## CCP and Xi Jinping's Leadership

American and Japanese Perceptions of the Reemergence of China The Brookings Institution 19 December 2014 Akio Takahara, The University of Tokyo

# Major Tasks of CCP and Xi Jinping

Defend and develop "core interests" (Dai, 2010):

- 1) pol. system & pol. stability (leadership of the CCP; socialist system, socialism with Chinese characteristics)
- 2) sovereignty/security, territory, national unity
- 3) basic assurance of the sustainable development of the economy and society
- Cf. One centre (economic construction) & two basic points (4 basic principles, reform & opening)

Xi's Government: "Red Second Generation" Administration

- Red Second Generation (红二代):
  - Offspring of the revolutionaries
  - Holds identity as successor to the revolution
  - Strong sense of ownership of the system
  - Cf. Princelings (太子党):
    - Offspring of the revolutionaries
    - Holders of common pol. & econ. Interests

NB Xi Jinping's experience of Cultural Revolution: that of successfully overcoming difficulties

### Different Perspectives on High-level Politics: 2 Ideal Types

- Institution school (制度学派)
  - sees high-level politics through institutions
- Power struggle school (闘争学派)
  - sees high-level politics as power struggle
- E.g. Different interpretation of Hu Jintao's full retirement at the 18<sup>th</sup> Party Congress
- Reality could be somewhere in between

# **Divisions in Leadership?**

**Open disagreements during Hu's administration** suppressed under Xi's concentration of power E.g. SOE reform; political reform; universal values; "low profile" (韜光養晦) foreign policy NB Widening gap between the left and the right, and that is linked to external policy



# Issues of Governance & Stability

Rule by law, and by force (Party leadership!)

Iron fists of Xi and Wang Qishan suppressing any dissident voices, in both Party and society for the time being

People are changing, irrespective of their class

Stronger desire for equality, 'democracy', fairness

"China Dream"—Will it work?

Many Chinese are worried about the future

## Gift from Merkel to Xi Jinping (March 2014)

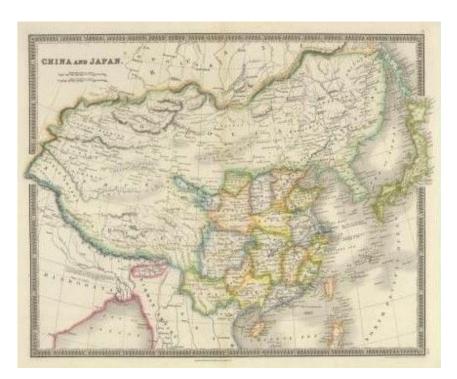
#### The real gift: map made in 1735

http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2014-03-31/031029827894.shtml



### The "gift" in Xinhuanet.com

http://www.sd.xinhuanet.com/news /2014-03/31/c\_1110029830\_4.htm



People's Identity with the Socialist Core Values (Survey by Inst. of Sociology, CASS in Jun-Oct 2013)

- 1. Equality, 46.3%
- 2. Democracy,
  - 42.4%
- 3. Wealth &
- Strength, 40.9%
- 4. Civilization,
  - 39.3%

- 4. Fairness & Justice, 39.3%
- 6. Harmony, 36.5%
- 7. Respect for
- Constitution, 23.7%
- 8. Patriotism,

23.5%