

# ***Under the Perspective of Seeing Party Self-governance Exercised Fully and with Rigor: Research on High-quality Party Building Leading and Guaranteeing High-quality Cadre Team Construction***

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**Abstract:** The Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC (the Communist Party of China is referred to as CPC in this paper) Central Committee stressed that the focus is on improving the Party's leadership and long-term governance capacity, innovate and improve the mode of leadership and governance, deepen reform of the system for Party building, and optimize the system for seeing party self-governance exercised fully and with rigor. This is a strong response to Xi Jinping's speech on July 1st that "it takes a good blacksmith to make good steel" and the report of The 20th CPC National Congress emphasized "the Party's self-revolution." It highlights the significance of full and rigorous Party self-governance and the value and orientation of building the ranks of party cadres. In the new era, to carry out the Party building in government organs and ensure the construction of cadres, this study focus on the "high-quality" under the "full and rigorous Party self-governance". That is, the historical starting point and the theoretical quality of the guiding ideology of Party building is "high-quality", and the "evaluation criteria" of Party building promotes the responsibility of The Times, the quality and ability.

**Keywords:** Full and rigorous party self-governance, organ party building, party cadres team, party building theory.

## **1. Introduction**

The "Decision" adopted at the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee emphasizes that upholding the party's overall leadership is the most important principle for the comprehensively deepen reform. Xi Jinping stressed that the whole Party should "continue to advance the great new project of Party building in the new era, constantly tighten the Party's organizational system, and strive to build a contingent of high-quality cadres with both political integrity and ability" [1]. "To ensure that the party does not deteriorate, does not change its essence, and does not change its style, and that the party remains the strong core of leadership in the historical process of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era" [1]. Xi Jinping's important discourses on Party building has become the fundamental compliance of the Party building in the new era, which emphasize to adhere firmly "that Party self-governance is exercised fully and rigorously is a journey to which there is no end". So in the

new era, the great new project of Party building must be promoted with higher standards and a contingent of high-quality Party cadres in government organs must be built with the effectiveness of high-quality Party building. The research on the construction of the cadre team has long been a hot topic in the research on Party building. As an important group of cadres, party cadres of organs have different historical tasks and face different realistic environment. Because of the construction requirements of different historical stages, the subject of party cadres needs long-term attention and great value. *The Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC National Congress* emphasizes "We will focus on improving the Party's leadership and long-term governance capacity, innovate and improve the mode of leadership and governance, deepen reform of the system for Party building, and improve the system for full and rigorous Party self-governance". It directly points out the new era of ensuring the construction of high-quality cadres under the perspective of full and rigorous Party self-governance. The key point is that we must make clear where is the Party building in the context? This is an important starting point of the new era Party building is also a foothold. In general, under the perspective of full and rigorous Party governance, the "high quality" of Party building in organs is based on the "three high", that is, high historical starting point, high guiding ideology and high standard of "marking". In fact, it is these three points that directly determine the essential core of building a high-quality cadre team, which is closely related to the construction and development of the party cadres team.

## **2. The Historical Starting Point of Party Building**

The historical starting point of Party building determines the responsibility of the party cadres. It refers to the general summary of the influencing factors that the Party building faces in a specific historical stage. Figuratively speaking, the historical starting point of Party building is answered by "where is it now?" If there is no very clear understanding of this question, the Party building is easy to commit the problem of "unacclimatization", party cadres are easy to act blindly in practical work. Therefore, the high quality Party building leads the construction of high quality cadres, we should first make clear the new historical starting point of the current Party building? Socialism with Chinese Characteristics has entered a new era, and the historical starting point of the party building has also stepped into a new "high starting point". Its significance can be summarized from the three dimensions of "change", "new" and "great".

### **2.1. The Influence of "Profound Changes Unseen in a Century" on Party Building**

The world today is undergoing "profound changes unseen in a century". This is a major judgment made at the 19th CPC National Congress. Xi Jinping has stressed that "A Marxist party must maintain its advanced nature and purity, realize its lofty mission and fulfill its lofty mission. It must always solve its own problems and keep up with the requirements of The Times, practice and the people" [2]. In general, combined with the Party building work and the construction of party cadres, there are mainly the following three points worthy of attention.

Firstly, the "profound changes unseen in a century" is a strong refutation of the "western-centric theory". With the rise of China's economic strength, the trend of "rising in the east and falling in the west" has emerged. The previous "western-centric theory" can no longer become the law of the international order. Some Western countries, especially some established anti-China forces, will not voluntarily "withdraw", and are bound to "attract" party members and cadres. Therefore, the Party building of the organs must pay more attention to the political construction, and maintain the "spiritual home" of party cadres through rigorous governance of the party.

Secondly, the "profound changes unseen in a century" means that more fresh ideas and methods can be used for reference in Party building. New media emerge in an endless stream, thinking is

reformed and innovative, and the efficiency of communication has been rapidly improved. Everyone on the Internet is an "opinion leader", which brings new challenges and opportunities to Party building. The Party building of organs should focus on strengthening the "new ability" of party cadres to adapt to the Internet era, and build high-quality party cadres.

Lastly, the "profound changes unseen in a century" means a "critical juncture" in the development of the global situation. From the perspective of globalization, the international balance of power is issuing the most revolutionary change in modern times, which has the characteristics of "change one thing, everything changes". Just as in the face of COVID-19 sweeping the world, more than 4.6 million primary-level Party organizations and Party members in China have played a vanguard and exemplary role on all fronts, fully demonstrating the responsibility and character of Chinese Communists. On the other hand, in some countries around the world, at the critical moment, the ruling party cannot show the courage of the party members and the cadres to stand closely with the masses, they will lose the trust of the people.

## 2.2. The Challenge of Party Building in the "New Era" National Conditions

According to the report presented to the 19th CPC National Congress, a new era of socialist with Chinese characteristics has begun. Party building must start from the national conditions, and temper the party cadres' quality.

Firstly, the quality of primary-level party cadres from the basic social contradictions should be improved. At present, the principal contradiction in Chinese society is imbalance and inadequacy. It's particularly obvious at the primary level. "The most solid force for the party lies at the primary level, and the most prominent problems in economic and social life and people's livelihood also lie at the primary level. We must take it as a long-term plan and solid solution, and never let up at all" [2]. Only by strengthening the party cadres' quality to work at the primary level can people solve the prominent problems in Party building and achieve "rigorous and good governance".

Secondly, the party cadres' style of work should be optimized. The reform and opening up and development of the socialist market economy have changed the original mode of resource allocation, organization and management. More and more people have become social people, and various complex interpersonal and interest relations have had an immeasurable impact on inner-party life [2]. Therefore, Party building "rigorous" focus, is not artificially delimited, but social development. In the background of further deepening reform comprehensively, Party building in organs must face The Times and practice, not only learn new ideas, but also resolutely put an end to individualism and liberalism, and build the team of party cadres who "understand the economy" but not "economic people".

Lastly, according to the characteristics of young people, Party building should ensure the development of party members and optimize the reserve of cadres. The strength and role of a Marxist political party depend on both the number and quality of its members. For a long-ruling big party, its quantity has an advantage, but the difficulty is to improve the quality. Party organizations must rigorously check the standards, give top priority to political standards, and ensure their political qualification [2]. Xi Jinping stressed that the future belongs to the youth and hope to be placed on them. Young people have active thinking and the energy to break into, in line with the overall trend of social progress. Cultivating the political beliefs of the young people in the organs is important and necessary. Absorb the outstanding young people in the organs into the Party organizations in time, so as to continuously enrich the strength of the Party organizations and the reserve force of cadres.

### 2.3. Advantages of Party Building under the Situation of "Centennial Grand Party"

Firstly, the "centennial grand party" means the inheritance of excellent experience. Advanced Marxist political parties are not innate, and they constantly correct mistakes and sum up experience. While adhering to the fine traditions, the party building in government organs should timely correct the ineffective and outdated practices in the past work. In this way, the quality of the party member cadre can be improved.

Secondly, the "centennial grand party" means the improvement of the system. A good system can make bad people unable to run rampant, a bad system can make good people unable to do good, or even to the opposite [2]. Over the past hundred years, the Party's institutional building has never stopped. Especially since the 18th CPC National Congress, the pace of relevant institutional building for full and rigorous Party self-governance has been significantly accelerated. Under the new historical conditions, party governance a mere formality, and Party building in organs must fully rely on the system to improve the quality of party cadres.

Lastly the "centennial grand party" means the confidence of party members. The "centennial grand party" contains great spiritual "wealth", and this combination of confidence and practice will burst out with amazing power. All party members must be educated to soberly aware that confidence does not equal arrogance. Higher requirements for Party building and the quality of party members are needed. Only by assuming new responsibilities and showing new actions can the party members be worthy of the responsibilities entrusted by The Times.

### 3. The Relationship between the Guiding Ideology of Party Building and the Spiritual Essence of the Party Cadres

The guiding ideology of the party building is like a compass, which not only points out the political direction, but also inevitably determines the political essence of the party cadres. At present, in order to get the "high quality" party building effect and "high quality" party cadres, we must have the "high level" theory to guide the party building work.

#### 3.1. The Source of Guiding Ideology of Party Building

Firstly, the guiding ideology of Party building absorb the essence of the Marxist party theory. The CPC is a proletarian political party founded under the guidance of Marxism. The party building work is led by "rigor" and "rigor" to boost the ranks, and it can still draw wisdom from Marxist theory. The Marxist view of practice requires effective Party building. Just as Xi Jinping said, "Since its founding, the party has attached great importance to ideological Party building. One of the most important aspects is to educate and arm the whole party with Marxist philosophy." [2] In his *outline of Feuerbach*, Marx specifically said that "all social life is practical in essence". The practical viewpoint is the first viewpoint of Marxist philosophy, it must also run through the whole organ party building. In fact, only the party building that is pragmatic and effective, can truly form a "seeking truth from facts" and "seeking truth and being pragmatic" style in the team of party members and cadres.

Secondly, democratic centralism is the lifeline of Party building in government organs. In the Russian revolution, Lenin creatively explored the proletarian political party based on the principle of "democratic centralism". Ironically, the Soviet Union collapsed because of this issue. Implement the "rigorous" Party building must be "rigorous" in the democratic centralism, rigor in the "four consciousness". Xi Jinping stressed that "the history of the party and the history of the development of new China tell us that to govern the major party well, to ensure the unity and centralization of the party, and to safeguard the authority of the CPC Central Committee". To implement the "rigorous" Party building, the starting point and the foothold should be democratic centralism.

Lastly, the personal character of Marx and other proletarian revolutionaries should be carried forward. Engels' speech in front of Marx's tomb highly summarized Marx's brave fighting spirit and noble character. "He may have many enemies in his life, but he does not have a private enemy." The effect of "rigorous" should be reflected in the character and behavior of every party member. That means we should keep up with Marx, Engels and other ancestors, learning both Marxist theory and the advanced character of Marx and other revolutionaries.

### **3.2. The Inheritance of Guiding Ideology of Party Building**

The Marxist Sinicization of Party building theory is a set of experiences on the construction of the CPC formed by the combination of Marxism with the reality of China and the reality of the CPC in the development of the Party, which has a strong guiding significance for practice.

Firstly, Party building in organs must face reality and adhere to the investigation and research. Comrade Mao Zedong clearly pointed out: "Without investigation, there is no right to speak!" "Many comrades always talk nonsense with their eyes closed. This is a shame to a Communist Party member" [3]. That warns our party that the primary focus of all its work lies in investigation and research. In order to achieve practical results, the party building of organs must face the reality, promote the wind of investigation and research, and effectively prevent party cadres from "closing their eyes".

Secondly, Party building in organs must seek truth from facts and develop a good style of work. Comrade Mao Zedong once made a systematic statement on the connotation of "seek facts from facts". "'facts' is everything that exists objectively, 'facts' is the internal connection of objective things, that is, regularity, 'seeking' is our study"[3]. In fact, seeking truth from facts is the forerunner of "rigorous", "rigorous" is the result of seeking truth from facts, and the two simultaneously promote the party building work in depth. In fact, seeking truth from facts is the forerunner of "rigorous", "rigorous" is the result of seeking truth from facts, and the two simultaneously promote the work Party building in depth.

Lastly, Party building in organs must keep pace with The Times and dare to explore and innovate. Party building and party development have always been accompanied by, as Comrade Deng Xiaoping once said: "Without spirit or strength, can not keep moving forward or blazing a trail, can not do a new career"[4]. Party building must be "rigorous but not dogmatic", "rigorous and innovative", can mobilize the enthusiasm and innovative spirit of party cadres.

### **3.3. The Innovation of Guiding Ideology of Party Building**

In the new era, the innovation of guiding ideology of party building is Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics. "The vitality of theory lies in continuous innovation, and it is the sacred duty of Chinese Communists to promote the continuous development of Marxism", stated Xi Jinping [2]. The thought is a landmark achievement of the CPC's theoretical innovation, scientifically guiding the historic achievements and changes made in the cause of the Party and the country. Party building in government organs in the new era means to study, implement and uphold this thought and lay a solid foundation for the spirit of party members and cadres in organs.

Firstly, the thought is a microcosm of contemporary China, a high summary of what the CPC and even the Chinese people think, which should be learned positively. Only by learning the thought deeply can we really understand the stories in China, constantly acquire new knowledge from the treasure house of Xi Jinping's thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era, and the party cadres in organs can "know facts" and "strengthen skills".

Secondly, the thought contains important discourse on Party building in organs of Xi Jinping, which should be learned selectively and needs more attention. And this thought should be taken as a



fundamental guideline. Party building in organs must focus on the center, build the team and serve the masses, thoroughly implement *Regulations on the Work of Grass-roots Organizations of Government Organs*, and finally build a loyal, clean and high-quality Party members and cadres of organs.

Lastly, any theory must be combined with practice to have vitality, so the thought should be learned exploringly. Party building in organs should combine theory with practice. In the process of scientifically using theory to discover, analyze and solve problems, party cadres should construct a benign interaction between theory and practice, and feel the great power of great spiritual thought, while developing a firm spiritual core. Thus further enhance the political loyalty, political resolve, political responsibility, and political self-discipline, never in the fundamental issues, subversive mistakes.

#### 4. The Evaluation Criteria for the Effectiveness of Party Building

The "scoring" evaluation criteria of Party building in organs has forged the ability and quality of the party cadres. In the final analysis, the effectiveness of Party building is reflected in "people", and the quality of party cadres is an important index to evaluate the party building work of organs. The CPC has won outstanding historical victories for the people during the last century. It is now inspiring and guiding the Chinese people on a fresh expedition in the direction of accomplishing the second centennial goal [1]. Reviewing the CPC's "journey", "must answer questions" is Party building, "the scoring right" in the hands of the people, and the people must be put in the first place with taking the mass line.

##### 4.1. Principle of the Evaluation Criteria

The primary principle is "On the journey". It is a fine tradition of the construction of the CPC. On March 23, 1949, Mao Zedong led the Central Committee of the CPC from Xibaipo to Peiping. Mao Zedong said to Zhou Enlai: Today, when we go on a journey to take the examination, we will never be Li Zicheng, "We all hope to do well in the examination." [5] The CPC uses the "go on a journey to take the examination" metaphor of holding power. The CPC has successfully realized the transformation of "from the party that leads the people to struggle for the national power, to becoming the party that leads the people to hold the power and govern. "One important reason is that by proposing and implementing the "Two musts" and the party can maintain life contact with the people and unite and lead the people in continuous progress. It can be seen that the so-called "go on a journey to take the examination" is the party constantly responding to the new problems and challenges raised by The Times. Party self-governance is exercised fully and with rigor is the "new answer" written by the CPC. The Times always take new examinations, and the CPC has been on a journey to take the examination. Now, the CPC is on the new journey towards realizing the second centenary goal, the fine tradition of "On the journey" should always be adhered to.

##### 4.2. The Connection between the Primary Principle and the Political Achievements View

Organ party building must "On the journey" consciousness to promote the political achievements view. "On the journey" reflects the interaction between the party building and the mass line. "On the journey" reflects the view of political achievements. Start from the realistic needs to promote the implementation of the scientific "political achievements view".

Firstly, good Party building is the greatest political achievement. As Xi Jinping clearly pointed out, "Party committees (leading Party members' groups) at all levels and departments must establish a correct view of their achievements, view the problems from the overall situation of consolidating the Party's ruling position, and take Party building as their greatest political achievement. If our

party is weak, scattered or broken, what is the significance of other achievements?"[6] Obviously, the most important consideration of "pass the examination" is Party building, and the important consideration of party building is "rigorous". Therefore, it is an important way to establish a correct view of achievements in the ranks of the party cadres.

Secondly, benefiting the people is also the greatest political achievement. Xi Jinping has clearly pointed out that "Party committees, governments and officials should always keep the safety and well-being of the people in mind, take the benefit of the people as their greatest political achievement, think about the people, do what the people need, and make them live a happier life."[7] The "two greatest political achievements" are not contradictory, but the full expression of the internal logic of Party building and the mass line. Party building and the party's mass line complement each other. So strengthening Party building and exercising Party self-governance fully and rigorously, must ultimately be implement the reality of benefiting the people.

Lastly, the relationship between the greatest political achievements and working attitude should be scientifically dealt with. No matter what position the party cadre is in, all should forge the ability of pragmatic work. Xi Jinping said: "To start entrepreneurship, we must establish a correct view of achievements, 'do what the people like and not do what the people hate'. We must be realistic, pragmatic, and do our work consciously in the interests of the people."[2] The correct view of political achievements is always in the real work, only by holding the correct attitude, and exercising skills, can we do the "greatest political achievements" well.

#### **4.3. The Path of Getting Good Scores and Political Achievements**

Organ party building must take "the masses review" as the evaluation criteria. "'The masses are the canary in the mine'. Whether there are changes, the common people experience the most"[8]. Party building in organs is fully rigorous, in order to achieve practical results, the inspection standard of "the masses review" must be upheld as the path. It is conducive to enhancing the relationship between the party and the masses, between the cadres and the masses, and further improving the quality and ability of party cadres.

Firstly, party cadres of government organs should go deeply into the masses. There is some distance between the organs and the grass roots, and the opportunity to contact with the masses is not much, to some extent weakened the reception of the masses. There are many reasons behind it, but the way to solve the problem is very clear, that is, accepting the supervision and criticism of the masses with an open mind. It is a "core capability" of party cadres to serve the masses. Only with such "core capabilities" can we truly and comprehensively improve the "seven capabilities" mentioned by Xi Jinping, and finally be who wants to do, can do, and can do successfully.

Secondly, Party building in government organs should rely on the masses. Party building in government organs is complicated, and the time and energy of Party affairs workers are relatively limited. To carry out Party building well, must grasp the importance of exercising full and rigorous governance over the Party. Only when the style is rigorous, cadres do hard, positively respond to the concerns of the masses, truly entrust the right to evaluate to the masses, and let the masses "review", can they truly achieve convincing results.

Lastly, adhering to the "mass review" is in line with the original aspiration and mission of Chinese Communists. Xi Jinping has clearly pointed out that "History has fully proved that the nation is composed of people, and people are all that matter to the nation, and the popular support is vital to the survival of the Party" [9]. That party self-governance is exercised fully and with rigor in the new era means to stimulate the vitality of party cadres through effective Party building, so that the people can truly feel the nobility and dignity of the original aspiration and mission of Chinese Communists, lead the social revolution through self-revolution, and build a powerful force for national rejuvenation.

## 5. Conclusion

The Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, further comprehensively deepened reform on the theme of promoting Chinese-style modernization, focused on important reform measures such as deepening the reform of Party building system, improving the system of exercising full and rigorous governance over the Party, and comprehensively improving the capacity of cadres to modernize themselves. It reveals that the key to further comprehensively deepening reform and advancing China-style modernization lies in people and personnel. The CPC, as a major party with a 100-year history, if it is to forever preserve advanced nature, purity and vitality of the party members and cadres, must ceaselessly move forward with work in following regards. Firstly, strengthen Party building unswervingly, exercise fully and rigorously Party self-governance, especially improve political judgment, understanding and execution of the party members. Secondly, inherit the fine traditions, start from the historical starting point of the new era and based on the actual situation of the world, the national conditions and the Party, shoulder the mission of The Times. Then, adhere to the scientific guiding ideology and constantly promote theoretical innovation, strengthening the theoretical arms of the party members and the primary-level Party organizations. Lastly, improve institutional building and Party working style, skills and abilities with applying a people-centered development philosophy to reinforce the Party's political foundations. Ultimately, the CPC will forge a contingent of high-quality party members and cadres in government organs that are worthy of the important task of national rejuvenation and promote Chinese-type modernization with high-quality development.

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