

Exploring the Pathways to Advancing the Party's Self-Revolution in the New Era

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Abstract: The courage for self-revolution is a fundamental requirement of Marxist political parties, the most distinctive political character of our Party, a powerful driving force for profound social transformation, and the source of vitality that ensures the Party's enduring strength. In the new era, advancing the Party's self-revolution necessitates robustly strengthening education in ideals and beliefs, intensively promoting the fight against corruption, adhering to criticism and self-criticism, and establishing and improving the system of intra-Party regulations. These measures collectively propel the comprehensive and rigorous governance of the Party toward greater depth.

Keywords: New Era, Self-Revolution, Pathway Exploration.

1. Introduction

In May 2015, General Secretary Xi Jinping first introduced the concept of "self-revolution" during the 12th meeting of the Central Leading Group for Comprehensively Deepening Reform. In July 2016, at the celebration of the 95th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, he formally integrated self-revolution into the domain of Party building. By January 2024, the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Commission for Discipline Inspection officially articulated "General Secretary Xi Jinping's Important Thoughts on the Party's Self-Revolution." Since entering the new era, the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics has faced a turbulent international landscape, a complex and ever-changing regional environment, and daunting tasks in reform, development, and stability. The Party must withstand the "Four Major Tests" while guarding against the "Four Major Risks." Strengthening the Party's self-revolution is essential not only for advancing the comprehensive and rigorous governance of the Party but also for propelling Chinese modernization and realizing the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

2. The Concept and Core Essence of Self-Revolution

2.1. The Concept of Self-Revolution

At its core, "self-revolution" refers to a process of revolutionary transformation directed inward, targeting oneself to achieve growth or specific goals. It embodies an unflinching self-assessment and a willingness to confront one's own flaws and shortcomings. General Secretary Xi Jinping has described self-revolution as the process of "strengthening the bones and replenishing calcium, detoxifying and cleansing, severing ties with what is harmful, and regenerating vitality." It involves continually removing the "viruses" that erode the Party's health, enhancing its self-immunity to prevent the decline of both leadership and governance.[1] Self-revolution is more than an act of self-denial; it encapsulates a spirit of aspiration and virtue, a

resolve to strive upward, and the ability to transcend oneself. It is an organic unity of action, spirit, willpower, capability, and wisdom.

2.2. The Core Essence of Self-Revolution

(1) Self-Purification

Self-purification is the foundational step in self-revolution. It requires identifying and addressing issues within the Party, clearing away ideological dust to enhance the Party's integrity and progressiveness. Just as the human body requires the removal of impurities, toxins, and tumors, the Party must decisively root out the negative factors that corrode its vitality. Strong measures, including drastic remedies and even surgical intervention, are necessary to safeguard the Party's purity and ensure its enduring strength.

(2) Self-Improvement

Self-improvement is a critical element of self-revolution, aiming to address weaknesses and enhance governance capabilities. Recognizing and confronting shortcomings is essential, but it is equally vital to actively mend and refine those deficiencies. This is the crux of practicing self-revolution and ensuring the Party's resilience and effectiveness.

(3) Self-Innovation

Self-innovation is the pivotal step of self-revolution. It emphasizes the courage to transcend outdated paradigms and lead the way in societal progress. The Party must break free from entrenched traditions and innovate its mindset, institutional mechanisms, and strategic approaches to meet the demands of the new era. This involves pushing forward theoretical, practical, institutional, cultural, and all-encompassing innovation. Through the process of discarding the old and embracing the new, the Party continuously forges a path toward the future.

(4) Self-Elevation

Self-elevation is the ultimate goal of self-revolution, striving for excellence in quality and capability. It demands that Party members and cadres commit to proactive and lifelong learning, continually updating their knowledge base. They must abandon reliance on past achievements and outdated perspectives, equipping themselves to navigate the

ever-changing tides of the times.

3. Practical Pathways to Advancing the Party's Self-Revolution in the New Era

3.1. Strengthening Education on Ideals and Beliefs

Ideals and beliefs are the root and soul of Communist Party members, and remaining true to their original aspirations and founding mission is the internal driving force for advancing the Party's self-revolution. General Secretary Xi Jinping has repeatedly emphasized that Party members must remember their ideals and beliefs, stay committed to their original aspirations, and maintain focus on their mission. Without addressing Party members' ideological understanding and their commitment to these principles, self-revolution cannot be sustained. On one hand, ideals and beliefs inspire members' personal ideological transformation. As the vanguard of the Chinese people and nation, the Communist Party of China (CPC) upholds the mission of serving the people and carries a solemn and sacred responsibility to work for the happiness of the majority. Throughout history, from the Long March to the Yan'an period, through the War of Liberation and the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea, the Party has achieved victory after victory, driven by the unshakable belief that "revolutionary ideals are higher than the heavens." In the new era, Party members must remember their original aspirations, uphold their moral bottom line, and frequently engage in self-reflection. In critical moments, they must prioritize the greater good over petty personal gains. On the other hand, a sense of crisis promotes the Party's self-revolution. General Secretary Xi Jinping has emphasized that the Party must strengthen its sense of urgency. Without this awareness and an attitude of self-vigilance, complacency and self-satisfaction can set in, eroding the Party's momentum and threatening its progressiveness. The famous exchange between Mao Zedong and Huang Yanpei in the Yan'an cave dwellings serves as a long-standing reminder to remember the "two imperatives"—maintaining humility and vigilance. From a practical standpoint, the Party continues to face "four dangers," "four forms of impurity," and various tests, all of which demand steadfast commitment to the original mission. With a spirit of perpetual readiness, the Party can carry out great self-revolution, forging a vanguard organization that ensures national prosperity and revitalization.

3.2. Intensifying the Fight Against Corruption

Intensifying the fight against corruption is a critical requirement for advancing the Party's self-revolution. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party has tackled corruption with overwhelming determination, achieving significant progress in enhancing its purity and integrity. However, the task of combating corruption remains unfinished, as issues persist that require rectification, and the fight against corruption is a never-ending mission. General Secretary Xi Jinping has emphasized that "corruption is the greatest threat facing our Party, [2]" identifying it as the primary obstacle to the Party's self-revolution and a grave threat to its purity. Neglecting or delaying anti-corruption efforts would pose severe risks. In Party building, it is essential to maintain unwavering resolve in promoting integrity and rectifying misconduct, ensuring

the Party's organizational purity and health. The Party must sustain a high-pressure anti-corruption campaign, adopt a zero-tolerance approach to internal corruption, and establish robust institutional safeguards to ensure officials "dare not, cannot, and do not want to be corrupt." Effective management of leaders at all levels is crucial, requiring them to cultivate strong moral character, strictly adhere to Party discipline and national laws, and genuinely use their power to serve the people. Additionally, strengthening the construction of clean culture in the new era, drawing inspiration from advanced political cultures across history and the world, the Party must foster the values of Chinese Communists, guiding all members to realize their personal worth through serving the collective interests of the people. This collective effort will continuously build momentum for integrity and discipline within the Party.

3.3. Upholding Criticism and Self-Criticism

Upholding criticism and self-criticism is a powerful tool for advancing the Party's self-revolution. General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized during a democratic life meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee that "the weapon of criticism and self-criticism must be frequently used, properly wielded, and fully utilized so that it becomes a habit, a conscious act, and a responsibility. [3]" These statements underscore that criticism and self-criticism effectively enhance the governance capabilities of a vanguard party and should be ingrained as a work ethic. Criticism and self-criticism serve as vital tools for unity and leadership within the Party, representing an essential strategy for advancing its self-revolution. Historically, this work style has significantly contributed to Party building by shaping a disciplined, just, and highly capable cadre team. During the Yan'an Rectification Movement, Mao Zedong innovatively proposed incorporating criticism and self-criticism as one of the Party's three major work styles. Practical experience has demonstrated that through comprehensive Marxist education movements, the Party clarified theoretical and practical Marxist issues, strengthened unity, and facilitated the sustainable development of revolutionary endeavors. In the new era, adhering to the excellent tradition of criticism and self-criticism remains critical for the Party's self-revolution. Party members and officials must actively embrace self-revolution, persist in the spirit of self-scrutiny, and regularly reflect on and address shortcomings in their work. They should have the courage to correct their mistakes, purify their thoughts, and foster a clean and upright Party atmosphere.

3.4. Establishing and Improving the System of Intra-Party Rules and Regulations

Perfecting the system of intra-Party rules and regulations is a fundamental principle and institutional safeguard for advancing the Party's self-revolution. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that "issues of institutional governance carry fundamental, overarching, stable, and long-term significance, [4]" highlighting that refining and standardizing internal Party rules is a foundational and enduring measure for ensuring self-revolution. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, the Party Central Committee has placed great emphasis on developing internal regulatory frameworks. Over time, this effort has led to a comprehensive intra-Party regulatory system guided by the Party Constitution, supported by relevant laws, foundational standards, and management provisions. This framework ensures close coordination and

systematic complementarity, establishing a centralized, unified leadership and an authoritative, efficient supervision system. It accelerates the processes of governing the Party and the country based on laws and regulations, providing a legal foundation for advancing self-revolution.

First, adhering to General Secretary Xi Jinping's Thought on the Rule of Law must serve as the fundamental guideline for improving the system of intra-Party rules and regulations. Second, efforts must focus on implementing the strategic plans outlined at the 20th National Congress of the CPC by enhancing institutional mechanisms, refining the unified leadership framework, and strengthening effective oversight of leading bodies. This approach will ensure high-quality progress in supervision and inspection with a spirit of thorough self-revolution. Third, there must be a robust system for theoretical research, mechanism building, and talent cultivation related to intra-Party regulations. It is essential to address weak areas in the regulatory framework through amendments, abolishment, formulation, and interpretation, thereby increasing the enforceability and effectiveness of these regulations. Advancing the optimization of legal disciplines, promoting the development of intra-Party regulation studies, and fostering a high-quality talent pool dedicated to intra-Party regulatory construction are critical. Additionally, accelerating the development of textbooks on intra-Party regulations will prepare a cadre of well-rounded professionals equipped to contribute to the regulatory system with both moral integrity and legal expertise.

4. Conclusion

To solve the unique problems of major parties, we must deeply grasp the scientific connotation and core meaning of

self-revolution, constantly enhance the ability of self-purification, self-improvement, self-innovation and self-improvement, vigorously strengthening the education of ideals and beliefs, further intensifying the fight against corruption, upholding criticism and self-criticism, establishing and improving the system of intra-party rules and regulations, promote the in-depth development of the party's self-revolution, and better play the role of political guarantee in comprehensively and strictly governing the party.

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