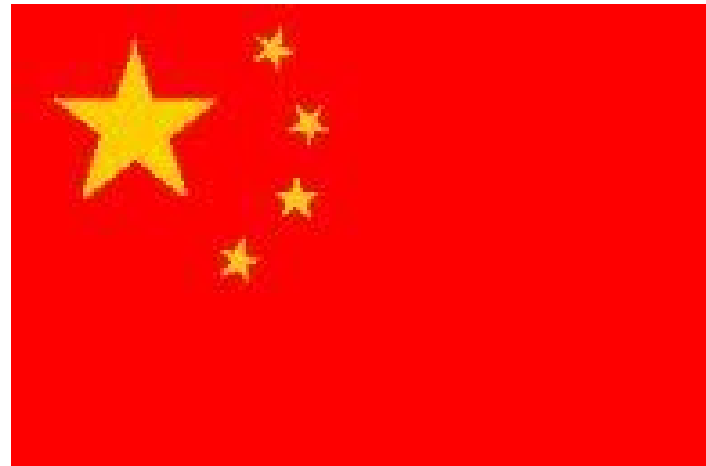
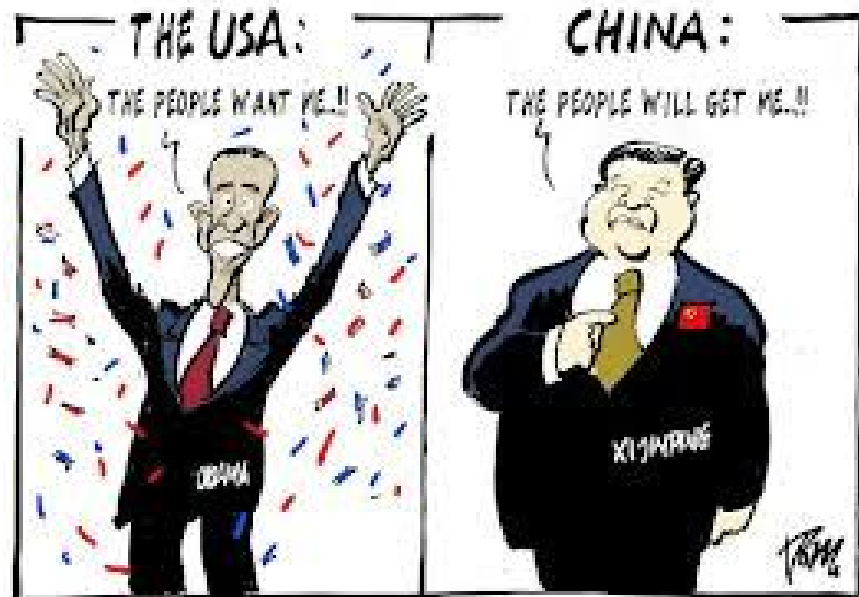


# Political Institutions of China



# ELECTIONS

- Elections are designed to give the party-state greater legitimacy
- CCP controls elections
- Direct, secret-ballot elections at local level
- Indirect elections at other levels



# NONCOMMUNIST PARTIES

- The CCP allows the existence of eight "democratic" parties.
- Membership is small and has very little power
- They plan an important advisory role to the party leaders and generate support for CCP policies
- Attend National Party Congress (NPC) as nonvoting deputies



# Political Institutions

- Principle of **dual rule**
- China's policy making is governed more directly by factions and personal relationships (*guanxi*)
- *Nomenklatura*

# Organization of the CCP

- Organized hierarchically by levels
- The party has a separate constitution from the government's constitution
  - General Secretary
  - Politburo Standing Committee (PSC)
  - Politburo
  - Central Committee (CC)
  - National Party Congress
  - Local party organizations
- Three Represents - 2001 inclusion into CCP

# Government

- ⦿ Three branches - a legislature, an executive, and a judiciary.
- ⦿ **National People's Congress**
- ⦿ The National People's Congress choose the President and Vice President of China, but there is only one party-sponsored candidate for each position

## Executive

- ⦿ **President**
- ⦿ **Premier**
- ⦿ Bureaucracy

# Executives

- President and Premier (Prime Minister)
  - **President** (Xi Jinping) is head of state with little constitutional power, but is also the General Secretary of CCP
  - **Prime Minister** (Li Keqiang) is head of State Council, or ministers, and is in charge of “departments” of government



# Executives

- Selected for 5-year terms
- Two term limit
- Serve on Central Military Commission, which oversees the PLA
- The CCP's leader is the General Secretary



# The Legislature

- National People's Congress
  - Constitution designates as "Highest organ of the state"
    - in writing only, subservient to the CCP
  - Meets in Beijing once a year for a couple of weeks to "legislate" for 1.3 billion people
    - Pass laws; amend Constitution
    - On paper very powerful, but checked by Party
  - almost 3,000 members
- State Council - controls daily activity, led by premier
  - manages socialist economy, establishes annual and 5 year economic plans
  - adaptation to open market



# 12th National People's Congress

- Elected March 2013
- 2,987 members
- 150 members of the Standing Committee
- 72 per cent Chinese Communist Party members
- 23 per cent are female
- Meets once a year for approximately two weeks Chairman:  
Zhang Dejiang

# Legislature

- The National People's Congress chooses a Central Committee of 200 that meets every 2 months to conduct business
- The Standing Committee is a smaller group of China's elite policymakers.
- Top leader of the NPC must also be a member of the CCP's Politburo Standing Committee



# Bureaucracy

- ◎ State Council
  - > Government Ministers and the Premier carry out the decisions made by National People's Congress (or Politburo and Central Committee)
  - > Chinese bureaucrats are paralleled by party members assigned to their ministries
  - > In spite of centralization, provincial and local ministries have had to adapt national policies to local needs



# Judiciary

- Traditionally “rule by law” not “rule of law”
- No criminal code before 1978
- Criminal justice is swift and harsh (capital punishment is a bullet in the back of the head)
- Criticism for extensive incarceration of political prisoners
  - Lui Xiaobo- 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner while in prison
  - Ai Weiwei - artist/activist
  - Falun Gong - meditation sect (50,000)
- There is a separate civil court system. Citizens can sue each other and certain government entities. Contracts are enforced.



THAT HEADLINE?  
...OH, IT'S JUST ABOUT  
THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL  
WE EXECUTED FOR SECURING  
HUGE CONTRACTS FOR  
HIS FAMILY.

社電通  
版出社

Coverly

# Guanxi

- Chinese for patron-client relationships
- Helps to build contacts and power
  - Can determine Politburo membership

# Changes to Civil Law

- China has developed contract, labor contract, property, tort, and anti-monopoly laws.
- Foreign lawyers have played a key role.





# THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY

*"Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun." – Mao*

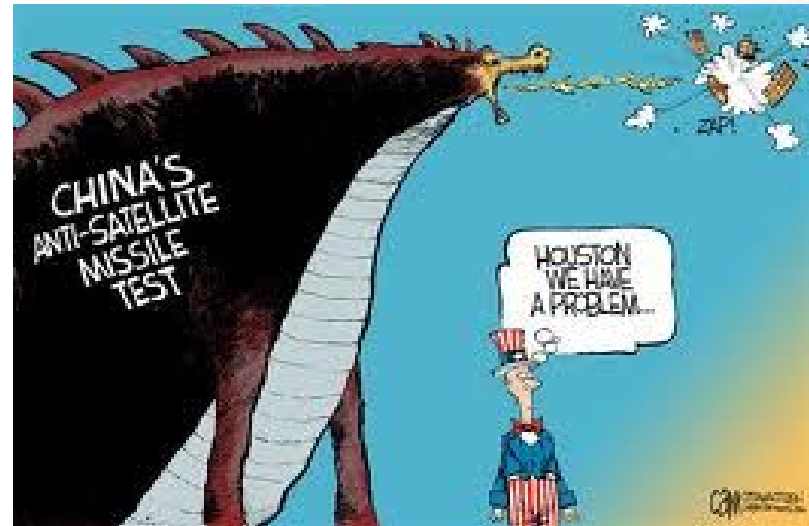
*"Our principle is that the party commands the gun, and the gun must never be allowed to command the party."*

The PLA has been used against Chinese citizens. It is an arm of state control and has been involved in politics.



# PLA

- During the 1970s and 80s the government didn't have money to modernize Army so it fended for itself
  - It ran hotels, construction companies, factories that produced pirate copies of everything, satellite dishes
- By the 1990s , the government began controlling the PLA and its activities
- Central Military Commission- party and gov't agency (party-state control)



# Internal Security

- Ministry of State Security
  - Combats espionage and gathers intelligence
- People's Armed Police
  - Guards public buildings and quells unrest
- Ministry of Public Security
  - Maintenance of law and order, investigations, surveillance
  - Maintains labor reform camps
  - No habeas corpus rights



# Civil Society

- GONGO'S
- NGO's
- Red Capitalists - private entrepreneurs/CCP
- Religious and worker protests
- Migrant workers
- "Netizens"
  - "Golden Shield" AKA "Great Firewall of China"
  - Twitter and Facebook banned
  - State controlled internet access and Net Nannies
  - Weibo and WeChat

# Ethnic and National Identity

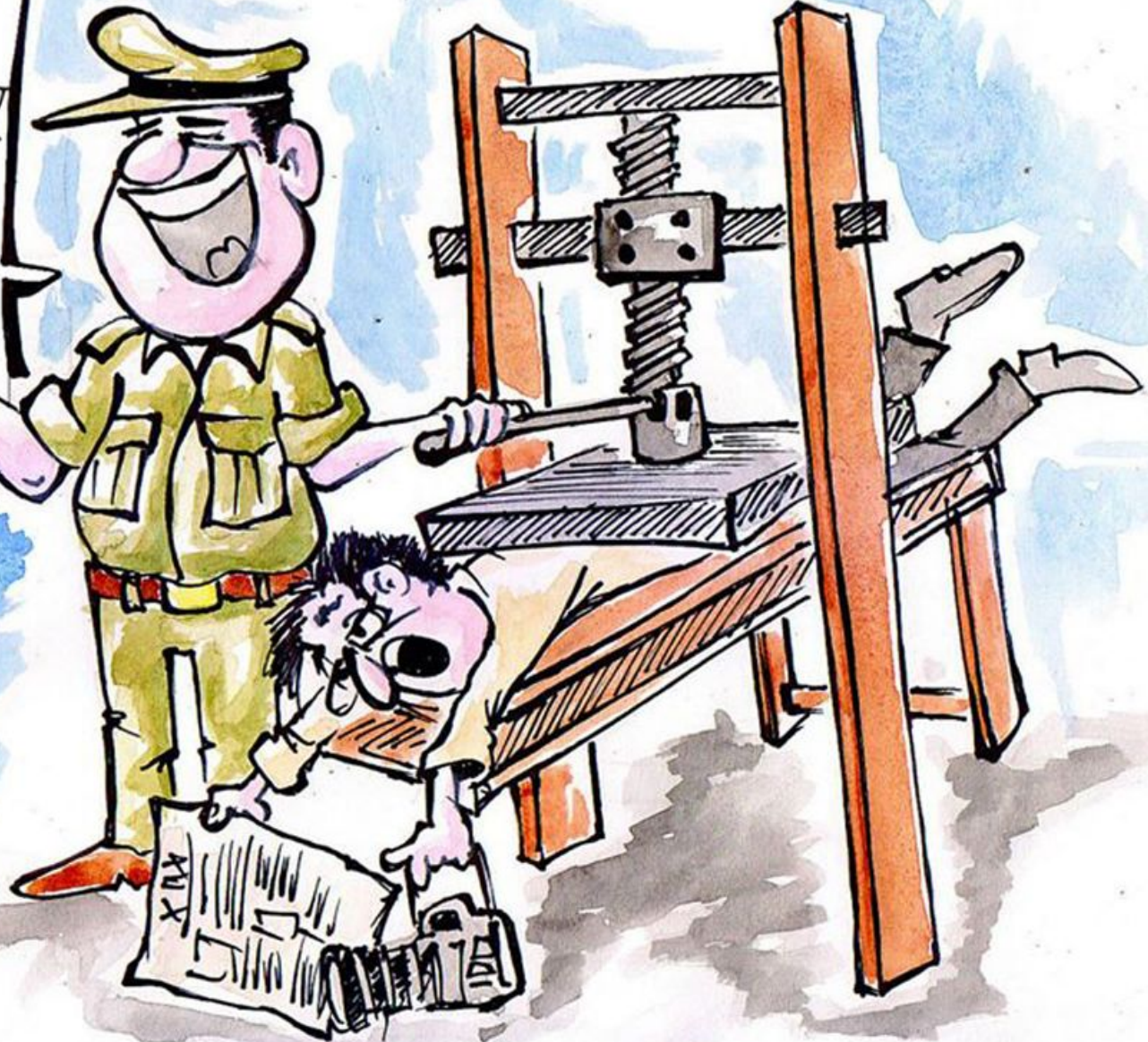
- 60% of land is “autonomous area” (Tibet & Xinjiang)
- Buddhist Tibetans and Muslim Uighurs push for independence
- CCP sees need for Western lands for natural resources
- Pacification
  - investment in infrastructure
  - transportation (railways in Tibet) and communication (broadband in Xinjiang)
  - provides jobs, income and opportunities

# Policies and Issues

- Economic reforms
  - Corruption
  - Iron rice bowl (social safety Net) broken
  - High unemployment
  - Inequality of classes
  - Floating population
  - Environmental damage
- Demand for political power and civil liberties?
- Will contact through trade mean that China will become more like its trading partners?



AS YOU SEE,  
WE STRONGLY  
BELIEVE IN  
THE POWER  
OF  
PRESS...



# Foreign Relations & Taiwan

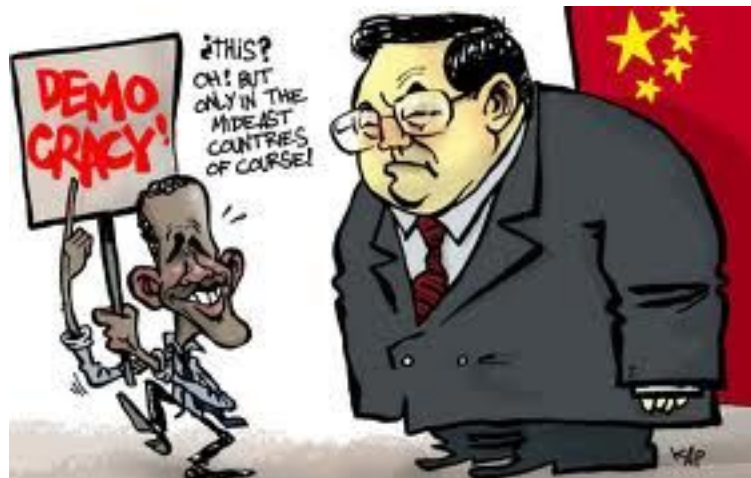
- Has overall improved relations with the world
  - Peaceful Rise
  - 2008 Olympics
  - UN Security Council
- Taiwan
  - hostility and tension in relationship but have grown economically together
- Hong Kong - peaceful integration
  - “One country, two systems”
- Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands - contested between Japan and China
- North Korea



# Political Change Today

Democratic reforms can be seen in these ways:

- Some input from the National People's Congress is accepted by the Politburo
- More emphasis is placed on laws and legal procedures
- Village elections are now semi-competitive, with choices of candidates and some freedom from the party's control
- There is debate within factions of the elite.
- Term limits and age limits for the executive



# New Leadership

- Xi Jinping became general secretary in 2012. He is a “reformer.”
- Bo Xilai was a contender for the position but was ousted and charged with wiretapping (his wife is a suspect in a murder). He is a conservative (traditional communist).
- State monopolies, corruption, inflation, and declining production are all challenges, along with pressure from civil society.
- Public opinion polling is used to get citizen input

Xi Jinping's *Chinese Dream*

strength, civility, harmony, and beauty

