

China insight

**THE EIGHT-POINT
DECISION HAS
CHANGED CHINA**

CPC Launches Education Campaign to Improve Conduct

The Communist Party of China (CPC) has launched a Party-wide education campaign to implement its central leadership's "eight-point decision" on improving work conduct.

The campaign, initiated after the annual "two sessions" of the top legislature and political advisory body which concluded in mid-March, will run through late July, according to a high-level circular issued across the Party.

CPC members will study and implement the guiding principles of the "eight-point decision" and its supporting regulations during the campaign, with prominent violations of the rules to be addressed.

The campaign will also use cases where disciplinary breaches evolved into corruption to strengthen educational and deterrent efforts.

The "eight-point decision" is a set of rules adopted by the Party leadership in December 2012 to address chronic bureaucratic issues, including official privileges and extravagant banquets.

Spelled out in just over 600 words, the "eight-point decision" established rules for Party leaders governing research tours, meetings, documentation, and other official duties.

It later expanded into a Party-wide initiative for all members to adopt its principles to improve governance conduct. After more than a decade of implementation, the "eight-point decision" has been hailed as a "game changer" in China's governance.

The latest circular notes that the campaign should emphasize public participation and welcome public oversight, warning against superficial compliance during implementation.

According to official data, over 225,000 cases violating the rules were investigated nationwide in 2024 alone.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the Party has launched multiple education campaigns to reinforce members' ideals and convictions, including a 2024 initiative focusing on studying Party discipline. 

The Eight-Point Decision on Improving Party and Government Conduct



The Eight-Point Decision on Improving Party and Government Conduct and Building Closer Ties with the People was issued at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on December 4, 2012. It covers the following main areas:

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- doing better research and analysis and truly understanding actual conditions when doing grassroots-level studies;



- having strict rules on the publication of articles; and



- streamlining meetings and improving the way meetings are conducted;



- promoting frugality and the strict observance of rules on incorruptibility in government.



- making documents and briefing papers more concise and improving writing styles;



The eight-point decision is neither the highest standards, nor the ultimate one. It is only the first step in the CPC's efforts to improve its practices – the minimum expected of Party members. Xi Jinping stated that "leading officials at all levels must lead by example and serve as role models, and they must do as they say and live up to their promises. Within the Political Bureau, I will start with myself."

- standardizing procedures for working visits abroad;



Following the release of the eight-point decision, a series of measures on work practices are being issued.

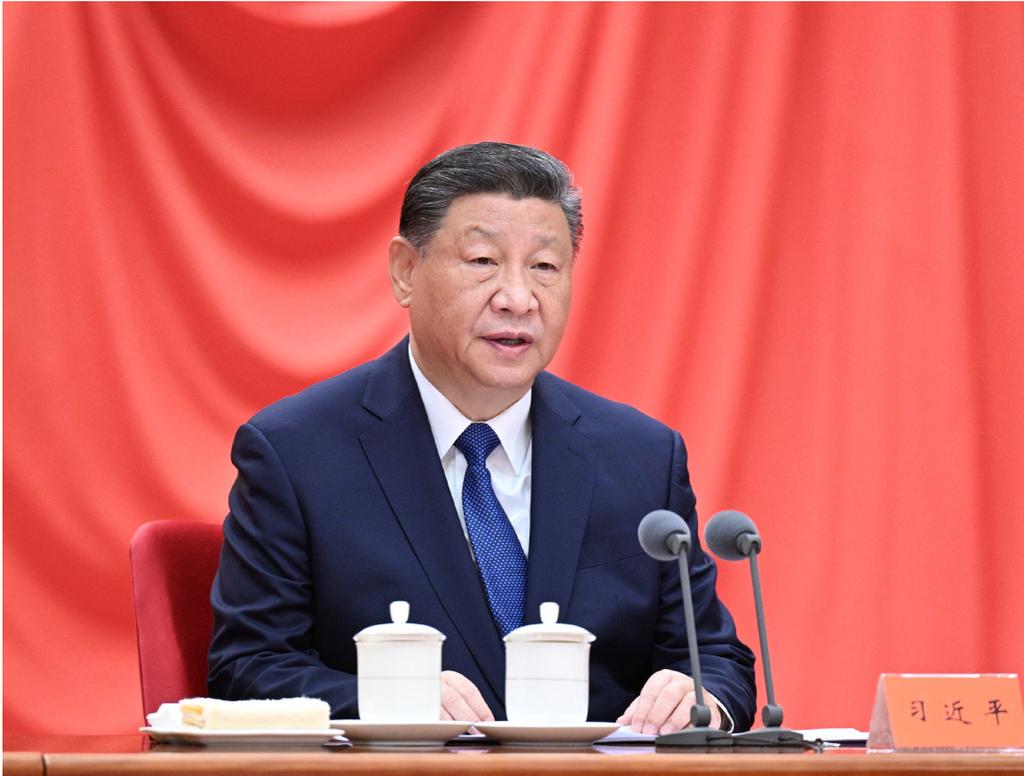
- improving security guard work and continuing to observe the principle of doing what improves relations with the people;



- improving news report;



Xi Jinping's Discourses on Improving Party's Conduct



General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Xi Jinping, also Chinese President and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, addresses the fourth plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) on January 6, 2025 (XINHUA)

The Party's conduct is crucial to winning the people's support and is a matter concerning the Party's survival or demise.

—Excerpt from the speech during the first meeting of the 18th CPC Central Committee Political Bureau on December 4, 2012

We must mobilize the whole Party to improve Party conduct, uphold integrity and combat corruption. Within the scope of their functions and duties, Party committees at all levels should bear total leadership responsibility for improving Party conduct and building a clean government. We must continue to implement and improve the

leadership system and working mechanism for combating corruption, give full play to the role of Party discipline inspection commissions, supervision departments, and judiciary and auditing agencies, and work with them in a concerted effort to better improve Party conduct, uphold integrity and combat corruption.

—Excerpt from the speech at the Second Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection on January 22, 2013

We should adhere to the principle that the Party should supervise its own conduct and run itself with

strict discipline, and strengthen the Party's leadership in improving Party conduct, upholding integrity, and combating corruption. We should improve our institutions to better fight against corruption. We must also redouble our efforts in political and theoretical education, reinforce stricter Party discipline, continue to remove the Four Malfeasances be severe in cracking down on corruption, and respond to the demands of the people.

—Excerpt from the speech at the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Commission for Discipline Inspection on January 14, 2014

Our Party has a pivotal task in the final phase of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects. We have pledged to “be a good blacksmith in forging good tools”, and we have given our word to hammer hard in observing Party discipline. Over the past three years we have been addressing the problems of being “lax, slack, and lenient” in Party governance, and effectively sent out a warning to the whole Party to prevent, deter and punish corruption. The campaign against corruption is resolute and relentless.

—Excerpt from the speech at the Sixth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Commission for Discipline Inspection on January 12, 2016

The Four Malfeasances are difficult to eradicate. Therefore, we should never slacken our efforts in rectifying these problems, and there is no end to the task of improving our conduct. Favoring form over substance and bureaucratism are entirely incompatible with the nature, mission and fine conduct of our Party. They are the arch-enemies of our Party and the people.

—Excerpt from the speech at a meeting of criticism and self-criticism among members of the Political Bureau of the 19th CPC Central Committee on December 25-26, 2017

Now, officials at the grassroots complain that “thousands of hammers strike from above, but there is only one nail to be driven down below”, and that “thousands of swords hack down from above, but there is only one neck for the blades”. This must

change. The Central Committee has set requirements for solving these problems.

—Excerpt from the speech at the 10th group study session of the Political Bureau of the 19th CPC Central Committee on November 26, 2018

Eradicating the practice of favoring form over substance and bureaucratism is an important task. In combating the former, we need to ensure officials make real efforts at work, urge them to foster a correct attitude towards performance, and urge them to avoid fickleness in their daily work, abandon selfishness, and avoid distractions. In opposing the latter, we need to tackle the problem of nonfeasance in safeguarding the people's interests.

—Excerpt from the speech at the Third Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection on January 11, 2019

Combating corruption is the most important political issue that concerns the people's trust and support. It is a fight that we cannot afford to lose. We must deepen our understanding of improving Party conduct, building clean government, and fighting against corruption under the new circumstances, enhance our ability to advance coordinated efforts to ensure that officials do not dare to engage in corruption and that they have neither the opportunity nor the desire to do so, and thus win this tough and prolonged battle in all respects.

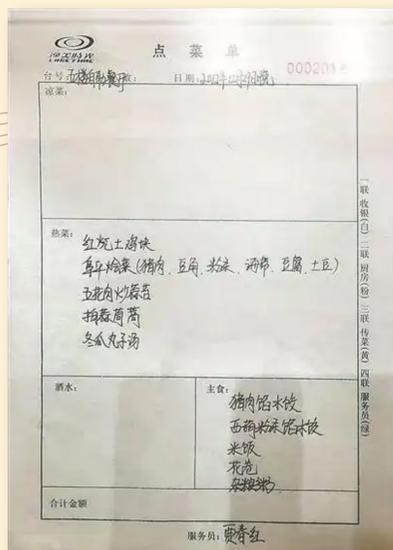
—Excerpt from the speech at the 40th group study session of the Political Bureau of the 19th CPC Central Committee on June 17, 2022

After ten years of unremitting anti-graft efforts in the new era, an overwhelming victory has been achieved and fully consolidated. However, the situation remains severe and complex. We must have a clear understanding of the latest developments and trends in the fight against corruption, and of the soil and conditions that give rise to corruption. The Party must continuously combat corruption with tenacity, perseverance and precision, and resolutely win the tough and protracted battle against corruption.

—Excerpt from the speech at the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection on January 8, 2024

Stories of Xi Jinping

Leading by Example in Implementing the eight-point decision



Dinner menu on December 29, 2012, shows a meal at the Ease Time Hotel, a local budget hotel (COURTESTEST PHOTO)



A receipt, dated March 18, 2014, indicates a payment of 160 yuan for meals at the Jiao Yulu Executive Leadership Academy in Henan Province (COURTESTEST PHOTO)

A Political Bureau meeting chaired by Xi Jinping on December 4, 2012 adopted the eight-point decision, aiming at improving work style and strengthening ties with the people.

Staying in a guest house, eating local dishes

Xi Jinping exemplified the eight-point decision by staying in a modest 16-square-meter room at a county guest house and eating simple local dishes during his inspection of Fuping County, Hebei Province, from December 29-30, 2012.

The dinner menu from December 29, 2012 showed a meal he had at the Ease Time Hotel, a local budget hotel. The menu, posted on social media, listed dishes shared by 10 people. This menu garnered significant public attention.

Four dishes and one soup

The menu was displayed at a major exhibition com-

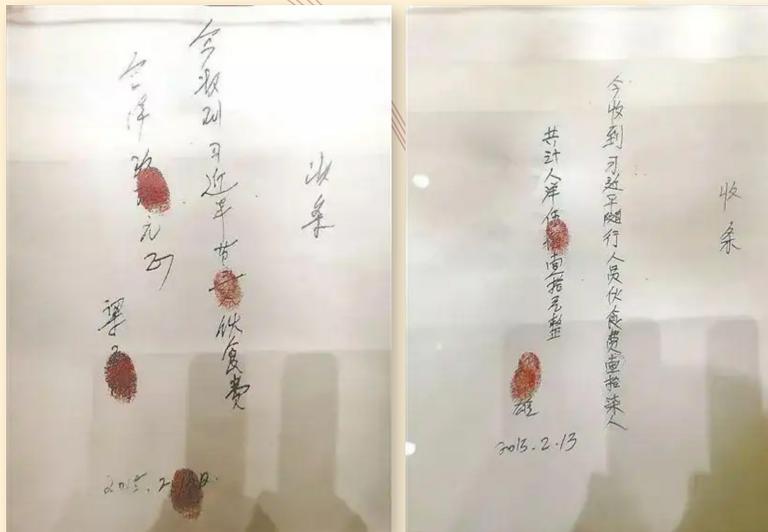
memorating the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up at the National Museum of China. Exhibited alongside the menu was Xi Jinping's meal receipt from his 2014 visit to Lankao County, Henan Province.

The receipt, dated March 18, 2014, indicated a payment of 160 yuan for meals at the Jiao Yulu Executive Leadership Academy in Henan.

During this period, the Party was conducting its second phase of the mass line education campaign. When visiting Lankao, Xi Jinping, dined at the academy's cafeteria and paid the standard meal fee, adhering strictly to the eight-point decision.

Reports described a simple meal of "four dishes and one soup" shared among attendees, highlighting Xi Jinping's commitment to frugality and connection with the people.

"During the revolutionary period, we always relied



Meal receipts from Xi Jinping's 2015 visit to Liangjiahe Village, Shaanxi Province (COURTESY PHOTO)

on the people's protection and support. Now that the Party is in power, can we still maintain the connection with the people? We must improve our work style to fulfill our commitment to serve the people and earn their genuine support," Xi Jinping reflected during his Lankao visit, emphasizing the importance of close ties with the masses.

Purchasing New Year gifts for villagers

Also on display were meal receipts from Xi Jinping's 2015 visit to Liangjiahe Village, Shaanxi Province.

One receipt, dated February 13, 2015, showed a 90-yuan payment for three people, signed by Liang Yuming. Another receipt detailed a 510-yuan payment for 17 accompanying personnel, averaging to 30 yuan per person.

According to Xinhua News Agency, on the early morning of February 13, 2015, Xi Jinping visited

Liangjiahe Village in Wen'anyi Town, Yanchuan County, Shaanxi Province, to see the villagers and brought them New Year gifts that he had purchased. Liang Yuming, then the secretary of the village's CPC branch, invited him to his home for a meal, serving his family's New Year food—fried cakes, chicken, mutton, pickled cabbage, noodles, pumpkin... all authentic, ordinary Shaanbei rural food.

"Seeing these exhibits deeply moved me. General Secretary Xi Jinping's dinner menu and receipts are vivid examples of excellent work style," said Cong Ying, a cadre from the Haidian District Discipline Inspection Commission in Beijing.

Zhu Zhixiang, a cadre from Danjiangkou City, Hubei Province, remarked, "General Secretary Xi Jinping's actions set a great example for the entire Party and society. We should learn from him, cultivate good work habits from small things, and honor the title of a Party member." **■**

The Eight-Point Decision Has Changed China

Following the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in November 2012, the newly elected Central Committee, with comrade Xi Jinping at its core, swiftly introduced the Eight-Point Decision on Improving Party and Government Conduct and Building Closer Ties with the People.

This isn't just another policy; it is a commitment to clean governance and a direct response to public concerns about officialdom. Xi Jinping himself has spearheaded this initiative, embodying the spirit of leading by example and setting standards from the top down. The phrase "leaving footprints on stone, grasping iron with marks" vividly illustrates the leadership's determination to ensure the decision is not mere words but is implemented with tangible and lasting effect. This resolute action, likened to the historical anecdote of honoring the promise to reward the person who had moved a log

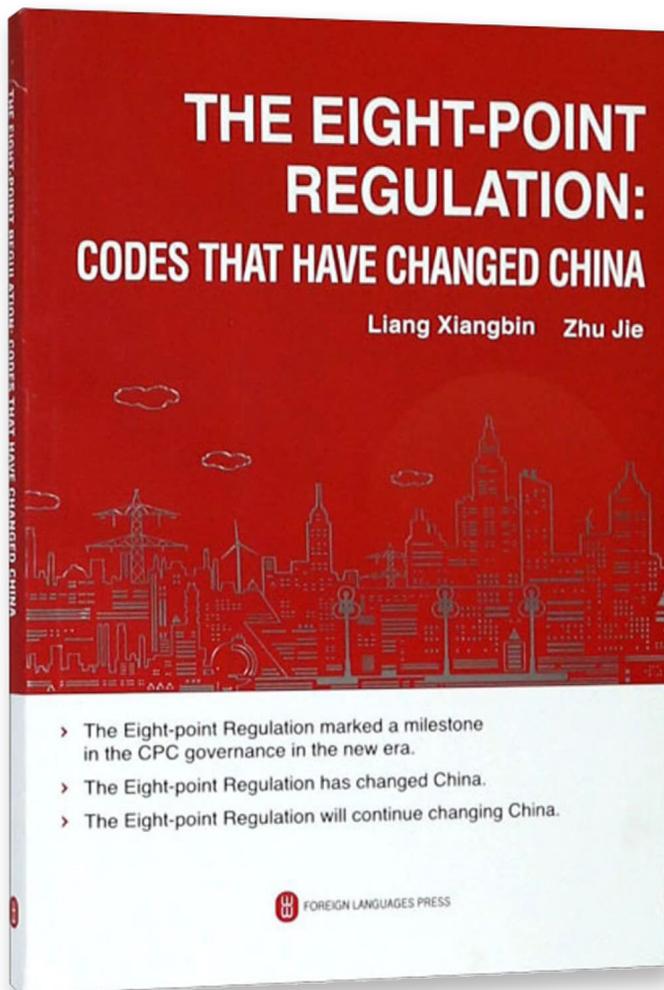
to build trust and push forward reform, signaled a profound shift in the Party's approach and set the stage for a remarkable transformation in the nation's ethos. The strict implementation of the eight-point decision has provided a solid foundation for the historic achievements and transformative changes witnessed in the Party and the nation's endeavors; significantly promoted progress in China's political, economic, social, cultural, and national governance landscapes; and injected powerful energy into the pursuit of building a strong nation and realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through Chinese modernization.

From a political perspective, the eight-point decision acts as a "small incision" that has triggered a major overhaul in the comprehensive and strict governance of the Party. It has propelled a revolutionary self-purification within the Party ranks, safeguarding and enhancing the Party's advanced nature and purity, and bolstering

its unity and combat readiness. Consequently, the Party's leadership has become more robust and effective.

Economically, the eight-point decision has prompted a fundamental change in how public funds and resources are allocated. By curbing extravagance and rent-seeking behaviors, it helps to purify the relationship between government officials and businessmen and fosters a more level playing field. This, in turn, is a powerful driver for promoting high-quality economic development.

Socially, the eight-point decision resonates deeply with the aspirations of both Party members and other members of the general public. It has facilitated the resolution of numerous pressing issues of grave concern to the public, and the tangible improvements in official conduct have earned the sincere support of the people, thereby strengthening the social foundation for the Party's long-term governance.



The Eight-Point Regulation: Codes that Have Changed China

Culturally, the decision has played a crucial role in thoroughly rooting out the remnants of feudalistic practices and resisting the corrosive influence of decadent Western cultures. The

revitalized work style within the Party and government served as a powerful example, leading to profound positive changes in social customs and public morality, and unleashing strong spiritual

strength for the advancement of Chinese modernization.

In terms of national governance, the eight-point decision has contributed significantly to the modernization of China's national governance system and governance capacity. It has invigorated Party members and cadres to be proactive and dedicated, ultimately enhancing the Party's overall long-term governing capability.

The eight-point decision has brought about a historic transformation in China and has become a defining feature of the Party's governance in the new era, so it should be highly valued and continuously upheld. The decision will provide a robust guarantee for the comprehensive advancement of building a strong nation and realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through Chinese modernization. **■**

(Based on an editorial first published on Ccdi.gov.cn)



Fact Sheet on the Eight-Point Decision on Improving Party and Government Conduct

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