

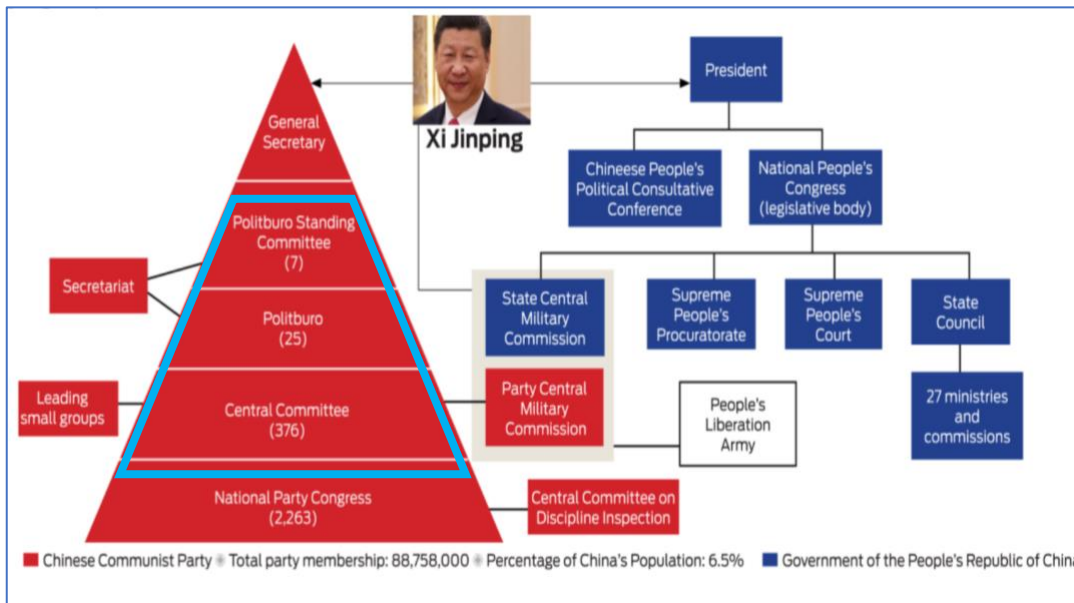
CSAG INFORMATION PAPER:

China's 20th National Congress

Taewon Choi, LTC, Korean Army, CSAG/CCJ5

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1. **Subject.** Prospects of the 20th National Congress of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) scheduled on 16 Oct 2022.
2. **Purpose.** Provide an overview and outlook for the upcoming 20th National Congress of the CCP.
3. **Discussion.**
 - a. The National Congress of the CCP
 - 1) The highest body within the CCP.
 - 2) Being held every 5 years and approximately 2,300 delegates represent about 90 million members of the CCP.
 - 3) The Congress approves the membership of the **Central Committee**, which approves the membership of Political Bureau (**Politburo**) and its Standing Committee (**PSC**).
 - 4) The Power Structure of China.



- b. Prospects of the 20th National Congress of CCP

- 1) Xi Jinping's 3rd term is certain under the current circumstances.
- 2) Current Chinese Premier Li Keqiang is likely to be replaced by one of the Politburo members. (in 2023)
- 3) In the case that Xi is reappointed in his 3rd term,
 - although continuity of policy can be ensured,
 - China's tradition of succession of power will be damaged and must establish new principles and traditions. (10-year cycle of power rotation, norms related to the age and tenure system, and mostly, "collective leadership", of which China is proud, making democracy superior to Western democracy, following the Chinese model).
- 4) The basis of the policy direction in each domain will not change from Xi's 2nd term to achieve his ultimate goal: "The Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese nation"
 - Politics: to strengthen full leadership of the CCP over its people.
 - Economy & Society: to promote "Dual Circulation¹" and "Common Prosperity²" policy.
 - Diplomacy: to realize "National reunification with Taiwan" and establish "New International Relations" and "Community of Common Destiny³".

4. **Implications and Recommendations.**

- a. "Dual Circulation" is Xi's response to US-led containment and decoupling of China. The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and the Semiconductor Alliance are likely to conflict with Dual Cycle policy.
- b. Xi emphasizes that unification with Taiwan is essential for realizing the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation" and will most likely try to do so if all circumstances are favorable, as long as he is in power (until **2027**), considering his ambition to be a leader of Chinese history comparable to Mao Zedong.
- c. USCENTCOM should examine all possible scenarios regarding Taiwan invasion and develop countermeasures in cooperation with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and USINDOPACOM.

¹ "Dual circulation" strategy was first mentioned at a meeting of the Politburo in mid-May, 2020. The plan places a greater focus on the domestic market, or internal circulation, and is China's strategic approach to adapting to an increasingly unstable and hostile outside world. It is expected to see China place less reliance on its export-oriented development strategy, or external circulation, without abandoning it altogether. President Xi Jinping later added that China would "gradually form a new development model in which domestic circulation plays a dominant role".

² Policy aimed at narrowing the widening wealth gap and focused on people inside China.

³ In short, "community of common destiny" describes a world defined by mutual cooperation. It also describes a "new" approach to international relations that supersedes an "outdated" model associated with the West.