

On Xi Jinping's Thought of Party Style Construction

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Abstract: Since the Communist Party of China founded, the CPC central leadership has paid great attention to the Party style construction, and has got rich experience, providing a solid foundation for its development in the future. Since the 18th National Congress of the Party, combining the situations of the country, the world and the Party, General Secretary Xi Jinping has attached great importance to the Party style construction and adopted a series of measures. Based on the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, this paper is to study the Party's style construction thought, from three aspects to sort out and explain, including theoretical origin, realistic basis, and practical strategies.

1. Introduction

On the second day after the end of 2014 National Day, Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at the meeting on educational practice activities. This activity is about education of mass line. Xi Jinping said that Party style construction is a long-term task, which can never be stopped. We need to persist in doing it all the time and this task requires constant, meticulous and long-term efforts. Party style construction accords with the will of people and is closely related to people's life. The fate of Party depends on Party style construction. The victory of socialism with Chinese characteristics also depends on Party style construction. All previous central authorities have attached great importance to Party style construction. Since the 18th National Congress of the Party, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, in line with the development trend of the times a series of measures have been taken to improve Party style construction, which accordingly opens a new page for Party style construction.

2. The Origin of Theory—the Historical Logic of Xi Jinping's Party Style Construction

2.1 The Theoretical Source—Marx, Engels and Lenin's Thoughts on the Party Style Construction

For the establishment of the world's first proletarian Party—Communist League Marx and Engels had done a lot of hard work. Although they did not directly put forward the term “Party style”, they had many important theories about the style of the proletarian political Party, which provided a theoretical basis for Xi Jinping's thought of style construction in the new era. Although they didn't put forward “democratic centralism” in *Rules of the Communist League* and *Provisional constitution of the International Workers' Association*, their organizational principles embodied this

idea. In addition, they also formulated Party discipline and pointed out that Party discipline was very important and needed to be strictly observed.

Lenin pointed out that with regard to the Party's style construction, all Party members should arm themselves with Marxist scientific theory and bear in mind the lofty ideals of communism. At the same time, all members should have a clear understanding of the Party, the state and society, and go forward with the Marxism-Leninism in mind. Bureaucracy had always been Lenin's greatest concern. He believed that corruption and the style of being divorced from the masses were not allowed, and it was easy to get away from the masses and endangered the survival of a political Party. Lenin stressed that leading cadres should maintain good friendly relations with the masses, and that "one of the most serious and terrible dangers of the proletarian Party is to break away from the masses".

Marx, Engels and Lenin's thoughts on the Party style construction have made rich theory preparation for Xi Jinping's thought of Party style construction in the new era. One principle running through it all, Xi Jinping's thought of Party style construction is in line with the actual situation of CPC and is consistent with the three-Party style construction.

2.2 The Theoretical Source—on Party Style Construction of the Successive Leading Groups of Cpc

Under the strong leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China with Comrade Mao Zedong at its core, Mao Zedong's thoughts on Party style construction had been formed. In 1929, Mao Zedong first used "ethos" when drafting *the Gutian Congress Resolution*. Later, in *the urgent resolution of the Central People's Committee on war mobilization and working methods*, the word "style" was used for the first time on issues of the Party. Then in *Fighting Against the Bookishness* he began to use the scientific theory of Marxism to analyze the specific problems in Chinese society and further promoted the formation of "three major styles".

Under the strong leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China with Comrade Deng Xiaoping at its core, Deng Xiaoping's thoughts on Party style construction had been formed. After the "Cultural Revolution", Deng Xiaoping pointed out that it should seriously rectify the inner-Party style. In addition, Deng Xiaoping also emphasized the restriction of the legal system on Party style construction. Stressing in the Talk in South, the construction of a clean government was a great cause, which needed all members of the Communist Party of China to promote, and only by relying on the legal system can it last for a long time. Deng Xiaoping's thought on Party style construction is not only inheritance but also development. Combining with the reality, he put forward new views, which promoted the thought of style construction.

In the 1990s, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the drastic changes in Eastern Europe had sounded the alarm bell to the Communist Parties in the world. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China with Comrade Jiang Zemin at its core clearly realized the need to strengthen the Party's construction to ensure its position. Jiang Zemin further pointed out that the Party's image, people's life and Party's life were closely related to the Party style construction. Therefore, the whole Party should pay attention to the Party style construction, including the style of study, the style of thinking, the style of cadres, and the style of work. It should straighten the Party's style of work, ensure the Party's ruling ability, and make the Party better lead the people of the whole country to a better life.

After the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, in response to the new situation at home and abroad, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China with Comrade Hu Jintao at its core put forward a new strategic idea: Scientific Outlook on Development pointing out that the spirit of reform and innovation should be used to promote the Party style

construction. During “the National People's Congress and the Chinese Political Consultative Conference” in 2006, the socialist concept of honor and disgrace with “Eight Honors and Eight Disgraces” as the core was put forward for the first time, and all comrades of the Party were advocated to be strict with themselves according to this standard. It emphasized to arm the whole Party with “Eight Honors and Eight Disgraces”, and ensured the Party style construction with a strong Party spirit.

In short, “style construction is always on the way”. In the new era, Xi Jinping's thought on the Party style construction is the thought of inheriting and developing the leading collective and core figures from all walks of life, and based on the concrete reality of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Standing at a new historical starting point and facing new historical challenges, the Communist Party of China should constantly strengthen and continuously promote the Party style construction.

3. Realistic Basis—the Reasons for Xi Jinping's Party Style Construction

Standing in the new historical period, the new central collective leadership of the CPC Central Committee, with Xi Jinping as its core, has put forward a series of concrete measures concerning the Party's style construction on the basis of various international environment, domestic conditions and the development of the Communist Party of China.

3.1 National Conditions — the Principal Contradictions of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics Have Changed

Due to the development and progress of society, the principal contradictions of socialism with Chinese characteristics have undergone profound changes. General secretary Xi Jinping pointed out in the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, that the principal social contradictions have changed in China in the new era, which have turned as the contradiction between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for a better life. The change of the principal contradiction shows that the productivity level of China has been improved obviously. In the face of people's needs changing from some material to spiritual “soft needs”, social contradictions are escalating, which requires strengthening Party style construction.

3.2 World Situation—Opportunities and Challenges Coexist

Today's world is a stage where opportunities and challenges coexist. As General Secretary Xi said in the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, great development, great change and great adjustment are the situation of the whole world, but the theme of this era is still peace and development. China adheres to an independent foreign policy of peace, but at the same time, we also face some challenges, such as: environmental problems, the gap between the rich and the poor, terrorism and so on. Faced with such difficulties and challenges, general secretary Xi Jinping has led the whole Party and people to positively contribute China's wisdom and strength to the world. Therefore, in the face of such a situation, it is urgent for the Party to strengthen Party style construction. A good Party style construction is conducive to building a harmonious society, enhancing the Party's ruling ability, and promoting the progress of world peace and development.

3.3 Party Situation—“Four Tests” and “Four Dangers”

In China, the image, creativity, cohesion and combat effectiveness of the Communist Party of

China are directly related to the future and destiny of the Party, the country and the people. General secretary Xi Jinping not only once affirms the improvement of the Party's governing capability. At the same time, he also mentions that the CPC still has a long way to go in terms of the ability of Party members, the development of Party organizations and the level of leadership, no matter compared with the tasks undertaken by the Party in the past or the development situation at home and abroad, especially the “Four Tests” and “Four Dangers” faced by the Communist Party of China today. There are two tasks: to administer the Party strictly and to manage the Party, which is very urgent. Therefore, in order to meet all kinds of challenges, the Party needs to strengthen its own construction, including Party style construction.

4. Practice Strategy—the Way to Promote Xi Jinping's Party Style Construction

The Communist Party of China always attaches great importance to the issue of style. Especially in the new historical period, the leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core start with Party style construction. The Party style construction in the new era is a systematic project and a great project related to the overall development. Therefore, President Xi not only regards the style construction, especially Party style construction as the key task, but also as a breakthrough point. The specific implementation path of the Party's style construction in the new era is as follows.

4.1 Important Task— Selecting Leading Cadres and Promoting the Party Style Construction

Lenin pointed out that the key to study people lied in the level of leading cadres. Without this key element, all resolutions and orders are not worth talking about. Leading cadres of the Party represent the image of the Party and also reflect the style of the Party. Comrade Xi Jinping also pointed out that “What kind of people we choose is the wind vane, and we will have such style of cadres and even such Party style”. Since the reform and opening up, the Communist Party of China has been adhering to Deng Xiaoping's “Si Hua” policy on the construction of the cadre team and the standard of selecting talents with both political integrity and ability. However, it has to admit that there are some opportunistic and impure people in the process of promoting leading cadres. The promotion of such leading cadres does harm to the image of the Communist Party of China. In addition, when these problematic cadres are promoted to leading posts, their unhealthy style, such as abusing power for personal gain, offering and accepting bribes, corruption and so on, will emerge, thus threatening the authority of the Communist Party of China. Based on this, general secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that we should seize the key to selecting and employing cadre, build a contingent of high-quality cadres, and make a good style. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the reform of cadre personnel system has been actively carried out, and many undesirable phenomena such as “only votes”, “only age” and “only professional titles” appear in the process of cadre selection. The “Regulations on the selection and appointment of leading cadres of the Party and government” was revised, which laid an important foundation for Communist Party of China of its Party style construction.

4.2 Basic Approach: Firmly Grasping the Flesh and Blood Contact between the Party and the Masses

General Secretary Xi once mentioned that the key to the Party style construction is how to keep close contact with people. The greatest danger of the Marxist ruling Party is to break away from the masses. The purpose of the Communist Party of China is to serve people wholeheartedly. The Communist Party of China maintains flesh and blood ties with the people, which is a significant

sign that the Party is different from other political parties. On the issue of style, the people are a group with the deepest feelings and the largest number. For example, in some places, there are some problems with office staff's ugly face, bad speech, and procrastination, which makes people's life difficult. Therefore, in solving the problem of style, it should take the voice and will of the majority of the masses as the starting point, earnestly guarantee the people's livelihood, concentrate the wisdom of the people, and more fully mobilize the enthusiasm of the masses. More practice, investigation and research should be carried out to understand the people's life in depth and conscientiously do good things for people.

4.3 Fundamental Path: Respecting Regulations and Establishing System

Respect the Party regulations and establish a system. The problem of style is very difficult and there are many problems. The key is that the cage of the system is not solid. If the problem of style is not effectively solved, China will be in a turbulent social situation, and its economy, politics and culture will not be effectively developed. In this regard, Xi Jinping once in Hebei mentioned: the integrity of the system was very critical.

If the power is not restricted under the shackles of the system, then corruption will emerge endlessly. It is a very challenging task to set up rules and regulations. The Communist Party of China should draw the “red line” and set up the “high-voltage line”. In this way, every individual living under the care of socialism with Chinese characteristics respects the system and does not step on the “red line” or touch the “high-voltage line”.

Great ages need great theories. The general secretary Xi Jinping's thought on the party style construction is a great theory which is applied to Socialism with Chinese characteristics. This great idea is one of the core contents of an all-out effort to enforce strict Party discipline, and is also a solid guarantee for the advanced nature and purity of CPC. The key to great achievements today is that it has found a road suitable for China's social development, that is, the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics. There is a good style, which is under the leadership of the Communist Party of China; there is a good system, which is the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. The most important thing is to have an important guarantee, which is the leadership of the Communist Party of China. The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) will be held soon. Through studying the general secretary Xi Jinping's thought on Party style construction, it is firmly believed that the style construction of Communist Party of China will open a new page in the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. General secretary Xi Jinping's thought on the Party style construction will continue to enrich and develop in the practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

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