

Xi Jinping's Address at the Meeting Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland and the Inaugural Ceremony of the Sixth-Term Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

习近平在庆祝香港回归祖国25周年大会暨香港特别行政区第六届政府就职典礼上的讲话

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Xi Jinping

习近平

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Fellow Compatriots,
Dear Friends,

Today we are gathered here to celebrate this grand occasion marking the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland, and to hold the inaugural ceremony of the sixth-term government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

First of all, I would like to extend sincere greetings to all the people of Hong Kong. I also extend warm congratulations to the newly inaugurated sixth-term HKSAR Chief Executive Mr. John Lee, principal officials of the sixth-term HKSAR government, and members of the Executive Council. And let me express heartfelt appreciation to all our compatriots both at home and abroad, and international friends for their support for the cause of "one country, two systems" and for Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

In the over 5,000-year history of Chinese civilization, our ancestors working hard on the land south of the Five Ridges is an important chapter. In the history of modern China after the Opium War in 1840, the humiliation of ceding Hong Kong is a page of pain, and

同胞们，朋友们：

今天，我们在这里隆重集会，庆祝香港回归祖国25周年，举行香港特别行政区第六届政府就职典礼。

首先，我向全体香港居民，致以诚挚的问候！向新就任的香港特别行政区第六任行政长官李家超先生，向香港特别行政区第六届政府主要官员、行政会议成员，表示热烈的祝贺！向支持“一国两制”事业、支持香港繁荣稳定的海内外同胞和国际友人，表示衷心的感谢！

中华民族五千多年的文明史，记载着华夏先民在岭南这片土地上的辛勤耕作。鸦片战争以后

also included is the Chinese people's fight for the survival of our country. The past century has witnessed how the Communist Party of China has united and led the Chinese people in its magnificent endeavors for a better future, to which fellow Chinese in Hong Kong have made unique and significant contributions. Throughout history, people in Hong Kong have always maintained a close bond with the motherland in weal and woe.

Hong Kong's return to the motherland marked the beginning of a new era for the region. Over the past 25 years, with the full support of the country and the joint efforts of the HKSAR government and people from all walks of life in Hong Kong, the success of "one country, two systems" has won recognition throughout the world.

Since its return, Hong Kong, amid China's monumental reform and opening-up efforts, has been breaking new ground, functioning as an important bridge between the Chinese mainland and the rest of the world. As a result, it has made irreplaceable contributions to our country's economic miracle marked by long-term, stable, and rapid growth. Proactively integrating itself into the country's overall development and carving out its role in national strategies, Hong Kong has maintained its strengths in its high degree of openness and in aligning with international rules. In doing so, the region has been playing an important role in raising China's opening up to a higher level with wider coverage and scope. With continuously expanding areas and enabling mechanisms for Hong Kong's cooperation and exchanges with the mainland, people in Hong Kong now have better opportunities to start their own businesses and make achievements.

Since its return, Hong Kong has overcome various hardships and challenges and advanced steadily forward. Be it the global financial crisis, the COVID-19 epidemic, or social unrest, none of them have stopped Hong Kong from marching forward. Over the past 25 years, Hong Kong's economy has been thriving, its status as an international financial, shipping, and trading center has been maintained, and its innovative science and technology industries have been booming. Hong Kong has remained one of the most liberal and open economies in the world, it has also maintained a world-class business environment, its previous laws including the practice of the common law have been maintained and developed, various social programs have made all-around progress, and overall social stability has been ensured. As a cosmopolis, Hong Kong's vitality has impressed the world.

Since its return, Hong Kong has ensured its people enjoy their status as masters of the region. With the policy of the people of Hong Kong administering Hong Kong and a high degree of autonomy in practice, the region has truly entered an era of democracy. Over the past 25 years, Hong Kong's constitutional order based on the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law of the HKSAR has been maintained in a steady and sound manner. The central government's overall jurisdiction over Hong Kong has been well implemented, and a high degree of autonomy in the region has been exercised as it should. The Hong Kong National Security Law was adopted, which has established the legal system to safeguard national security in the region. The electoral system of Hong Kong has been modified and improved, thereby materializing the principle that Hong Kong should be administered by patriots. The democratic system of the special administrative region (SAR) conforms to both the "one country, two systems" principle and the region's constitutional status. It is in the interest of Hong Kong residents' democratic rights and the region's prosperity and stability, securing a bright future for the region.

Fellow Compatriots,
Dear Friends,

的中国近代史，记载着香港被迫割让的屈辱，更记载着中华儿女救亡图存的抗争。中国共产党团结带领人民进行的波澜壮阔的百年奋斗史，记载着香港同胞作出的独特而重要的贡献。有史以来，香港同胞始终同祖国风雨同舟、血脉相连。

香港回归祖国，开启了香港历史新纪元。25年来，在祖国全力支持下，在香港特别行政区政府和社会各界共同努力下，“一国两制”实践在香港取得举世公认的成功。

——回归祖国后，香港在国家改革开放的壮阔洪流中，敢为天下先，敢做弄潮儿，发挥连接祖国内地同世界各地的重要桥梁和窗口作用，为祖国创造经济长期平稳快速发展的奇迹作出了不可替代的贡献。香港积极融入国家发展大局、对接国家发展战略，继续保持高度自由开放、同国际规则顺畅衔接的优势，在构建我国更大范围、更宽领域、更深层次对外开放新格局中发挥着重要功能。香港同内地交流合作领域全面拓展、机制不断完善，香港同胞创业建功的舞台越来越宽广。

——回归祖国后，香港战胜各种风雨挑战，稳步前行。无论是国际金融危机、新冠肺炎疫情，还是一些剧烈的社会动荡，都没有阻挡住香港行进的脚步。25年来，香港经济蓬勃发展，国际金融、航运、贸易中心地位稳固，创新科技产业迅速兴起，自由开放雄冠全球，营商环境世界一流，包括普通法在内的原有法律得到保持和发展，各项社会事业全面进步，社会大局总体稳定。香港作为国际大都会的勃勃生机令世界为之赞叹。

——回归祖国后，香港同胞实现当家作主，实行“港人治港”、高度自治，香港真正的民主由此开启。25年来，以宪法和基本法为基础的特别行政区宪制秩序稳健运行，中央全面管治权得到落实，特别行政区高度自治权正确行使。制定香港国安法，建立在香港特别行政区维护国家安全的制度规范，修改完善香港选举制度，确保了“爱国者治港”原则得到落实。香港特别行政区的民主制度符合“一国两制”方针，符合香港宪制地位，有利于维护香港居民民主权利，有利于保持香港繁荣稳定，展现出光明的前景。

“One country, two systems” is an unprecedented innovation. Its fundamental purpose is to safeguard China’s sovereignty, security, and development interests and to maintain long-term prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao. All that the central government has done are for the benefits of Hong Kong and Macao, for the well-being of all residents of the two regions, and for the future of the whole country. At the meeting celebrating the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong’s return to the motherland in 2017, I stated that the central government, in implementing the principle of “one country, two systems,” will maintain two key points: first, the central government will remain resolute in implementing the principle, and will not change or vacillate in this stand; and second, the principle will be implemented as what it is originally intended precisely. Today, I would like to stress again that “one country, two systems” has been tested repeatedly in practice. It serves the fundamental interests of not only Hong Kong and Macao, but also the whole country and the nation. It has gained wide support from the 1.4 billion-plus Chinese people including the residents of Hong Kong and Macao. It is also widely accepted by the international community. There is no reason for us to change such a good policy, and we must adhere to it in the long run.

Fellow Compatriots,

Dear Friends,

A review of the past can light the way forward. The practice of “one country, two systems” in Hong Kong has left us both valuable experience and profound inspiration. What has been done over the past 25 years tells us that only if we have a profound and accurate understanding of the laws guiding the practice of “one country, two systems,” can we make sure our cause advances in the right direction in a sound and sustained manner.

First, we must fully and faithfully implement the principle of “one country, two systems.” This principle embodies a complete system. Its top priority is to safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests. With this as a prerequisite, Hong Kong and Macao can keep the previous capitalist systems unchanged for a long time and enjoy a high degree of autonomy. Since the socialist system is the fundamental system of the People’s Republic of China and leadership by the Communist Party of China is the defining feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics, all residents in the special administrative regions should willingly respect and uphold the country’s fundamental system. The thorough and precise implementation of the “one country, two systems” principle will open up broader prospects for the development of Hong Kong and Macao. The more firmly the “one country” principle is upheld, the greater strength the “two systems” will be unleashed for the development of the SARs.

Second, we must uphold the central government’s overall jurisdiction while securing the SARs’ high degree of autonomy. Since Hong Kong’s return to the motherland, it has been re-integrated into China’s governance system, and a constitutional order was established with the “one country, two systems” principle as its fundamental guideline. The central government’s overall jurisdiction over the SARs underpins their high degree of autonomy, and such autonomy bestowed by the law is fully respected and resolutely safeguarded by the central government. Only when the enforcement of the central government’s overall jurisdiction dovetails with the fulfillment of a high degree of autonomy in the SARs, can the SARs be well governed. The SARs uphold the executive-led system. The executive, legislative, and judicial branches perform their duties in accordance with the basic laws and other relevant laws. The executive and legislative branches check and balance and cooperate with each other while the judiciary exercises its power independently.

同胞们、朋友们！

“一国两制”是前无古人的伟大创举。“一国两制”的根本宗旨是维护国家主权、安全、发展利益，保持香港、澳门长期繁荣稳定。中央政府所做的一切，都是为了国家好，为了香港、澳门好，为了港澳同胞好。在庆祝香港回归祖国20周年大会上，我曾经讲过，中央贯彻“一国两制”方针坚持两点，一是坚定不移，确保不会变、不动摇；二是全面准确，确保不走样、不变形。今天，我要再次强调，“一国两制”是经过实践反复检验了的，符合国家、民族根本利益，符合香港、澳门根本利益，得到14亿多祖国人民鼎力支持，得到香港、澳门居民一致拥护，也得到国际社会普遍赞同。这样的好制度，没有任何理由改变，必须长期坚持！

同胞们、朋友们！

温故知新，鉴往知来。“一国两制”在香港的丰富实践给我们留下很多宝贵经验，也留下不少深刻启示。25年的实践告诉我们，只有深刻理解和准确把握“一国两制”的实践规律，才能确保“一国两制”事业始终朝着正确的方向行稳致远。

第一，必须全面准确贯彻“一国两制”方针。“一国两制”方针是一个完整的体系。维护国家主权、安全、发展利益是“一国两制”方针的最高原则，在这个前提下，香港、澳门保持原有的资本主义制度长期不变，享有高度自治权。社会主义制度是中华人民共和国的根本制度，中国共产党领导是中国特色社会主义最本质的特征，特别行政区所有居民应该自觉尊重和维护国家的根本制度。全面准确贯彻“一国两制”方针将为香港、澳门创造无限广阔的发展空间。“一国”原则愈坚固，“两制”优势愈彰显。

第二，必须坚持中央全面管治权和保障特别行政区高度自治权相统一。香港回归祖国，重新纳入国家治理体系，建立起以“一国两制”方针为根本遵循的特别行政区宪制秩序。中央政府对特别行政区拥有全面管治权，这是特别行政区高度自治权的源头，同时中央充分尊重和坚定维护特别行政区依法享有的高度自治权。落实中央全面管治权和保障特别行政区高度自治权是统一衔接的，也只有做到这一点，才能够把特别行政区治理好。特别行政区坚持实行行政主导体制，行