

BOOK REVIEW

***Xi Jinping: The Governance of China.* Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2014. Pp. 515.**

China is fast emerging as a super power and the world's largest economy, and according to some criteria it has even surpassed the US. This is a phenomenal change. Under Xi Jinping China has attained this coveted status, which is an Asian dream and a source of pride. The US is on the brink of losing its 140 years of economic domination. Japan ranked to the third position replaced by China just four years ago. After Japan challenged the Western hegemony during and after wars, it is now China that assumed the status of an economic super power. The question is whether China would like to hold its ascendancy of global leadership? Many would argue that China is still a reluctant super power.

The book under review, 'The Governance of China', published by the Foreign Languages Press in Beijing is a collection of 79 speeches, talks, interviews, instructions, and correspondence of President Xi during 15 November 2013 through to 13 June 2014. In these pieces, as Xi Jinping speaks as the Secretary-General of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the President of the world's largest Socialist democracy and economy, readers will get a clear picture of the concepts and strategies of governance of China under the new CPC leadership. A truly Asian Century is unfolding with China in the driving seat.

Pakistan was the first country in Asia, which officially launched the book on December 19, 2014 and the ceremony was attended by President Mamnoon Hussain. The book is available in multiple languages including Chinese, English, Arabic, and Japanese. An Urdu translation is obviously needed.

Talking about Socialism with Chinese characteristics, President Xi says that ensuring a good life for all ethnic groups is his goal and responsibility as a leader. In the last 5000 years, China made significant contribution toward human civilisation without disruption. China was rich in shipbuilding, printing, and military technology when Europe was in the

Dark Ages. It was the European imperialism and colonialism that made China a backward and a poor nation through exploitation and occupation. Since 1921 the CPC has been guiding the nation toward modernisation and development, bridging differences, decreasing poverty, and providing equal opportunities to people.

The CPC liberated the people from Western and Japanese domination and exploitation. China made monumental progress under Socialism – a combination of the thoughts of Karl Marx, Mao Zedong, and Deng Xiaoping in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society. Daoism, Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity influenced the Chinese society. Socialism has taken stronger root in China than any other country and it reflects the wishes and values of its people.

President Xi believes that Chinese must follow the four cardinal principles: adhering to the Socialist path, democratic dictatorship, leadership of the CPC, and Marxism-Leninism, and Mao's thought. President Xi advises that China must follow these thoughts in its reform program (p.10). Socialism is the foundation of Chinese political, economic, and social system. He says that only Socialism with Chinese characteristics could bring development. He also believes that China's Socialist system is in the primary stage. Speaking to 18th Plenary Session of the CPC in November 2012, President Xi specifically asked to combat corruption to make a corruption-free governance, society and CPC. He often remarks that "empty talk harms the country, while hard-work makes it flourish."

China has embarked on an unprecedented crusade and zero-tolerance against corruption. President Xi has launched a crusade against corruption and over 13,000 corrupt officials including high-ranking Politburo members and military-men were punished in 2014. Exercise of power is subject to public scrutiny. CPC officials must strictly follow discipline and must be accountable to the people. President Xi has introduced the concept of the rule of law and accountability. His stand against corruption is reflected in his speeches delivered on April 19, 2013 and January 14, 2014. To President Xi, "China's history of combating corruption and its

ancient anti-corruption culture offer enlightenment” (p.432) from top to bottom level by catching “tigers” and “flies” alike. (p. 434)

A profile in the Appendix tells us about President Xi’s life and achievements and his policy about Chinese people. In just two years rule President Xi made historical changes in the governance of China. He is an advocate of comprehensive reforms in China as were introduced by Deng Xiaoping some 36 years ago. He wants to effectively contribute to world’s peace and prosperity. He is a man of principles and does not tolerate indiscipline, irregularity, and corruption within the party, government, and in public life. He rose from the grass-root level to become a national leader.

The work is inspirational from Chinese perspective. It represents a Chinese domestic viewpoint as well as a global view of Chinese dream of world peace and development. The book projects how Socialism with Chinese characteristics has expanded the space for development, freedom and human rights. China avoids assuming a hegemonic role in world’s affairs (p. 491) and prefers to maintain a balance in its relations with the United States, Russia, and developing countries. It strongly advocates a peaceful and inclusive rise through cooperation and mending ties with its neighbours such as Japan, India, and South East Asian countries. Building economic corridors with neighbours, fostering development, and creating peace is a Chinese Dream (pp. 315-29). The book provides guidelines for China’s foreign policy and relations with the outside world from the platforms of SCO, CICA, Boao Forum, APEC, G-20, and BRICS.

The book dismantles stereo-type about China, its rise, its politics, and its policy. The work is a milestone to understand modern China which presents President Xi thoughts and political wisdom to Chinese people and the outside world. The book contains valuable information about China’s progress. Academicians and politicians alike could learn a great deal from this volume about rising China.

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