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**Discussion with
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Staff Reporter
The Wall Street Journal

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THE RISE of XI JINPING

AND CHINA'S

SUPERPOWER FUTURE

CHUN HAN WONG



Coming to Understand Xi Jinping, and Growth of The PRC *A discussion featuring 'Party of One' Author, Chun Han Wong*

Compiled by Brenden Kazensky, PCFR Fellow

Summary

More and more nations are seemingly being caught in choosing between the United States and China. With the rise of Xi Jinping in 2013, the People's Republic of China has seen a strong ascension to powerful international influence. Prior to this, the PRC played little role in international affairs and was strictly focused on keeping to themselves. With consideration to how rapidly this changed, we need to learn more about who Xi Jinping is, how he got to where is, and come to understand just how he maintains such a strong power over the up and coming global superpower of China.

Issue

China's power and influence is rising rapidly, being seen as an alternative to Western practices. Where does the U.S. start to combat China's expanding influence?? One way is by starting at the top and addressing the practices of Xi Jinping. A lack of knowledge regarding his role and ideological practices can create misnomers and misunderstandings that lead to less desirable policy decision making. The United State's will not be able to effectively work with or against China, unless we know who runs the nation.

Background

Xi Jinping has been the President for the People's Republic of China for a decade this year, marking his powerful prowess and popularity over the region. He concurrently serves as General Secretary to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the most prominent party of China. Beginning in 2013, Xi Jinping has led China into unprecedented international power and is favored to a level that only Mao Zedong can match. He has gone as far as to abolish China's two-term presidency limit in 2018, which opened the door to his unprecedented election as China's President for a third five-year term.¹

His ruling style has been described as "authoritarian", converse to anything the United States represents. Using this authoritarian role, Xi Jinping is able to be a firm decision maker for the PRC and has gained a following that helps assert his rule. This can be seen in how he has taken steps to spread Chinese influence, particularly in the Global South, directly challenging Western power and ideologies. China's power has also spread to parts of Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, taking over in places that the United States used to primarily dominate. Xi Jinping has been able to market China as the superior and more reliable option to the United States, providing greater economic opportunities and investing more money in areas that the United States may not.

On top of this, Xi Jinping is making advances to unify China, particularly with the island of Taiwan, which plays an important role in the economic and political interests of the United States. The threat of aggression constantly looms over this important thorn in the PRC's side and goes to show the lengths Xi Jinping is willing to go to expand his power. The United States has taken a position of imposing strict sanctions against China in order to slow their progress, which has proven economically effective to a point, as China's economic growth 2023 has so far come up short of their goals and is comparatively much lower than prior years. This has inversely fueled Xi Jinping into furthering globalization of assets and allies against the United States.

Regardless of one's opinion on how the U.S. should move forward in its interactions with the PRC, it is important to understand the man in charge, as this will prove crucial in our relationship.

¹***Xi awarded 3rd term as China's president, extending rule | AP News***