II-C Political System in China

• Party State
  – Leninist Party
    • Authoritarian state aimed at the transformation of society
    • Penetration into society (ideology, economy, mass media, etc.)
  – Democratic Centralism
    • Bottom up: Discussions/consultation
    • Top down: Central decision-making and command

Chinese Communist Party

• National Party Congress
  – Held every five years
  – Delegates: 1,936 (87)
  – Items: political report, revision on the party constitution, and the election of the Central Committee (CC) and CC Standing Committee
• Indicator of political change
• Policy change
• Shift of balance of power

Chinese Communist Party Central Committee

• Annual plenums
• Discussion and ratification of party affairs
• Membership size: 285 (175 full + 110 alternates) in 1987, 317 (188 full + 129 alternates) in 1992
• The Politburo
• Elected by the CC
• 22 members and 7 standing committee members in 1992
• Standing Committee directs party, government and military

State

Party and State in China
General Secretary
Politburo
Central Committee
National Party Congress
Party

State Council
National Standing Committee
National People's Congress
State
### National People’s Congress

- Legislature to formally formulate laws
- Annual sessions
- Elect the President of the PRC
- Five-year term, 2,903 delegates
- Standing Committee
- Revision of the constitution in 1982 for legal governance
- Works as an interim national congress when NPC is not in session
- Declaration of martial law

### State Council

- Highest executive organ
- Premier, Vice Premiers, Ministers, etc.
- Oversight of technical and administrative issues
- Ministries and Commission
  - Foreign Affairs, National Defense, Education, etc.

### Leadership

1. Preeminent leader
   - Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, etc.
   - Personnel Appointment
   - Ideological Principle

2. Elders
   - Highly respected and influential semi-retired leaders—Old Guard
   - Capable of challenging the preeminent leader’s initiatives
   - Chen Yun, Peng Zhen, etc.

### Leadership (Continued)

3. Generalists
   - Widespread responsibilities
   - The chief lieutenants of the preeminent leader
   - Coordinate the activities of the Chinese bureaucracy
   - Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqi, Lin Biao, Zhao Ziyang, Hu Yaobang, Li Peng

4. Functional Specialists
   - Responsible for managing foreign affairs; the economy; military affairs; science and technology, etc.
**Party-State**

- Government bureaucracy: expertise-based technocracy in charge of policymaking
- Party (Principal) and Government (Agent)
- US: Constituents ==> Politicians (Congress, President) ==> Bureaucracy
- Types of oversight
  - Fire-alarm oversight
  - Rules and procedures where interest groups examine policy
  - Police-patrol oversight
  - Close scrutiny of administrative actions
  - Centralize active and direct approach to monitoring

**Parallel rule**

- Party oversight at each level
- Party group within a government organizations

**Leadership Structure**

- Leadership selection
- General Secretary
- Politburo (Standing Committee) Members
- Competition for support within the selectorate (the Central Committee+Elders)
- ==>Winning coalition
  - Hua Guofeng
  - Beneficiaries/Radicals vs. Survivors
  - Hu Yaobang, Zhao Ziyang
  - Conservatives vs. Liberals

**Leadership Structure II**

- Reciprocal Accountability
  - Leaders appoint government officials
  - Officials as Central Committee members choose leaders
- Selection Criteria
  - Ideology (Elders)
  - Policy ==> provision of parochial interest to regions and ministries (budget allocation)