



Structures of Governance: China

Overview

- Three Branches of Government
 - Executive most powerful
 - Legislative rubber stamp
 - No independent judiciary
- No Universal Suffrage
 - Voting in theory but decisions reserved for limited elites
- Political Divisions
 - 23 Provinces
 - 4 Municipalities
 - 5 Autonomous Regions
 - 2 Special Administrative Regions



The Chinese Communist Party - CCP

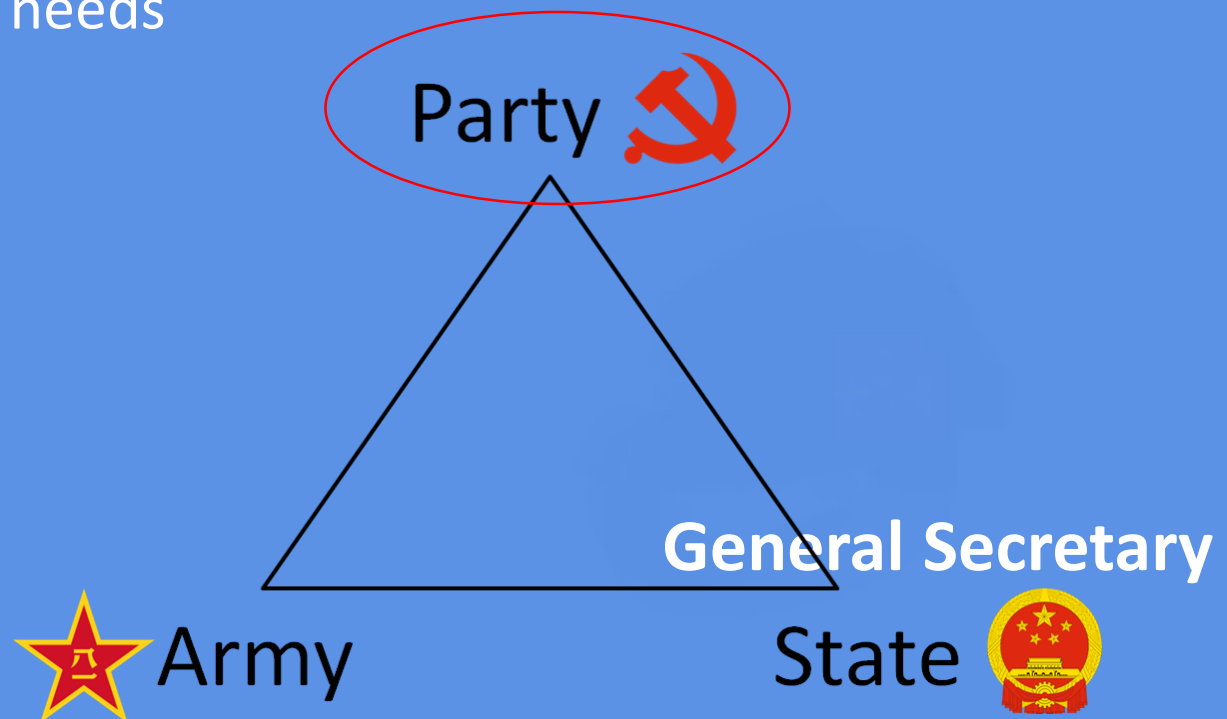
- **Democratic Centralism**

- Society is best led by an elite vanguard party with a superior understanding of the Chinese people and their needs

- **Hierarchical structure**

- Village/township
- County
- Province
- Nation

- **Head of the party is**



The Chinese Communist Party - CCP

- **National Party Congress**

- More than 2000 delegates
- Meets every 5 years
- Rubberstamps decisions made by party leaders
- Elects members of Central Committee

- **Central Committee**

- About 340 members
 - Elected for 5 year term by National Party Congress
 - Secret ballot/candidates limited
- Meets annually (plenums)
- Carries out business of National Party Congress between sessions

The Chinese Communist Party - CCP

- **Politburo**

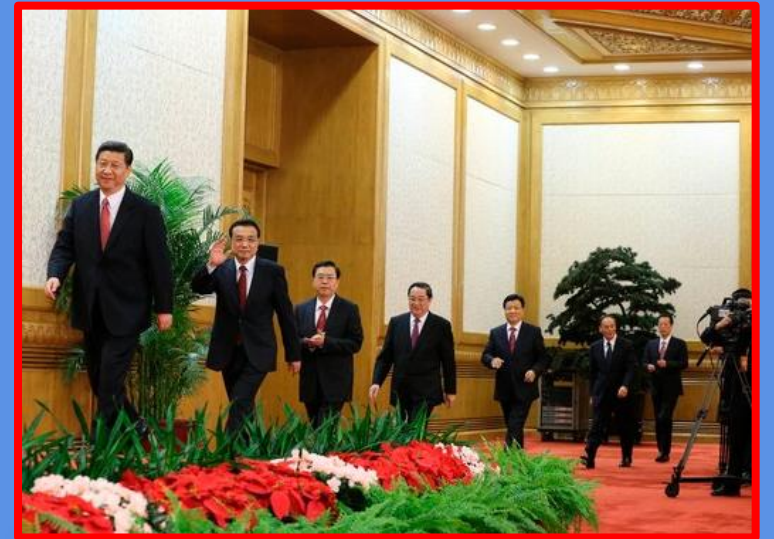
- Chosen by Central Committee
- Dictates government policies
- Meets in **secret**
- About 25 members

- **Standing Committee**

- Most powerful political organization in China!
- Elite of the elite (7 members), chosen by Politburo
- Membership is mirror of faction influence

- **General Secretary** is chosen from the Standing Committee

- Head of the CCP
- Recent Secretaries have been educated (**technocrats**)

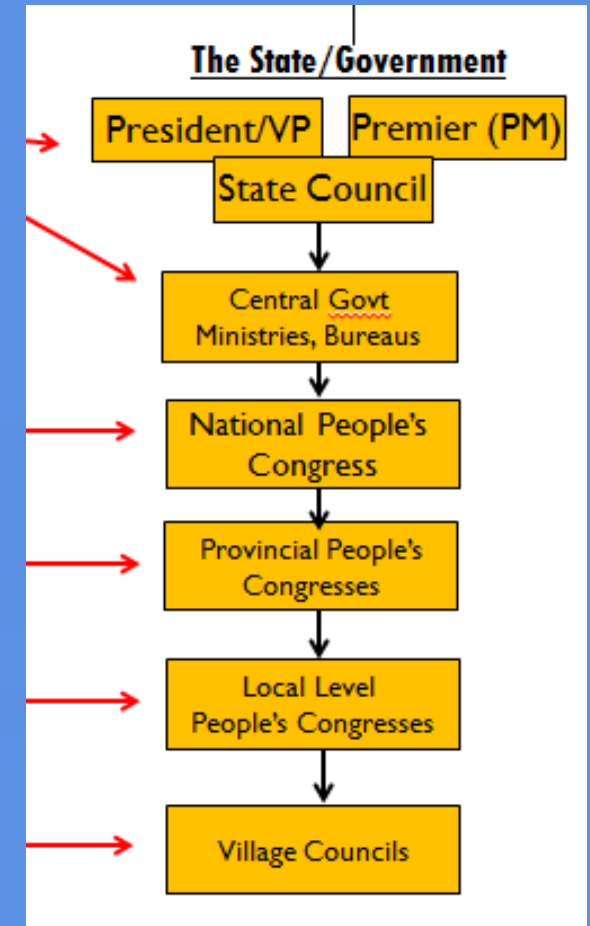
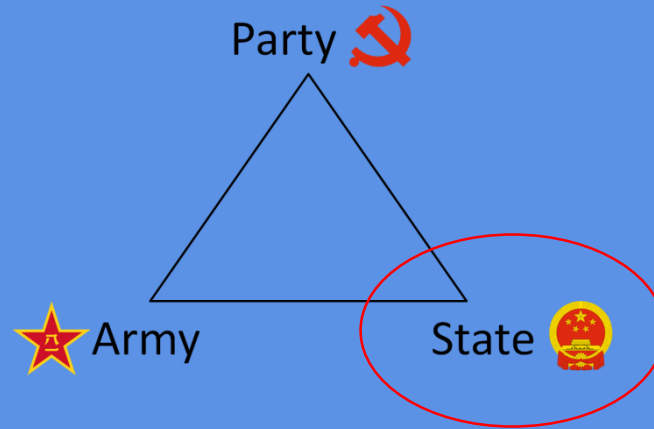


Factionalism

- Guanxi (“connections”)
 - Chinese term that means “connections” or “relationships”
 - Describes personal ties between individuals based on such things as common birthplace or mutual acquaintances
 - Key to getting things done (cut red tape), but can feed corruption
- Factions
 - Conservatives (hard-liners)
 - Reformers/open door
 - Liberals (out of power since 1989)
 - Princelings: aristocracy of families with revolutionary credentials from days of Mao (Xi Jinping)
 - Shanghai Gang – associates of former leader Jiang Zemin - emphasis on guanxi
 - Chinese Communist Youth League (Hu Jintao)

The State/Government

- 3 branches BUT all branches controlled by party
 - Not independent
 - No checks/balances



The Executive

- Head of State

- President
- Serve 5 year terms, limited to 2
- At least 45 years old (same for VP)
- Senior Party Leaders
 - Recently General Secretary and President are the SAME

- Head of Government (Le Keqiang)

- Premier (like a PM)
- Formally appointed by Pres, but always from Standing Committee
- Directs the State Council (like a cabinet)
 - Made up of ministers who direct bureaucracy



The Bureaucracy

- Exists on all levels
 - Immense in size and scope
- Made up of cadres – 30 million!
 - Person who exercises a position of authority in communist government
 - May or may not be Party members
 - Most must now retire between ages of 60-70
- China recruits leaders through Cadre List (nomenklatura)
 - System of choosing cadres from lower levels of party hierarchy for advancement based on their loyalty/contributions to party
- Dual Role
 - Bureaucracy is supervised by higher bodies in govt and comparable bodies in CCP

The Legislature

- **National People's Congress**

- “Formal” authority of government to rule on people’s behalf
- Meets once a year in March for two weeks
- 3,000 members – “deputies”, 5 year terms
- Chosen from lower people’s congresses
- Chooses President/VP – but only one candidate for each
- Has little power, but announces Politburo’s policies



The Judiciary

- Peoples Court System
- Peoples Procuratorate – supplies lawyers
- No rule of law under Mao, but acknowledged today
 - Business liberalization has demanded it
- Party uses system as a weapon
- Criminal Justice system works quickly and harshly – 99% conviction rate
- World leader in use of death penalty

Source

- Mrs. Silverman
- <https://silvermansocialstudies.wordpress.com/ap-comparative-government-politics/>