experience created by the Party leading the people. With this set of new ideas, Xi has creatively responded to the new issues of the present times and contemporary China, thus pioneering new ways for the sinicization of Marxism.

Xi's theory of governance of China has combined Chinese perspective and global spirit. It takes an unequivocal Chinese stand, prioritizing the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation as its central mission, as it reflects the appeal and desire of the Chinese people. At the same time, Xi's theory attempts at a broad view of the domestic and international situations. This unification of Chinese perspective and global spirit, together with the concept of "building a human community with shared destiny," constitutes Xi's major contribution to and innovation of diplomatic theory and practice.

## 2. Xi Jinping: The Governance of China

Xi Jinping's theory of the governance of China is a complete

scientific theoretical system with rich implications, covering a diverse array of topics such as reform and development, internal affairs, foreign affairs and national defense.

● **“Realizing the Chinese Dream of the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation” as the Ultimate Goal of Development**

Ever since the 18th National Congress of CPC, Xi Jinping has envisioned and planned China's future development by reviewing and summarizing the development process of the Chinese nation. Having explained the Party's “Two Centenary Goals” established during the 18th National Congress of CPC, Xi further propounded the objective of “realizing the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation” by explaining and defining the meaning, essence, significance and development requirement of the concept of “Chinese Dream,” thus forming a fully expounded theory of “Chinese Dream.” Xi points out that rejuvenating the nation has been the greatest dream of the Chinese nation since modern times, a dream that reflects the long-cherished wish of several generations of Chinese people and the overall interests of the Chinese nation and the Chinese people, the common aspiration of every Chinese. The dream of the great rejuvenation has profoundly revealed the historical process of Chinese social development since modern times, concretely reveals the historical mission of the Chinese nation and highlights the grand vision of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The essence of the Chinese dream consists in achieving prosperity of the country, rejuvenation of the nation and happiness of the people. In order to realize the dream, we must follow the Chinese road, carry forward the spirit of the Chinese nation and unite all Chinese

forces. The road of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the fundamental way to realize the Chinese dream; it is the only way to realize the prosperity of the country, rejuvenation of the nation and happiness of the people. In the long course of the nation's history, the Chinese nation has consolidated a strong national spirit with patriotism at its core. At the same time, in the process of building up the motherland, we have gathered a strong spirit of the times with reform and innovation at the core. The future and destiny of every individual are closely bound up with those of the nation. The Chinese dream cannot do without the effort of millions of people united as one man. We need to rely on the hard work of all the people, upon the unremitting effort from generations of Chinese people.

● **“Adhering to and Developing the Basic Road of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics”**

Road determines destiny. In order to realize the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation, we should adhere to the basic road of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Since the 18th National Congress of CPC, Xi has put forward a series of important viewpoints and conclusions concerning upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics, which accumulate into a systematic theory of “Adhering to and Developing the Basic Road of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics.” In this way, Xi has responded to the question raised by some about whether socialism with Chinese characteristics is authentic socialism, expounded the road and direction of China's socialist construction and consolidated the ideals and faith in communism.

Since the reform and opening up, some scholars have raised questions concerning the nature of socialism with Chinese characteristics,

whether it is authentic socialism, or the right type of socialism. In view of these arguments and queries, Xi Jinping has responded in unequivocal terms: “characteristic socialism is socialism, not any other doctrine.” He also suggests, history and reality tell us that only socialism can save China, only socialism with Chinese characteristics can put China on the right track. “This is the conclusion of history, and it is people’s choice.”

Xi has systematically expounded the need to further develop socialism with Chinese characteristics, particularly the importance of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics. Whatever policies of reform and opening China will ultimately adopt, we must always adhere to the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the theoretical systems and institutions. He has explained clearly the characteristic of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Socialism with Chinese characteristics, he says, is special in the nature of route, theoretical system, institutional structure, as well as in the way it is to be achieved, the guiding principles for action and the inner link of fundamental guarantee. It is special precisely because all three are unified in the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics. He strongly urges to make a historical assessment of scientific socialism, to discover something new, something creative, something prophetic, with the ultimate goal of enriching socialism with Chinese characteristics in the fields of practice, theory, nationality, and time. Xi stresses that we should enhance our confidence in choosing the road, theoretical self-confidence, institutional self-confidence and cultural self-confidence. We should eliminate and correct all kinds of wrong ideas and unswervingly adhere to and keep pace with the times

to develop socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Xi Jinping's idea of "upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics" establishes the fundamental principles of socialism with Chinese characteristics, which will enable us to confront the complex situations at home and abroad, confirm the ideals of communism, and draw out the path and direction of China's socialist construction.

### ● The Value Orientation of "People as the Center"

Who should benefit from development, and who should own the product of development? These are the first problems to be solved before a sound notion and strategy of development can ever be established. Since the 18th National Congress of CPC, Xi Jinping has proposed a series of new ideas and propositions such as "people-centered," "people position," "the people's morale," "giving people a sense of gain," etc. These ideas have gradually formed a system of thought on "people as the center," and thus further enriched and developed the socialist outlook on people with Chinese characteristics.

Xi has frequently urged that "we should put into practice the notion of people-centered development. The idea of 'people-centered development' is not an abstract, empty concept, nor is it mere talk and ideology; rather, it should be reflected in all aspects of economic and social development."

The idea of "people's standpoint" is an important component of Xi Jinping thought. Xi pointed out at the 95th anniversary of CPC in Chongqing that "people's standpoint" is the fundamental political position taken by the Chinese Communist Party, which distinguishes the Chinese Communist Party from other parties. The Party and the

people stand together through storm and stress, keep flesh and blood together. It is the fundamental guarantee for the Party to overcome all difficulties and risks.

The notion is drawn from the political wisdom of traditional Chinese culture, as shown in such sayings as “people being the foundation of the state” and “whoever wins the hearts of the people rules the world,” and then applied to the social reality of China today. This new theory of “people’s morale” may be expressed in very concrete terms, as is manifest in the following statements: “people’s morale is the biggest politics, and justice is the strongest force”; “Environmental pollution is a high incidence, becoming the livelihood of the people, the pain of the people”; “A peaceful and stable development and prosperity is the common aspiration of the people”; “If the Party wishes to win popular support, the Party Central Committee must be authoritative and must be honest.” In order to win the hearts of the people, Xi Jinping stresses, all our work should ultimately allow people to have a sense of gain.

### ● **The New Concept of Development with the Core of “Five Principles”**

The concept of development is the forerunner of developmental action; it fundamentally determines the success or failure of development. At the 5th Session of the 18th National Congress of CPC, Xi Jinping systematically discussed the “five principles” of innovation, coordination, green life, openness and sharing. Based upon a profound summary of experience and lessons at home and abroad, and critical analysis of domestic and foreign development theories, the concept of new development reveals the law of economic and social



development scientifically and objectively. The concept is an idea of great progress in so far as it has deepened our Party's understanding and grasp of the law of development, enriched and developed the theoretical treasure of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The solid establishment and effective implementation of the "new concept of development" is an important event in context of China's development, as it relates to the "13th Five-Year" period and even more extensive period of China's development strategy, development mode and development focus. Although China has made remarkable achievements in economic construction, it has also accumulated problems. New concepts of development are needed to solve the problems and guide us further ahead. We should prioritize innovation in the agenda of overall national development, promote theoretical, institutional, scientific and technological innovations, cultural innovation and other aspects of innovation, in order to achieve comprehensive competitiveness through innovative development.

We should grasp the overall layout, deal with major relations, achieve and enhance coordinated development. We will promote sustainable economic and social construction of resource-saving and environment-friendly nature, thus adhering to the idea of green development and the aim of building a beautiful China. We will pursue a win-win strategy of opening up to the outside world, cultivate a higher level of open economy, and promote open development. We will persist in the principle of development for the people, reliance on the people, and sharing the fruits of development by the people. Only through effective institutional arrangements shall we be able to achieve shared development.