

**China's Road Towards Democratic Governance:  
An Analytical Overview of China's Political  
Development since the Reform**

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Washington D. C., May, 2011



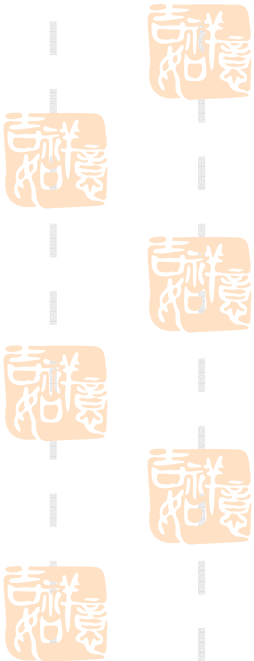
# I. China's Reform Is A Comprehensive Social Progress, Including Big Political Progress

- Over the last 32 years, China has created an economic
- miracle. In the 32 years between 1978 and 2010, China's GDP grew at an average annual rate of more than 9.5%, increasing from 326.4 billion yuan (US\$ 44.2 billion) in 1978 to 39.8 trillion yuan (\$6.06 trillion) in 2010.
- China's economy has overtaken the economies of Japan and Germany to become the world's second largest. China also successfully withstood the global economic crisis which ravaged Western developed countries, achieving GDP growth of 11.2% in 2010. China's foreign reserves has exceeded 3 trillion USD and is even the largest holder of US foreign debt nowadays.

- The past three decades have witnessed China's rapid development, which astonishes the whole world. However, the world's attitudes towards the implications of China's development are very complicated.
- Many people in the West might say, "yes, China has changed greatly in economy and is rising as a new economic power in the world. But China's politics has no big progress and particularly no great changes in her democracy." In my view, it is a misunderstanding.
- Achievements in political field are obvious too. Here I just take some examples of " the first time" reform in Chinese political history.



# The Largest Free Direct Election in Chinese History Was Carried out over Huge Numbers of Villages and Towns



# Direct Voting for the Head of Villagers and the Party Secretary at the Village

喜 慶





# Public Recommendation and Direct Election of the Party Leaders at Township Level, Pingchang County, Sichuan Province



# “Direct Election of the Township Leader”, Buyun Township, Suining City, Sichuan Province

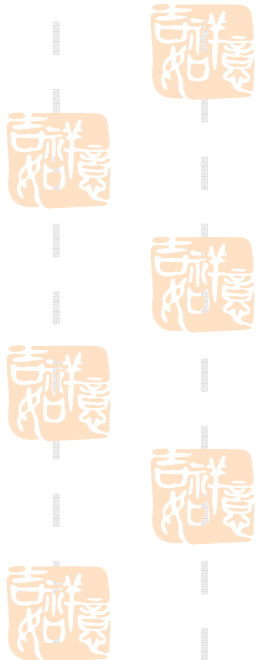


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# Civil Society Has Been Emerging and Playing An Increasing Role in Social and Political life





# Government Begins to Encourage CSOs

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全省先进民间组织

黑龙江省民政厅  
黑龙江省民间组织管理局  
黑龙江省民间组织发展促进会  
二〇〇五年

2005/12/16

1. Microblogs opened new channels for the expression of public interests

## 一、 微博开启民意表达新方式



北京大学公民社会研究中心  
CENTER FOR CIVIL SOCIETY STUDIES, PEKING UNIVERSITY

5. “Civil Society” was written into the draft of the 12<sup>th</sup> Five-year plan of Shenzhen city, but wasn’t adopted in its final version

五、

“公民社会”  
首入深圳“十二五”规划建议  
正式稿未见身影



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# The First Award of Chinese Social Innovations





# 1. "Loving Heart Package", China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation

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小学生快乐成长

指导单位: 国务院扶贫办 特别支持单位: 中国邮政集团公司 全国工商联  
发起单位: 中国扶贫基金会 电影频道 SINA.com.cn  
共同主办单位: 部分省市主流都市报、电视台  
爱心支持单位: 田亮阳光体育运动有限责任公司  
设计公司: 北京赞克文化传播有限公司

昵图网 [niipt.com/jianxin1226](http://niipt.com/jianxin1226)

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“淮河卫士”项目 (Guard of Huaihe River”  
Research Center for the Ecologic Protection of  
Huaihe River, Shenqiu County, Zhoukou City, Henan  
Province)



“Human rights” Was Once  
Criticized in the Past as A  
“Bourgeois Rights,” Now It Has  
Become A Basic Political  
Value and Was Written into the  
Constitution of China



# Safeguarding Migrant Workers' Rights, Quanzhou Trade Union, Fujian Province





# Rights-defending by Trade Union Yiwu Municipality of Zhejiang Province





# “Rule of Law” for the First Time Become A Goal for Political Development and is Stipulated in Constitutional Provisions



The whole legal system has been established by the end of 2010





# Popularizing Law at Street

和谐

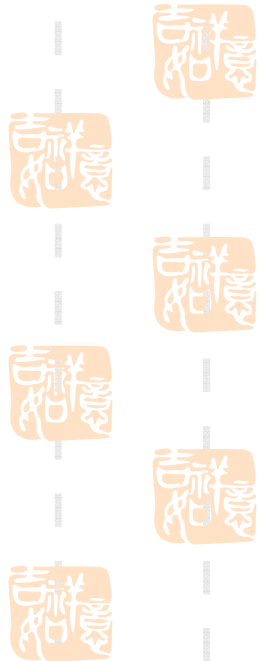




# Constructing Government under Rule of Law



# Accountability, Transparency and Service-Oriented Become the Requirements of Government



# Public Hearing of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Guiyang Municipality, Guizhou Province



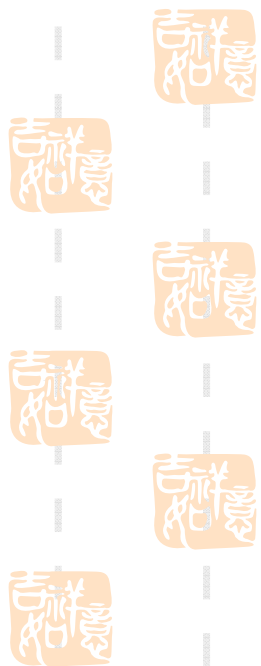
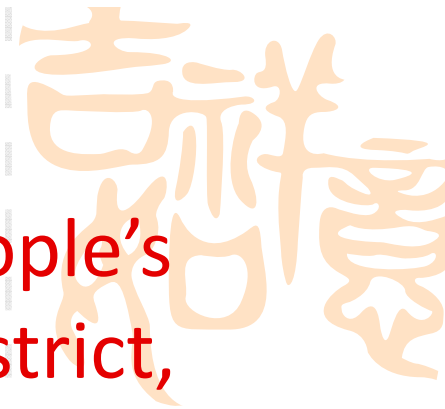


# “Democratic Consultation”, Wenling City, Zhejiang Province





# Public Budgeting System Reform People's Congress of Huinan Town, Nanhui District, Shanghai City



# Reform on Administrative System at Township level, Xian Ning City, Hubei Province



# Electronic Supervision on the Administrative Examination and Approval, Shenzhen City





# One-Stop-Shop Administrative Service



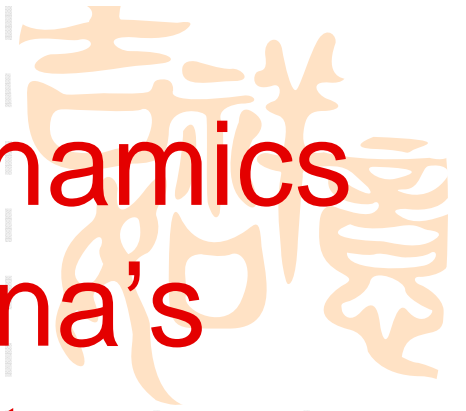
人民网 安徽视窗

<http://ah.people.com.cn>

[www.chinainnovations.org](http://www.chinainnovations.org)



# II. Map Lines, Features, Dynamics and Internal Logic of China's Political Development



# Five Roads on the map of China's Journey Toward Democratic Governance

- 1) From monistic governance towards pluralist governance;
- 2) From centralization towards decentralization
- 3) From the rule of man towards the rule of law;
- 4) From regulatory government towards service-oriented government;
- 5) from Party democracy towards social democracy.

# Characteristics of China's political development since the reform

- Incremental political reforms based on path dependence.
- A pluralist structure of governance led by the Party.
- A vertically and horizontally integrated structure of governance.
- The core value of stability is placed above everything else.
- Both rule of law and rule of man are important instruments for governance.

## Changes in Chinese Governance Rooted in Fundamental Changes in the Economy

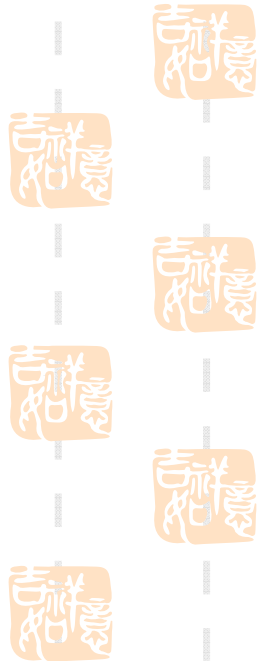
- 1) China began to transform its planned economy into a socialist market economy
- 2) People's livelihood dramatically improved and their new political demands emerge
- 3) Different interest groups begin to form and these groups need channels for expressing their interests and influencing decision-making.
- 4) The Impact of globalization.



# Political development has its own internal logic

- 1) The CCP has transformed from the revolutionary party into the ruling party
- 2) China is a developing power and social stability are preconditions for economic development
- 3) China is in big transition from traditional society into modern one, and “incremental reform” must be followed

# III. Challenges and Reform Focus in the Near Future





# Formidable challenges still persist

- 1) The basic democratic institutions of election, deliberation and supervision are far from perfect.



贿选

毕传国作

近一段时间，全国许多地方都在进行村民委员会换届选举，但是一些地区出现了“贿选”的不正之风。记者在呼和浩特市采访了解到，部分村委会候选人为了当上村干部，花费巨额资金请客送礼，有的村甚至打起了“选票价格战”，一张选票的“价格”从100元到500元不等，个别

甚至达到1000元。（10月5日新华网）

## 2) An effective mechanism of checks and balance of power is still not in place





### 3) The channels for public participation need to be further broadened

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## 4) Lack of mechanisms to counter the selfish behaviors of state bureaucracy

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# 5) Corruption is still rampant in today's China

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## 6) Delivery of public service by the government is far from enough

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# 7) Lack of mechanism to realize “Dynamic Stability”

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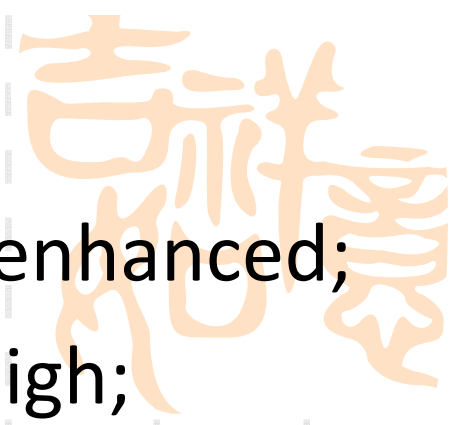
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- 8) Political transparency needs to be enhanced;
- 9) Administrative costs are still very high;
- 10) Rule of law still lags behind.
- 11) Civil society in China is still immature;
- 12) Relationships among major public organs need to be reshaped.





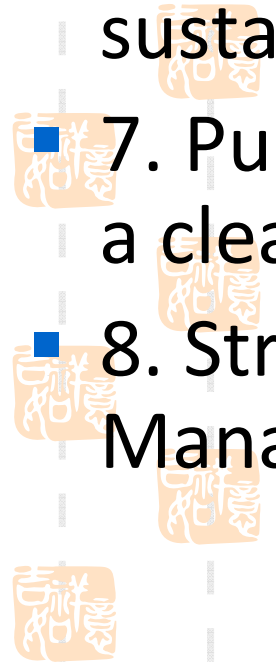
## Among Major Governance Reform in the Near Future Including:

- 1. Firmly pushing forward rule of law;
- 2. Emphasizing much more upon inner party democracy and social democracy;
- 3. Putting much more upon social justice to reduce apparent disparities;
- 4. Delivering more high quality of public service in order to establish a service-oriented government ;





- 5. Encouraging government innovation to make government more open, accountable and efficient;
- 6. Improving ecological governance to keep sustainable development;
- 7. Punishing sternly corrupted officials to build a clean government.
- 8. Strengthening and Innovating Social Management.







- Any Comments are Welcome!

