

# **China's Political and Economic Future Under Xi Jinping**

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# Introduction:

Opinion

## Looking for a Jump-Start in China



By Nicholas Kristof

Jan. 5, 2013

HERE is my prediction about China: The new paramount leader, [Xi Jinping](#), will spearhead a resurgence of economic reform, and probably some political easing as well. Mao's body will be hauled out of Tiananmen Square on his watch, and Liu Xiaobo, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning writer, will be released from prison.

Would increasing prosperity lead to political liberalization? In 2012 when Xi Jinping took power, some observers thought his administration would loosen the party-state's grip on political and social life.

Instead, the Xi administration has deepened state control across a range of sectors. How did these analysts get it so wrong?

# 1) Controlling Civil Society

全国社会组织信用信息公示平台 (试运行)

组织状态	全部	正常	注销	撤销
信用状况	全部	正常	活动异常名录	严重违法失信名单
资金规模	全部	10万以下	10-50万	50-100万
组织类型	全部	社会团体	民办非企业单位	基金会
登记年限	全部	成立1年内	成立1-5年	成立5-10年
登记区域	全部	请选择省	请选择市	请选择区县
组织标识	<input type="checkbox"/> 志愿服务组织 <input type="checkbox"/> 行业协会商会 <input type="checkbox"/> 慈善组织 <input type="checkbox"/> 公开募捐资格			



Under the Xi administration, regulatory controls over registered NGOs have been tightened and party-state supervision deepened. At the same time, authorities have continued and intensified repression of unregistered politically sensitive organizations.

## 2) Expanding Police Surveillance



Repression of perceived political threats has for decades been a persistent characteristic of policing in China. However, under the Xi administration, police surveillance programs once reserved for criminalized populations have expanded to encompass entire communities.

### 3) The Impact of Pandemic Controls



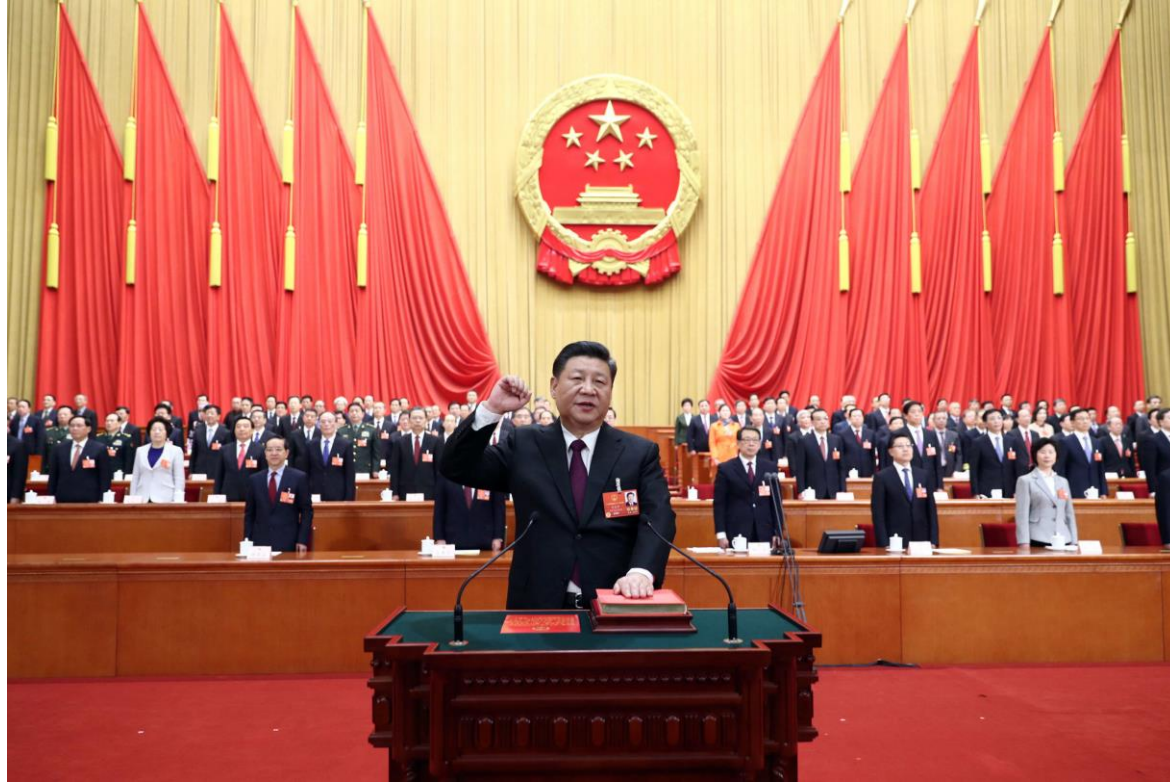
Harsh pandemic controls were initially credited with helping to stem the spread of COVID-19 in China. However, as the years have gone on, the human cost of rolling lockdowns and severe restrictions on social and economic life have taken their toll on the public.

## 4) Responding to Slowing Economic Growth



China's model of heavy state investment and export manufacturing were the engines of economic growth over the last few decades. However, they may no longer be able to guarantee high GDP growth rates in the future.

# Conclusion: The Path Not Taken



Increasing prosperity did not lead to political liberalization. But that does not mean that the deepening authoritarianism of the Xi administration was not inevitable. Another path was possible. It's just that it wasn't taken.