# The Basic Experience of the Communist Party of China in Opposing Bureaucracy since the Reform and Opening-up

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**Abstract:** Bureaucracy is a pattern of behavior contrary to political and administrative ethics, which hinders the development of politics, economy, culture and society. Since the founding of the Communist Party of China, it has always been against bureaucracy. Since the reform and opening-up, the Communist Party of China has put forward new ideas and measures against bureaucracy in accordance with the new situation. Through the innovations and practices of several generations of leading collectives, we have raised our opposition to bureaucracy to the level of strict control of the Party in an all-round way. First of all, adhere to people-centered as the starting point and foothold of strictly governing the Party against bureaucracy. Secondly, strengthening ideological construction is the basis of strictly governing the Party against bureaucracy. Thirdly, the establishment of a sound and strict enforcement system is an important guarantee for the strict administration of the party against bureaucracy. Fourth, strengthen the internal and external supervision of the party and strong anti-corruption as the focus of strictly controlling the party against bureaucracy. Finally, adhere to the constant theoretical innovation on the basis of practice to lead the party to strictly control the party against bureaucracy, and to strictly rule the party against bureaucracy around the central task of socialism with Chinese characteristics. These new ideas and new measures have made China's reform and opening-up a great achievement, and at the same time accumulated experience for the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

### 1. Introduction

Bureaucracy is a behavioral model that breeds in the bureaucracy and is contrary to politics and administrative ethics. Since the founding of the Communist Party of China, bureaucracy has been repeatedly raised and criticized by the party and state leaders. Bureaucracy has the characteristics of the extensive field of existence, the diversity of manifestations, the complexity of formation reasons, the fatality of harmful consequences and the long-term governance process. In different periods, bureaucracy has different forms of expression. In the 1960s, Mao Zedong listed 20 manifestations of bureaucracy, some of which still exist today, and some have added new elements with the development of the times. Deng Xiaoping summed up the manifestations of bureaucracy in his 1980 "Reform of the Party and State Leadership System": "Being above the top, abusing power, divorcing from reality, divorcing from the masses, presenting a good face, talking empty words and rigid thinking. In addition, it also includes adherence to stereotypes, overstaffed institutions, overstaffed people, procrastination, inefficiency, irresponsibility, dishonesty, official travel, mutual prevarication and so on. As a result, they are full of official spirit, ready to lecture others, fight against retaliation, suppress democracy, deceive others, arrogant and domineering, favoritism and bribery, corruption and perverting the law, and so on. It can be said that bureaucracy is a style of work that the people abhor. It divorces cadres from reality, divorces cadres from the masses, ignores the interests of the masses and damages the Party's line and policy. In the past 40 years of reform and opening up, the CPC has led the people of the whole country to make great achievements in political, economic, cultural and social development. This is the premise of unremitting opposition to bureaucracy, continuous strengthening of self-construction and making oneself an advanced and strong organization. In the past 40 years of reform and opening up, the CPC has also accumulated valuable historical experience in the process of opposing bureaucracy.

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#### 2. People-centered: the starting point of opposing bureaucracy

Bureaucracy regards power itself as the starting point and foothold of power operation, deviates from the Party's purpose, distorts the governing behavior and alienates the relationship between the Party and the masses. First of all, bureaucracy breaks away from the masses, hurts them, loses their support and trust, and allows them to flourish, so that the Great Wall of the people will collapse. Secondly, bureaucracy damages the interests of the masses, hinders the reform of the system, reduces operational efficiency, and corrodes the Party's body, which will eventually shake the party's ruling position. The Communist Party of China opposes bureaucracy and always runs through a main line, that is, taking the people as the center, always insisting on the people, relying on the people, always sharing the same destiny with the people, and upholding the people's character of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

First of all, the entire line, principles, policies, strategies, strategies and goals embodied in the reform and opening up with the people as the center reflect the purpose of serving the people wholeheartedly. From the production of households to households, to the reform of state-owned enterprises, from opening up to internal activities, from building a well-off society to realizing the Chinese dream, they all reflect the interests of the people and the demands of the people. Deng Xiaoping pointed out: "The reason why the party can lead the people is precisely because, and only because, he is the wholehearted service of the people, it reflects the interests and will of the people." In the face of the downturn of the Soviet Communist Party and the world communist movement, Jiang Zemin pointed out: "Serving the people wholeheartedly, building the party for the public, and governing for the people is the fundamental difference between our party and the party that exploits the class." Entering the new century, Faced with the awareness of the party members' sense of purpose, the party members' awareness is not strong, and the advanced nature is weakened. Hu Jintao pointed out: "Leading cadres at all levels should insist on going deep into the grass-roots units and the masses, listening to their voices, caring for their sufferings, always keeping the safety and security of the masses in mind, so as to make their rights serve the people, their feelings serve the people and their interests serve the people." Since the Eighteenth National Congress of the CPC, we have been facing the people's higher and better demands for development. The Party Central Committee, with Xi Jinping as its core, has clearly put forward the "people-centered development idea", put forward the overall layout of the "five in one" and the "four comprehensive" strategic layout, as well as the solution and development of a series of livelihood issues.

Secondly, people-centered is also reflected in the Party's consistent adherence to the mass line. Faced with the difficulties and hardships in the process of reform and opening up, Deng Xiaoping repeatedly emphasized that the people's thoughts and expectations must be regarded as the starting point and end-result of formulating the policy line: "The masses are the source of our strength, and the mass line and views are our heirlooms". Faced with the danger of a small number of party members and cadres getting out of the masses, Jiang Zemin pointed out: "A political party - its future and destiny ultimately depends on the people's heart." Facing the great goal of the Chinese dream, the Party Central Committee with Xi Jinping as the core since the 18th National Congress has always stressed that "the people's yearning for a better life is our goal of struggle", "responsibility to the people" and "the people are ours." The source of strength."

Third, the people-centeredness is also reflected in the sharing of reform and opening up results. At the beginning of reform and opening up, Deng Xiaoping put forward the ideas of "get rich first and then get rich" and "common prosperity is the essential feature of socialism". Jiang Zemin put forward: taking into account efficiency and fairness; Hu Jintao proposed: building a socialist "harmonious society"; Xi Jinping proposed: "precision for poverty alleviation", "building a comprehensive well-off society", "one can not be less." From adhering to the socialist system to adhering to the Party's purpose unshakable, from the system construction of the people as masters to the establishment of the socialist market economic system. From the establishment of the distribution system of the socialist market economy to the continuous improvement of the social security system, from the harmonious coexistence of man and nature to the policy consideration of the sustainable development of society, the people's sense of acquisition and identity has gradually

improved.

#### 3. Strengthening Ideological Construction: the Foundation of Opposing Bureaucracy

The emergence of bureaucracy reflects the weakening of the ideological construction of the Party and state cadres. In the past 40 years of reform and opening up, the Communist Party of China has always put ideological construction in an important unknown position and continuously carried out ideological education for Party members and cadres. This is prominently manifested in the combination of the feelings of the party and the country, strengthening the collective learning of the party's central leadership and conducting concentrated special study and education on party members and cadres. Through ideological and political education and theoretical education, the bureaucratic unhealthy trend is removed from the source of thought.

In 1978, the Party Central Committee corrected the "two things" wrong thinking through the discussion of the standard of truth, and re-established the party principle of seeking truth from facts. Education activities of "three lectures" have been carried out among cadres at or above the county level. From the end of 2000 to the end of 2002, learning and education activities of the important thought of "Three Representatives" were carried out throughout the country. First of all, under the guidance of the important thought of "Three Represents", the Party will always maintain its advanced nature in the process of socialist modernization and provide ideological guarantee for the eradication of bureaucracy. Secondly, from the height of rule by law and rule by virtue to set the boundaries to prevent bureaucracy. Thirdly, we should strengthen democratic construction in the fields of political life and social life and eliminate the growth of bureaucracy.

From the beginning of 2005 to the first half of 2006, the whole Party carried out education activities to maintain the advanced nature of the members of the Communist Party; after the 17th National Congress of the Party in October 2007, it carried out the activities of "scientific outlook on development" learning and "striving for excellence first". The collective learning system of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, which was initiated by the 16th Central Leading Group, has continued to this day. The 16th and 17th CPPCB held 77 collective learning sessions in the past ten years. The Fourth Plenary Session of the Seventeenth Central Committee of the Communist Party of China put forward the goal of building a learning party. The Central Committee of the Eighteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China further put forward the strategic objectives of building learning, service and innovation.

Since the Eighteenth National Congress of the CPC, the whole Party has carried out the "Mass Line Education Practice Activities" from June 2013 to October 2014, the "Three Strictness and Three Solidarity" thematic education and the "Two Learning and One Doing" learning education since April 2015. Under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee, various departments around the country have adopted various forms of learning and education activities, such as the collective learning of the Standing Committee, the collective learning of the central group and the regular learning system of the Party branch and the Party group. Learning and education activities have laid the foundation for the ideological unity and political consistency of the whole Party, for maintaining the ideological purity and advancement, and for overcoming bureaucracy from the strict administration of the Party.

### 4. Perfecting the System: An Important Guarantee against Bureaucracy

In the past 40 years of reform and opening up, the CPC has made great progress in strengthening the Party's construction. Strengthening the system construction and system implementation is a prominent feature of the anti-bureaucratism in this period. In the early period of reform and opening up, Deng Xiaoping believed that "bureaucracy still has one side of the problem of ideological style, but the problem of system and ideological style can not be solved. He believes that bureaucracy "is closely related to our long-standing belief that the socialist system and the planned management system must be highly centralized in economy, politics, culture and society. Our leading organs at all levels are in charge of many things that should not be, should not be and cannot be handled.

Second, the Party and government organizations lack of legalization, institutionalization and responsibility system. Because "our party and government organizations, as well as various enterprises and business leaders, have long lacked strict top-down administrative regulations and personal responsibility systems, and there are no strict and clear regulations on the authority of each agency and each. Even if there is no size, there is often no rules to follow, and most people often cannot handle the problems they should handle independently and responsibly." Third, the cadre system is rigid. "The cadres lack normal recruitment, reward and punishment, retirement, resignation, and elimination. Anyway, the work is good or bad. They are all iron rice bowls. They can't get in and out. They can't go down. It will inevitably cause bloated, multi-level, deputy. More, more casual jobs, and the bloated institutions will inevitably lead to the development of bureaucracy."

In terms of system construction, in view of the abnormal situation of political life during the Cultural Revolution, the Fifth Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China adopted the "Several Guidelines on Political Life within the Party", which is the beginning of the party law in the new era. Before the 14th National Congress, it successively passed a number of important documents such as "Several Provisions on the Treatment of Senior Cadres" and "Reform of the Party and State Leadership System", which were highly targeted and effective. To get rid of the complicated state of the party during the Cultural Revolution, we began to get on the right track. During the 16th and 18th National Congresses of the CPC, the Central Committee, with the focus on standardizing political behavior, successively established "the system of communicating the situation within the Party" and "the system of reflecting the situation within the Party", and newly established the National Bureau for the Prevention of Corruption. And promulgated the "Regulations on the Supervision within the Party of the Communist Party of China", "Some Guidelines for the Integrity and Politics of Leading Cadres of the Communist Party of China", "Interim Provisions on Strengthening the Management of State Staff Migrating Their Spouses and Children Outside the Country (Border)" and other system documents and supervision documents. This series of state laws and party rules and disciplines have better overcome the tendencies of decentralization, aging and lack of system in the process of national construction and the construction of the Communist Party of China.

In terms of the implementation of the system, since the reform and opening-up, the CPC has always adhered to strict Party rules and disciplines, and has always adhered to the idea, theory and system of strictly governing the Party. Except for the "rectification" of the Party in 1983-1987 before the 14th National Congress and the "liquidation" after the "Eighty-Ninth Incident". From the 14th to the 16th National Congress of the CPC, the Central Committee intensified the investigation and punishment of the violations of laws and regulations by Party members and cadres. At the same time, special measures such as "clearing up arbitrary charges", "lightening the burden of peasants", "managing three disorders in highways" and "cleaning up small treasuries" were also carried out. It has effectively curbed the growth and spread of unhealthy trends in the industry. During the period from the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the central government further increased the abuse of powers, corruption, bribery, corruption and corruption in the leading cadres and corruption cases that occurred around the masses. At the same time, it has carried out effective and effective special rectifications for "there are problems that can't be done, there are prohibitions," and "black-related issues". The party style, political style, and social atmosphere have been completely renewed. The people of the whole country have unprecedentedly improved their satisfaction with the strict administration of the party, and have achieved tremendous achievements against bureaucracy and systematically avoided the spread of bureaucracy.

## 5. Strengthening internal and external supervision of the party: opposing the focus of bureaucracy

Unsupervised power will lead to bureaucracy. In the past 40 years of reform and opening up, the Chinese Communist Party has always emphasized the strengthening of internal and external

supervision and strong anti-corruption as the focus of opposition to bureaucracy. The Chinese power supervision system mainly includes internal party supervision, state supervision and social supervision. Although the structure of the power supervision system was basically formed before the reform and opening up, there are still many unreasonable aspects, which led to the growth of bureaucracy and even corruption.

Since the reform and opening up, there have been mainly problems in the following aspects of internal and external supervision. In terms of internal party supervision, the main focus is on top-down supervision. According to the "Regulations on Inner-Party Supervision of the Communist Party of China", party committees at all levels are the core of the party's internal supervision system, and are mainly based on the supervision of the Commission for Discipline Inspection. The supervision content of the NPC is divided into legal supervision and work supervision. Legal supervision includes legislative supervision and law enforcement supervision. Work supervision is divided into listening to work reports and reports, inquiries, inspection and investigation, etc. However, due to the weakening of the power of appointment, removal and decision-making of NPC at all levels, the supervisory power of NPC has not played its due role. Taking the appointment and removal of personnel as an example, according to the cadre selection system, the personnel leadership of elected government officials is in the Party committees at higher levels, not in the people's congresses at the same level. Since the source of power is not endowed by the NPC, the actual effectiveness of NPC supervision will be greatly reduced. In the aspect of social supervision, information disclosure as the precondition of supervision has not been well guaranteed. Information asymmetry makes it difficult for the public to supervise the operation of power.

In view of the above problems, since the reform and opening up, the Party and the international have launched a series of measures to strengthen the supervision inside and outside the Party. Among the more than 200,000 corrupt officials who were expelled and handed over to the judiciary, there were 237 corrupt officials at the provincial and ministerial levels, 6,892 at the local level, and 88,503 at the county level. From the 18th National Congress to the 19th National Congress, the Party Central Committee and the other middle-level cadres and cadres of the provincial military level and above were approved by the Party Central Committee for review. Among them, there are 43 members of the 18th Central Committee and alternate members, and 9 members of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. The national discipline inspection and supervision organs received a total of 12.186 million complaints (times), 2.475 million problem-solving clues, 1.545 million cases filed, and 1.537 million people, including more than 8,900 bureau-level cadres and 63,000 county-level cadres. Was transferred to the judiciary to handle 58,000 people. Through the improvement of the internal party supervision regulations and relevant rules, the establishment of the State Supervision Commission, the strengthening of the power of the people's congress, the establishment of information disclosure system at all levels and other measures. The macro, meso and micro-institutional arrangements of the further power supervision system establish a good supervision condition for opposing bureaucracy.

## 6. Perfecting and Developing Socialism with Chinese Characteristics: the Central Task of Opposing Bureaucracy

The process of the Communist Party of China opposing bureaucracy is the process of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. On the one hand, the Communist Party of China has always adhered to Marxism-Leninism. "On the fundamental issue of upholding the guiding position of Marxism, we must be firm and unswerving, and we must not waver at any time or under any circumstances." On the other hand, it combines with the local experience and problems of China, constantly puts forward the theory and system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and puts it into practice. In the arduous and long practice of revolution and construction, the Communist Party of China has fully realized that dogmatism is not feasible. We must combine the general principles of Marxism-Leninism with the concrete practice of Chinese revolution, and Mao Zedong Thought, which guides the great success of Chinese revolution and construction, is the first great achievement of this combination. Timeliness and openness are the inherent attributes and the only way for all

scientific theories. Faced with the new situation, new problems and new situation of socialist construction in the new era just after the end of the Cultural Revolution, Deng Xiaoping put forward that "try boldly and make bold breakthroughs". With Hu Jintao as the general secretary's leading group, the scientific concept of development was established in view of resource and mode dilemmas, leading China's development towards scientific rationality. The Party Central Committee, with Xi Jinping as its core, takes the Chinese Dream as its goal, takes "five in one" as its overall layout and "four in all" as its strategic layout. The formation of "Xi Jinping's characteristic socialist thought in the new era" will lead the whole Party and the people of the whole country and the Chinese nation to truly "strengthen" on the basis of "stand up" and "get rich", and to advance bravely to realize the "Chinese Dream".

The proposal of reform and opening up is the result of breaking through the cultural revolution and emancipating the mind from the "two whatsoever" shackles. At the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee, our Party shifted its focus of work to economic construction and determined the basic national policy of reform and opening up. The theory and practice of the Communist Party of China (CPC) faced unprecedented severe challenges. At this time, some comrades in the Party tried to return to the old road of class struggle which they had been accustomed to. At the critical juncture of history, the second generation of collective leadership represented by Deng Xiaoping has stood up to the pressure and adhered to the guiding position of Marxism-Leninism, the leadership of the Party, the socialist road and the exploration of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Deng Xiaoping pointed out that we should still adhere to the socialist road and the lofty ideal of communism. The "fundamental principle" that must be adhered to in the "public ownership" and "common prosperity." The 12th National Congress of the Communist Party of China established a major historical theme of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. The third-generation leadership collective with Jiang Zemin as the core is guided by the "three represents" thinking and strengthens the advanced nature of the party and the country. The party Central Committee with Hu Jintao as the general secretary is guided by the "scientific development concept" to improve the party and The country's development mode has closely followed the central task of how to adhere to the socialist road with Chinese characteristics, and has made a series of in-depth thinking and major strategic decisions, and achieved great success. On the other hand, the Latin American countries in the world that have copied the Western model, the North African countries, and the West Asian countries that have been forced into the Western-style civil administration system and development model have learned profoundly.

#### 7. Conclusion

The leadership group with Xi Jinping as the core summarizes the positive and negative experiences repeatedly and repeatedly stresses: "Neither the old road of closed and rigid, nor the evil road of changing the flag." In line with the call of the historical era, the "two hundred years" struggle goal, the "fifty-one overall layout", the "four comprehensive" strategic layout and the "Chinese dream" of national rejuvenation were formulated, leading the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The cause is striding forward. In the past 40 years of reform and opening up, no matter how the situation changes, no matter what difficulties it faces in reform and opening up, the Communist Party of China has never neglected to strictly govern the party, never ignored the opposition to bureaucracy, and never left the party's central task to grasp the party's Construction. In short, since the reform and opening up, the Communist Party of China has always strictly controlled the party and opposed bureaucracy around the central task of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and accumulated rich experience for the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

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