

# Youth of China in the New Era

## 新时代的中国青年

State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China

中华人民共和国国务院新闻办公室

April 2022

2022年4月

### Preamble

Youth is the most active and vital force in society. The hopes of a country and the future of a nation lie in the hands of its young generation. Young Chinese have always played a vanguard role in the quest for national rejuvenation.

After 1840, China was gradually reduced to a semi-colonial, semi-feudal society and suffered enormous hardships. The country endured intense humiliation, the people were subjected to great pain, and China's civilization was plunged into darkness. China's youth gradually came to recognize the mounting national crisis.

The enlightenment of its youth lit a beacon of hope for the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Around the May Fourth Movement in 1919, a large number of aspiring and progressive young intellectuals assumed the lead in accepting new ideas, new culture, and new knowledge. After careful consideration they chose to follow Marxism-Leninism, which led to a widespread awakening of the people and the nation for the first time since the Opium War. In July 1921, 13 delegates, of an average age of only 28, participated in the first National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and announced the founding of the Party, an epoch-making event that sounded the clarion call for the awakening and rise of the nation. This marked the beginning of a new era of national rejuvenation for China. Under the CPC's leadership, the Communist Youth League of China (CYLC) was established in 1922, opening a new chapter of the Chinese youth movement.

Looking back on a century of relentless change, China's youth have never wavered in their determination to love the Party, the country and the people, nor in their commitment to the original aspiration of following the instructions and guidance of the Party. During the New Democratic Revolution (1919-1949), they rose to the occasion without fear of death and fought bravely for national independence and the people's liberation. During the socialist revolution and reconstruction (1949-1978), they endured hardships and dedicated themselves to building the newly-founded country. In the new period of reform, opening up and socialist modernization, those with a talent for innovation who were open to challenges stood out and forged ahead, led reform, and ensured that China progressed with the times.

The 18th CPC National Congress held in 2012 marks the beginning of a new era in the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core attaches great importance to young people, and cares deeply about them, and fully trusts them. It is committed to the principle that

### 前言

青年是整个社会力量中最积极、最有生气的力量，国家的希望在青年，民族的未来在青年。中国青年始终是实现中华民族伟大复兴的先锋力量。

近代以后，中国逐步沦为半殖民地半封建社会，国家蒙辱、人民蒙难、文明蒙尘，中华民族遭受了前所未有的劫难，中国青年深切感受到日益深重的民族危机。

中国青年的觉醒，点燃了中华民族伟大复兴的希望之光。五四运动前后，一大批率先接受新思想、新文化、新知识的有志青年在反复比较中选择了马克思列宁主义，促进中国人民和中华民族实现了自鸦片战争以来的第一次全面觉醒。1921年7月，平均年龄仅28岁的13位代表参加中国共产党第一次全国代表大会，宣告了中国共产党诞生这一开天辟地的大事变，吹响了全民族觉醒和奋起的号角，开启了民族复兴的新纪元。在中国共产党的领导下，中国共产主义青年团于1922年成立，中国青年运动翻开了新的历史篇章。

回首百年，无论风云变幻、沧海桑田，中国青年爱党、爱国、爱人民的赤诚追求始终未改，坚定不移听党话、跟党走，忠贞初心始终未变。在新民主主义革命时期，中国青年不怕牺牲、敢于斗争，经受了生与死的考验，为争取民族独立、人民解放冲锋陷阵、抛洒热血。在社会主义革命和建设时期，中国青年勇于拼搏、甘于奉献，经受了苦与乐的考验，在新中国的广阔天地忘我劳动、发愤图强。在改革开放和社会主义现代化建设新时期，中国青年开拓创新、勇立潮头，经受了得与失的考验，为推动中国大踏步赶上时代锐意改革、拼搏奋进。

党的十八大以来，中国特色社会主义进入新时

the Party exercises leadership over youth, gives top priority to youth development, and ensures the CYLC plays its role to the full as an aide to the Party and a reserve force. This will enable the younger generations to develop fully and achieve historic progress. In this great new era, China's youth have shown amazing vibrancy and great passion.

Young Chinese people in the new era are confident, aspirant and responsible. They wholeheartedly support the leadership of the Party. With a global vision, they stand at the forefront of the times bursting with commitment: pursuing lofty ideals with a firm belief in Marxism, communism and socialism with Chinese characteristics; full of patriotism, sharing weal and woe with the country and the people; displaying the sterling quality of living up to responsibilities; being the first in the country to worry about the affairs of the state and the last to enjoy themselves; striving to be pioneers in, pacesetters for and contributors to the country's development.

History shows clearly that without the CPC, the Chinese youth movement would have achieved little. For China's youth, commitment to the CPC is the most valuable experience, and the revolutionary traditions passed down are the most precious wealth accumulated over the past century.

In his speech addressing a ceremony celebrating the CPC centenary on July 1, 2021, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, emphasized that "In the new era, our young people should make it their mission to contribute to national rejuvenation and aspire to become more proud, confident, and assured in their identity as Chinese people, so that they can live up to the promise of their youth and the expectations of our times, our Party and our people."

We have stood at a new historical starting point and embarked on a new journey in achieving the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Looking ahead to the new era, China's youth are embracing precious opportunities to realize their ambitions and display their talents, as they shoulder the important responsibility of building a great modern socialist country and realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

The Chinese Dream is a dream about history, the present and the future. It is cherished by all of the people, but even more so by the young. China's youth in the new era will keep on striving with boundless energy, to turn the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation into reality.

In order to fully showcase the vigorous image and the invaluable contribution of China's youth in the new era, China is releasing this white paper on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CYLC.

## I. The New Era: Great Times with Ample Opportunities

Great times make fine young people and flourishing ages nurture true talent. The Chinese nation has achieved a tremendous transformation from obtaining independence and becoming prosperous to growing in strength, and the current new era bestows prosperity and hope. China's rejuvenation has become an unstoppable process.

Living in the best times in Chinese history, the current young generation enjoys an enabling environment for development, a broad space to grow, and wonderful opportunities to make a good career.

### (1) Better Conditions for Development

China's economic and technological influence and composite national strength keep growing, which offers a sound foundation for

代。以习近平同志为核心的党中央高度重视青年、热情关怀青年、充分信任青年，鲜明提出党管青年原则，大力倡导青年优先发展理念，着力发挥共青团作为党的助手和后备军作用，推动青年发展事业实现全方位进步、取得历史性成就。在这个伟大的新时代，中国青年展现了亮丽的青春风采，迸发出豪迈的青春激情。

新时代中国青年刚健自信、胸怀天下、担当有为，衷心拥护党的领导，奋力走在时代前列，展现出前所未有的昂扬风貌：追求远大理想，心中铭刻着对马克思主义的崇高信仰、对共产主义和中国特色社会主义的坚定信念；深植家国情怀，与国家同呼吸、与人民共命运，时刻彰显着鲜明的爱国主义精神气质；传承奋斗担当，先天下之忧而忧、后天下之乐而乐，勇做走在时代前列的奋进者、开拓者、奉献者。

历史清晰而深刻地昭示，没有中国共产党就没有朝气蓬勃的中国青年运动，矢志不渝跟党走是中国青年百年奋斗的最宝贵经验，深深融入血脉的红色基因是中国青年百年奋斗的最宝贵财富。

2021年7月1日，习近平总书记在庆祝中国共产党成立100周年大会上深情寄语：“新时代的中国青年要以实现中华民族伟大复兴为己任，增强做中国人的志气、骨气、底气，不负时代，不负韶华，不负党和人民的殷切期望！”

展望未来，民族复兴大业已经站在新的历史起点、踏上新的伟大征程。新时代中国青年迎来了实现抱负、施展才华的难得机遇，更肩负着建设社会主义现代化强国、实现中华民族伟大复兴中国梦的时代重任。

中国梦是历史的、现实的，也是未来的；是广大人民的，更是青年一代的。新时代中国青年必将以永不懈怠的精神状态、永不停滞的前进姿态，在接续奋斗中将中华民族伟大复兴的中国梦变为现实。

为充分展示新时代中国青年的风貌和担当，值此中国共产主义青年团成立100周年之际，特发布本白皮书。

## 一、新时代中国青年生逢盛世、共享机遇

时代造就青年，盛世成就青年。新时代的中国繁荣发展、充满希望，中华民族迎来了从站起来、富起来到强起来的伟大飞跃，实现中华民族伟大复兴

China's youth to develop with increasing confidence.

Better material conditions. Affluence provides a good foundation for the young generation to develop and grow.

China has achieved two miracles—rapid economic growth and lasting social stability. In 2021, its economy ranked second in the world in size, with GDP exceeding 110 trillion yuan. As more than 25 million young people have escaped poverty, this generation can look forward to a better future of greater prosperity.

In pursuing a life of high quality, young people are changing their consumption habits from consuming mass products and services to customized ones. They are changing from buying to meet their basic needs to buying to enjoy life, from having clothing to wear to dressing fashionably, from having food to eat to eating well for good health, and from taking affordable transportation to choosing fast and comfortable vehicles. Their standard of living has seen qualitative changes and their prospects for development are supported by a solid material foundation.

Greater space for rich intellectual and cultural life. A rich and colorful intellectual and cultural life is a precondition for young people to prosper and grow.

With a growing number of libraries, museums, cultural centers, art galleries and other public cultural facilities being built, [By the end of 2020, the number of registered museums had reached 5,788 across the country, with one new museum being opened every two days on average during the period 2016-2020.] young people now enjoy notably improved public cultural services. Instead of feeling amazed at any new place they visit, they are getting used to visiting all kinds of places, thus refining their cultural tastes. Through the buoyant growth of traditional cultural industries such as publishing, television, movies, and artistic performance, and emerging cultural sectors such as the digital creative industry, online audio and visual, digital publishing, digital entertainment and online performance and broadcasting, young people now find diverse public cultural products available to them. Instead of reading and watching whatever they could get hold of, they can read and watch whatever they would like, thus broadening their vision. As a huge variety of tourist products are created for them to choose, such as cultural tours, countryside tours, CPC heritage tours and international travel packages, their desire to travel around the world is now satisfied. Instead of affordable sight-seeing trips near their homes, they can travel anywhere they wish, thus enriching their knowledge and experience. These expanding intellectual and cultural spaces offer greater possibilities for young Chinese to achieve more, set lofty goals, and refine their tastes.

Growing with the internet. The internet has profoundly shaped the current generation, and the current generation has also influenced the internet.

At the end of 2020, the number of netizens aged 6 to 18 reached 180 million in China, with the internet available to 94.9 percent of minors, and the gap in internet accessibility between cities and rural areas narrowed to 0.3 percentage point from 5.4 percentage points in 2018. The internet has become the “sixth sense” of contemporary young people and part of their lives, and offers them a space to grow.

Along with rapid popularization of the internet, more and more young people are using the internet to access information, exchange ideas, make friends, and shop, and their ways of learning, living and working are changing profoundly. Young people make up the majority of the users of short online videos, live-streaming viewers, and ride-hailing customers. As they become the main producers of infor-

兴进入了不可逆转的历史进程。新时代中国青年生逢中华民族发展的最好时期，拥有更优越的发展环境、更广阔的成长空间，面临着建功立业的难得人生际遇。

### （一）拥有更高质量的发展条件

随着中国的经济实力、科技实力、综合国力不断迈上新台阶、取得新跨越，新时代中国青年的发展基础日益厚实，发展底气越来越足。

物质发展环境更为优越。青年高质量发展，物质丰裕是基础。中国创造了世所罕见的经济快速发展和社会长期稳定“两大奇迹”，2021年国内生产总值超过110万亿元、稳居世界第二。超过2500万贫困青年彻底摆脱贫困，中国青年共同迈向更高水平的小康生活。中国青年向往更有品质的美好生活，消费方式从大众化迈向个性化，消费需求从满足生存转向享受生活，从有衣穿到穿得时尚、穿出个性，从吃饱饭到吃得丰富、吃出健康，从能出行到快捷通畅、平稳舒适。中国青年的生活水平实现了质的跃升，高质量发展有了更加丰盈、更为坚实的物质基础。

精神成长空间更为富足。青年高质量发展，离不开精神生活的多姿多彩。受益于图书馆、博物馆、文化馆、美术馆等惠及青年的公共文化设施的不断完善<sup>①</sup>，中国青年享受的公共文化服务水平显著提高，逐渐从“去哪儿都新鲜”转变为“去哪儿都习以为常”，精神品位不断提升。随着图书、电视、电影、文艺演出等传统文化产业和数字创意、网络视听、数字出版、数字娱乐、线上演播等新兴文化产业迅猛发展，青年所需所盼的公共文化产品日渐丰富，逐渐从“有什么看什么”转变为“想看什么有什么”，文化视野更加开阔。文化旅游、乡村旅游、红色旅游、国际旅游等各类旅游产品应有尽有，青年走出去看世界的需求得到更好满足，逐渐从“在家门口转转”转变为“哪里都能去逛逛”，见识阅历更加广博。不断扩展的精神文化生活空间，为中国青年追求更有高度、更有境界、更有品位的人生提供了更多可能。

在与互联网的相互塑造中成长。互联网深刻塑造了青年，青年也深刻影响了互联网。2020年底，中国6岁至18岁未成年人网民达1.8亿，未成年人互联网普及率达94.9%，城乡普及率差距从2018年的5.4个百分点缩小至0.3个百分点，互联网已经成为当代青少年不可或缺的生活方式、成长空间、“第六感