

# China's Development a Reflection of The PRC Gaining the Mandate of Heaven

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## Abstract

This last century will always be remembered if for nothing at all but for the countless revolutions (big and small) that rocked civilizations across the globe. The contribution made by majority of these unforgettable revolutions to the development of their respective countries today is negligible. One of such countries is Ghana (where I come from); which had her own share of revolutions in the past but remains economically stunted. China on the contrary has benefited immensely from one of such revolutions. Today the China is the main river to the world's economy sea. It was not by coincident that a highly rated and prestigious like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), will rate China as the leading economic superpower (thus succeeding the United States in relations to the purchasing power parity of GDP indicator). According to the IMF China produced 17% of the entire world's gross domestic product in 2014 surpassing USA's GDP contribution of 16%. As reported by the World Economic Forum, China's economy prevails as the single largest grantor to the world GDP growth. The Chinese contribution to universal growth is indeed, 50% preponderant than the united 0.8% contribution conceivably to be made by all of the purported advanced economies. It is more startling to note that, it took the country less than forty years to achieve these feet. Today whatever plays down in the Chinese economy whether positive or negative will have its consequences on the world's economy and there is countless evidence to support this claim. The question that lingers in the mind of many including development theorists remains; how did they do it? Surprisingly the answer is not far-fetched.

**Keywords:** Development, Revolution, Governance, Economy, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Policies

## Introduction

Talking about China in a single stance will be difficult if not impossible. One does not need a lens to see that China is a rising hegemon the next great superpower, a global economic power house. The startling transformation of the China in its economic and geopolitical status across the past 30 years is dumbfounding. Development they say is not an event but a conscious process. Development is a global human motif; it is a mechanism for meeting people's elemental needs and offering them the optimism of a better life. It is often argued that development is not exclusively an economic circumstance but comparatively a multi-dimensional system involving restructuring and reorientation of the entire economic and socio-cultural system. The dominant narrative across the globe is the fact that, It's only by way of development that we can tackle challenges facing the human race; development is the only mechanism through which we can protect the basic civil rights of citizen; only by way of growth and development can we promote the progress of human society. However, development does not happen on its own. It has to be triggered through the effective implementation reforms and policies and the ability to implement such sensitive policies seems to have eluded most leaders (both past and present) in the third world. The astonishing raise of China from a once backwards economy to an indispensable nation can only be attributed to one major factor; GOOD GOVERNANCE.

The communist revolution by Mao Zedong (affectionately called Chairman Mao) couldn't have come any time better. Chairman Mao was the genesis of what this great civilization has become today. A cause that this visionary leader. The question that crosses my mind is; how would China have been today had that revolution never happened? He would have certainly been worshiped as a deity had he lived some centuries earlier; do you concur? It was under Chairman Mao's leadership that the Chinese people who had long suffered oppression and exploitation won emancipation (both physically and mentally) and became masters of their country and their own future. His reign had a lot ebbs and flow that is only testament to the wise saying "good things don't come easy". The fruits for that turbulent start of a NEW CHINA are evident for all to see today.

The country in 1978 was stranded at a political crossroad. It was just emerging from the chaos of the demise of Chairman Mao. The whole world was watching as to what will happen next. It was at this very moment the party in power made what I believe was their most tactical decision ever in their history, thus to pick from its rich collection of potential leaders the right scion to Chairman Mao. As to faith will have it, the choice of a successor turned out to be if not more but equally a great visionary as his predecessor.

Deng Xiaoping was an outstanding Chinese statesman, politician, theorist, and diplomat, though he never wielded power as the head of government; he nevertheless served as the preeminent leader of the People's Republic of China between the period of 1978 and the early 1990s. Deng rose with optimal optimism at the time his country needed him most and became a vibrant reformer who led China towards a market economy. Deng's reforms sparked an array of tectonic changes, which started in the countryside. This extraordinary gentleman was

instrumental in China's economic rebuilding following the infamous Great Leap Forward in the early 1960s. If for nothing at all, political analyst will always credit Mr. Deng for revolutionizing socialist thinking. He developed socialism encompassed with Chinese characteristics which led the Chinese economic reform through the amalgamation of theories that later became known as the "socialist market economy". Deng been diplomatic by nature opened the country to foreign investment, the global market, and limited private competition. He often regarded as the architect whose ingenuity propelled China to become one of the adept economies under the sun and enormously raising the living standards of living of people; don't you bear with me on this? In 1978, Deng Xiaoping opened a new chapter for this country with his pragmatic programs and economic reforms. It was the dawn of remarkable things yet to come (New China was born). Deng's reform is largely hailed as a Second revolution and has left an indelible print on the hearts on many.

Another unforgettable face at the helm of affairs was Jiang Zemin (A name that brings a lot of memories to the Chinese). Under Jiang's reign, China accomplished consequential economic growth with the continuation of reforms, which saw the bloodless return of Macau and Hong Kong and from Portugal and the United Kingdom respectively and at the same time, China improved its relations with the outside world; as a result deepening the love the people has for Communist. The latter being as a result of an enhancement in the living standards: after all development is all about making people happy. Mr. Hu Jintao succeeded Zemin in what I describe as a tactical switch. The very first time I heard of this gentle man was when he met the then President of Ghana John Kuffuor in Jakarta in the early hours of April 23 2015. During his tenure of office, Hu reestablished state control in certain sectors of the economy that were relaxed by the preceding government, and was reactionary with political reforms. His government chaired over nearly a decade of consistent economic growth and development cementing China position as a major economic superpower. Domestically, he sought to better socio-economic equality through the Scientific Outlook on Development, which was calculated to enhance a "Harmonious Socialist Society" that was prosperous and free of social conflict. With regards to foreign policy, Mr Hu advocated for "China's peaceful development", pursuing soft power in international relations and a corporate approach to diplomacy. Throughout Hu's tenure, China's influence in Latin America, Africa, and many other developing regions sky rocketed. This extra ordinary gentle man possessed a low-key and reserved leadership style. His tenure was characterized by collective leadership and consensus-based rule. His administration has been acknowledged for concentrating more on an individual's technocratic competence than persona. These traits undoubtedly made Hu an enigmatic character in the public eye.

The election of the current first gentleman of the land; Xi Jinping is an impeccable manifestation that the reigning party undoubtedly can never disappoint in their quest to move china to another level. There is an old saying that, a man who always happens to be wearing a smile has a good heart; and don't you agree with me Mr Xi is a perfect reflection of this saying? I liken him to Qu Yuan (the infamous Chinese poet) with reference to his passion to annihilate corruption from the country; described as an accomplished political chess player who has cultivated an enigmatic strongman image as some great emperors of old. His colossal ambition for this great country can liken to that of Deng Xiaoping. As an astute politician, the adulation and respect he commands over this last few years is overweening. He's been front and center of China's efforts to anchor its position as the new superpower, while also crackdowns on corruption and dissent.

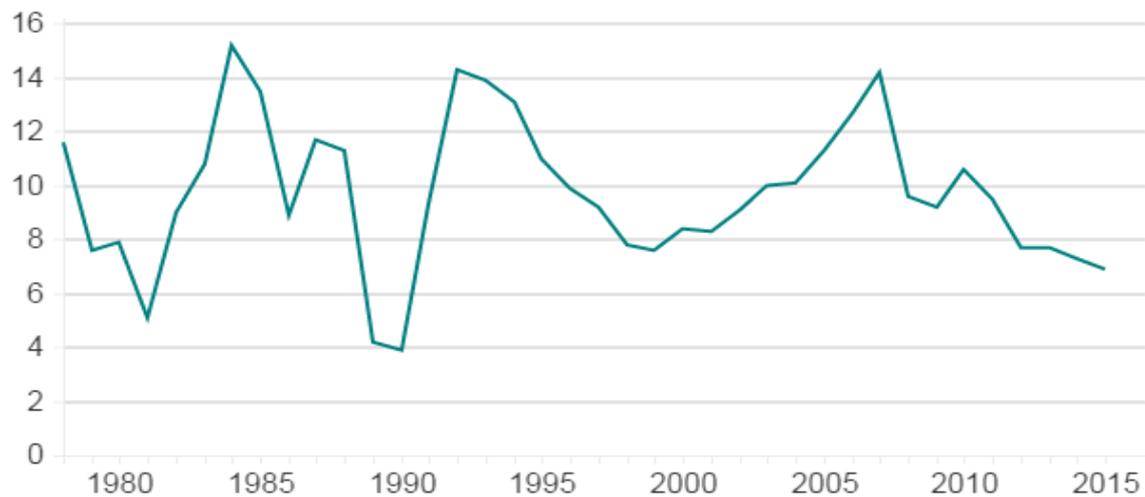
Some people may be quick to point out the level of poverty in the country without taken cognizance of the fact that, it only accounts for small fraction of the entire population. There is an African proverb that says there is a black sheep in every family; there is no country under the sun that does not have a fraction of the population stricken by poverty. The outside world may describe China as an economic miracle; pulling off the equivalent of renaissance, reform and industrial revolution in 30 years. But it is honest to give honor to whom honor is due. The ruling class have been clever in their dealings; having instilled diligence and hard-work in the people. I believe it all came about as a result of the crafty minds of the ruling party. The Chinese system of governance is among the best if not the best both on paper and on the ground and the facts and figures are there to speak for themselves. Based on the country's socio-cultural and historical background, this system of governance is by far the best in epic proportions. The system incorporates a multi-party cooperation which allows different democratic parties to participate in the discussion of political issues. Their members come from different sectors and of different backgrounds. Their participation contributes to the free airing of views and brainstorming. In turn, it can realize collective power and intelligence. This helps maintain social stability and solidarity. This mode of governance advocate for a centralized power which is a prerequisite for continuity and economic stability.

Development has been the top-most priority of this Communist Party of China and the visionary nature of the party has brought the country this far. China's economic inclination over the last decade has overwhelmed development economists who took the position that this Asian country will forever be engraved among nations with low/middle income due to its vast population size. In reference to its prevailing conditions, one can easily conclude that the country heeds to the popular Chinese socialist philosophy which hails development as been of paramount importance. Furthermore, no developing economy in the world comes close to China's quota to

global economic growth. China's economy fully accounts for 18 percent of world output (measured on a purchasing-power-parity basis). What else will one seek from his / her government if not development and improvement in the standard of living. The diagram below speaks volume for itself.

## China's GDP growth rate

%, inflation-adjusted



Source: National Bureau of Statistics of China



You don't need to understand rocket science to see that it doesn't matter how you slice it; China's economy remains the world's major growth engine. Despite the transitioning from the "old normal" to what the Chinese leadership has dubbed the "new normal," coupled with all the hand-wringing over the vaunted China slowdown which continuous to dominate the discussions of some development analysts, the global economic growth remains massively dependent on this ancient country.

Suffice it to say, ever since my visit to China, and having seen and learned things for myself, I can conclude that the western media has become ignominious for their skill at deception and stratagem. Though the influence they wield is tantamount to becoming humanly insurmountable, the Chinese ruling party's unparalleled ability to lessen their efforts to derail it focus is a stance that cannot be over stated. I can say without doubt that in the calculable future, the country will maintain its position in economic ranking of GDP which can be attributed to catch-up of its per capita income which is on the ascending yearly at 8%-10%. As with most popular sayings, there is some truth in the adage, "Great leaders are born, not made." To an extent, the capacity for great leadership is innate and all Chinese both home and abroad should be very grateful to their leaders for their untiring effort in making this ancient country an envy of all. I leave with an African proverb which states "the one who climb a good tree, deserves a push".

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