

# An Impressive Scorecard

## 一份出色的答卷

Remarks at an Exchange With Diplomatic Envoys From North America, Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean Before the CPC's 100th Anniversary

——建党一百周年前夕与北美洲、大洋洲、拉丁美洲和加勒比海地区  
驻华使节集体交流活动上的致辞

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Excellencies,

It's nice to be back in Beijing after six and a half years. It's such a pleasure to meet with all the friends present today. I've hoped to have this meeting first thing I get settled. Yet COVID-19 and the busy schedule have kept us from gathering together.

This weekend, we in China are celebrating the Dragon Boat Festival. My wife and I, and my colleagues from the Foreign Ministry, are delighted to have you with us today in Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

Let me first convey the warm regards from State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and the Foreign Ministry, and my respect to all of you. I wish to reassure you that my colleagues and I are here to facilitate your work in China.

I'm glad that we could observe the Festival together. The Zongzi that we just made will soon be served, and I hope this will give you a taste of traditional Chinese culture.

Now, I have a question for you, which place in China makes the best Zongzi? Yes, it is the city of Jiaxing in Zhejiang province, on the east coast.

Other than Zongzi, what special role has Jiaxing played in modern China? The Communist Party of China was born on a boat at Nanhui Lake in Jiaxing. That was in July 1921.

Time flies. In two weeks' time, we will celebrate the centenary of the founding of the CPC. Today, I wish to share with you my thoughts on four questions: Where did the CPC come from? How is the CPC's scorecard? What is the secret code of CPC's success? Where is the CPC heading?

### I. Where did the CPC come from?

The history of modern China spans from the first Opium War in 1840 to the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. During this period, the Chinese nation fought relentlessly for national independence. And different social classes and political parties took the stage, culminating in the success of the CPC in saving the nation.

After 1840, repeated aggression by foreign powers plunged China into a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society. The nation's

各位使节和夫人:

时隔六年半,我很高兴回到北京和在座各位朋友共事。我一直想着尽快和大家见面,但由于疫情和日程原因未能如愿。今天是端午节,我和夫人以及外交部同事们很高兴和大家相聚钓鱼台国宾馆。一方面是转达王毅国务委员兼外长和外交部对大家问候,表达我个人对大家的敬意,代表我的同事们重申将为大家履职提供支持和帮助。另一方面是一起过节,包粽子、品尝粽子,体验中国传统文化。我想问一个问题,大家知道中国什么地方的粽子最出名?对,是嘉兴!除了粽子,嘉兴在中国近现代史上还发挥过什么特殊作用?中国共产党就诞生在嘉兴南湖红船上,那是1921年7月。光阴荏苒,再过半个多月,我们将迎来中国共产党成立一百周年,我愿借今天这个机会就中国共产党从哪里来、过去一百年交出了一份怎样的答卷、成功的“密码”是什么、未来将往哪里去同大家简要交流。

### 一、中国共产党从哪里来?

中国近代史从1840年鸦片战争到1949年中华人民共和国成立,它既是中华民族浴血奋斗的历史,也是中国各阶级、各政党轮番登上历史舞台而中国共产党最终脱颖而出的历史。

1840年以后,中国不断遭受列强入侵,沦为半殖民地半封建社会,几近亡国灭种边缘。中国各种政治力量上下求索,尝试了君主立宪制、总统

survival was hanging in the balance. Political forces of different kinds searched long and hard for the path forward. They tried different “prescriptions”, constitutional monarchy, and presidential, parliamentary and multi-party systems, but none of them worked. China remained poor, backward and divided, like a heap of loose sand. As aptly depicted in a poem, “Tears shed by the 400 million Chinese, for nowhere can we keep a land of our own”.

It was against this historical backdrop, when the nation could barely survive, that the Communist Party of China was born. Since day one, the CPC has been the champion of independence, liberation and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Over the past century, the CPC has led the Chinese people in an arduous journey to found the New China. It established a socialist system, advanced socialist development, reform and opening-up, and found our path of development, that is, socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Over the past 100 years, China, once torn apart and succumbed to foreign invasion, won independence and pursues rejuvenation and prosperity. It has made a historic leap from standing up to growing rich to becoming strong.

In January 1949, the *New York Star* invited some American experts on the Far East, including Agnes Smedley, Theodore White, Edgar Snow and John King Fairbank, to a seminar. The experts were asked for their opinions on why the CPC could succeed. And here are their answers:

The CPC does not have any magic, but they know what are the changes that the people desire, and they implement policies that meet people’s needs. The CPC is able to organize even the poorest people and put in place an organizational structure with strict disciplines and strong leadership. For example, the famous “Three Disciplines and Eight Reminders” followed by the Red Army, which include detailed orders like “take not even a needle and thread from the people” and “pay for every fuel, rice, cooking oil and salt you get from the people”, have helped the CPC win people’s heart.

In his letter to President Truman in July 1949, the then U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson wrote that “the heart of China is now in Communist hands”.

## II. How is the CPC’s scorecard?

On March 23, 1949, weeks before the CPC founded the New China, Chairman Mao Zedong and other members of the CPC central leadership left CPC’s “last rural command”—Xibaipo in Hebei province, and set off for Beijing. Chairman Mao said that they were going to Beijing for the entrance exam. And Zhou Enlai added, “I think we will all pass, and no one will have to be sent back”.

Why would they have such a conversation? Because there were too many examples of the “sudden rise and fall” in the Chinese history, a “historical cycle” as it was called. The most famous story might be that of Li Zicheng, a peasant uprising leader in the late Ming Dynasty. His army conquered the capital, Beijing after 18 years of ferocious battles. They only occupied the city for 42 days and were forced to flee south. So could the CPC break this cycle and hold on to its power? The world waited and watched.

Now, 72 years have passed, and I can confidently say that the CPC has turned in an impressive score sheet, and created three miracles that are rarely seen in the world.

The first miracle is fast economic development.

In the early days of the People’s Republic, China was one of the

制、议会制、多党制等各种“药方”，但都没能改变中国贫穷落后、一盘散沙的局面。“四万万人民齐下泪，天涯何处是神州”就是那时的真实写照。

中国共产党诞生于中华民族救亡图存的时代大潮，始终是为民族独立、解放、振兴而不懈奋斗的先锋队。一百年来，中国共产党带领中国人民经过艰苦卓绝的斗争建立了新中国，确立了社会主义制度，推进社会主义建设，实行改革开放，找到了一条成功的发展道路，这就是中国特色社会主义。一百年来，中国从任人宰割走向国家独立，从山河破碎走向民族复兴，从积贫积弱走向繁荣富强，迎来了从站起来、富起来到强起来的历史性飞跃。

1949年1月，美国《纽约星报》邀请史沫特莱、白修德、斯诺、费正清等美国远东问题专家研讨中国共产党为什么会取得胜利，结论是：中国共产党并不曾使用什么魔术，它知道人民所渴望的改变，并将满足人民需要的纲领付诸实施；中国共产党将贫苦民众组织起来，建立了严明纪律和强有力的领导组织体系。比如，中国工农红军“三大纪律、八项注意”包括“不拿群众一针一线”“使用的柴米油盐照价付款”等等，赢得了人民的信任。1949年7月，美国国务卿艾奇逊在给杜鲁门总统的信中写道，中国的人心掌握在共产党人手中。

## 二、中国共产党交出了一份怎样的答卷？

1949年3月23日，在夺取全国政权、建立新中国前夕，毛泽东主席率党中央机关从“最后一个农村指挥所”西柏坡动身前往北京时提醒大家，今天是进京“赶考”的日子。周恩来说，我们应当都能考试及格，不要退回来。他们之所以讲这番话，原因在于中国历史上无数新政权都没能跳出“其兴也勃焉，其亡也忽焉”的历史周期律。明朝末年的农民起义军领袖李自成艰辛奋战18个春秋，占领北京城仅42天就兵败南逃。中国共产党能否坐稳江山，全世界都拭目以待。

从那时到现在，72年过去了，中国共产党交出了一份出色的答卷，创造了世所罕见的“三大奇迹”。

poorest and most backward countries. Chairman Mao once said, “What can we produce? Of course, we can make tables and chairs, tea cups and pots; we can grow grains and produce flour; and we can make paper. Still, when it comes to cars, planes, tanks or tractors, we cannot even make a single one”.

That was probably why some of the capitalists in China scorned the CPC, saying that it could get 100 points on military, 80 points on politics, but zero on economy. Secretary Acheson said that “the first problem which every Chinese government has had to face is that of feeding this population. So far none has succeeded”, neither would the CPC.

What happened afterwards was much beyond what they could fathom. Under CPC’s leadership, China has achieved an economic takeoff.

On industrialization, China has realized in just a few decades what took developed Western countries several centuries. China now has the most complete modern industrial system in the world.

It is the second largest economy.

It is also the biggest trader in goods.

China’s GDP was 67.9 billion yuan in 1952, and 90.03 trillion yuan in 2018, up by 174 times in real terms.

Per capita GDP soared by 70-fold, from 119 yuan to 64,600 yuan.

Scholars call it “the greatest economic revolution in the history of mankind”.

Early in the 1980s, China already met its people’s basic needs for food and clothing. Today, grain output is as high as 650 million tons per year. Getting enough to eat is not a problem anymore. What the Chinese people care about today is how to eat well and healthy.

The second miracle is long-term social stability.

You may have heard about the paradox of Huntington, which says, “Modernity breeds stability and modernization breeds instability”.

China is a super-large country with over 1.4 billion people. No matter how big the economic aggregate is, when divided by 1.4 billion, it will become very small. On the other hand, any small challenge will become big when multiplied by 1.4 billion. The CPC has stood the great tests, the formidable and complex task of development and reform, the economic and social changes, among others. And it has effectively preserved long-term political and social stability in China.

Sustaining social stability depends not only on the volume of wealth to be added to the society. More importantly, it also depends on how far poverty reduction can go. Making the cake bigger and dividing it fairly are both important. China is able to achieve long-term stability thanks to its fast development as well as its commitment to equity and justice.

In the early days of reform and opening-up, Mr. Deng Xiaoping put forth a policy to let some people and some regions prosper before others, so that they can help the underdeveloped regions to catch up for common prosperity.

President Xi Jinping has made it clear that we will leave no one behind as we pursue moderate prosperity in all respects and for all the Chinese people.

Today, the middle-income population in China is over 400 million, and as many as 800 million people have emerged from poverty. This is unprecedented in the human history.

Facing the impact of COVID-19, the CPC has, as always, put

一是经济快速发展奇迹。新中国成立之初是世界上贫穷落后的国家。毛泽东主席曾感慨地说，现在我们能造什么？能造桌子椅子，能造茶碗茶壶，能种粮食，能磨成面粉，还能造纸，但是，一辆汽车、一架飞机、一辆坦克、一辆拖拉机都不能造。当时国内一些资本家扬言，“共产党军事上100分，政治上80分，经济上0分”。时任美国国务卿艾奇逊断言，中国历朝历代都没有解决老百姓的吃饭问题，中国共产党也解决不了。

然而，结果完全超出了那些资本家和艾奇逊先生的想象。在中国共产党的领导下，中国经济实现腾飞，仅仅用几十年时间就走完了西方发达国家几百年走过的工业化历程，建立了世界上门类最全的现代工业体系，成为世界第二大经济体、第一大货物贸易国。从1952年到2018年，中国GDP规模从679亿元跃升至90.03万亿元，实际增长174倍，人均GDP从119元提高到6.46万元，实际增长70倍。被学者称为“人类历史上最宏大的经济革命”。中国早在上世纪八十年代就解决了人民的温饱问题，目前粮食年产量高达1.3万亿斤，中国人关心的不再是吃饱饭，而是如何吃得好、吃得健康。

二是社会长期稳定奇迹。大家可能听说过“亨廷顿悖论”，说的是现代性蕴藏着稳定，而现代化过程却滋生着动荡。中国是一个有着14亿人口的超大型国家，再大的经济总量除以14亿，都会变得很小，多么小的问题乘以14亿，都会变得很大。中国共产党经受住了艰巨复杂发展改革任务和社会变迁等重大考验，保持了中国政治和社会大局长期稳定。

一个社会能否持续稳定，既要看这个社会增加了多少财富，更要看这个社会减少了多少穷人，既要做大蛋糕，又要分好蛋糕。中国社会实现长期稳定，既建立在快速发展的基础上，也建立在持续推进公平正义的基础上。邓小平先生在改革开放初期就提出，让一部分人、一部分地区先富起来，以先富带后富，最终实现共同富裕。习近平主席明确要求，全面建成小康社会，一个不能少；共同富裕路上，一个也不能掉队。目前中国中等收入群体已超4亿，近8亿人脱贫，这在人类发展史上前所未有的。面对突如其来的新冠肺炎疫