

# CHINESE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND REPRESENTATION

**Section 3:** China is a **unitary** system (like France) rather than a **federal** system (like Brazil, India, Nigeria)

Structure of the **Chinese Communist Party (CCP)** (see p. 651)

- The political power and influence increases as the organizational pyramid moves up
  - The **National Party Congress** (2,129 delegates) meets only once every 5 years
  - The **Central Committee** (204 full and 167 alternating members) meets annually
  - The most powerful organizations are the Politburo and the Standing Committee
    - **Politburo** (25 members – also includes the 9 Standing Committee members)
    - **Standing Committee** (9 members): includes all the top leaders, ranked
- **Standing Committee**
  - Led originally by the chairman ('chairman' Mao), now by the General Secretary
  - Leadership under Mao and Deng was very personal; under Jiang and Hu it is more collective
  - **Hu Jintao's** current focus: creating a "harmonious socialist society" by addressing inequality, pollution, health

Legislature: **National People's Congress (NPC)** – not to be confused with the National *Party* Congress

- Challenges: the creation of truly independent regulatory agencies that set and enforce standards

## **Military and Police**

The military: the **People's Liberation Army (PLA)**: the largest military force in the world (2.3 million active personnel, down from 4 million in 1989). Fewer military personnel per capita than the US, and vastly less spending on defense per capita than the US

System of **labor camps**, with ability to charge suspects outside of the formal system for up to four years.

**Judicial** system is only recently recovering from attacks on its legitimacy during the cultural revolution (now more than 100,000 lawyers in China—compared with 1 million in the US), although Chinese courts are more active for addressing public claims recently. **Conviction rate** is 98-99% for all criminal cases (!)

-**Capital punishment** cases are frequent (China leads the world in capital punishment with its official toll of 470, but the real figure could be closer to 6,000), and are administered with a bullet to the back of the head

**Subnational Government.** Five layers of government: central government; province; city; county; rural towns

**Guanxi:** the role of family/friend ties – effectively the Chinese version of Cronyism and prebendalism

## **Section 4**

**The Evolution of Communist Party Thought:** (666-7) Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping's "Four Cardinal Principles", Jiang Zemin's "Three Represents", and Hu Jintao's "harmonious socialist society"

**The Media:** along with education, serves as the CCP's greatest propaganda tool, although the state control on the media is weakening. The arts also represent an area in which potential for social change abounds. 'Political study' is still a daily element in Chinese primary schools, but it is not the same dominating force it was during the Cultural Revolution

Religious life is technically free—as the resurgence of local deities demonstrates—but certain groups, including Christians, the Falun Gong, and the Tibetan Buddhists, are heavily and openly discriminated against by state forces.

The non-Han China—Tibet, Xinjiang, and Inner Mongolia are all strategically vital, and all potential secessionist threats—and the special case of **Tibet**

- A Theocracy since the 13<sup>th</sup> century
- 'considered part of China' by the Chinese, but left to its own devices for centuries
- Invaded by the PLA's "peaceful liberation" force in 1949
- Arguably, the CCP is engaging in planned genocide of the Tibetan culture and religion