

# The Enlightenment of Lenin's Political Will to the Construction of the Ruling Party of the Communist Party of China

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**Abstract:** In his later years, Lenin put forward a series of suggestions and ideas on how to build the bolshevik party and how to consolidate the party's ruling position. These suggestions and ideas are written in a series of articles and letters, such as "how do we restructure the industrial and agricultural inspection institute", "letter to the congress", "rather less, but better" and so on. Lenin's "political will" on the party's cadre team construction, party democracy construction and learning party construction and other content for the new era of the Communist Party of China to carry out the construction of the ruling party still has important guiding significance.

## 1. Introduction

After the victory of the October Revolution, the Bolshevik Party became the ruling party from the Revolutionary Party, which took on the heavy burden of leading Russia in socialist construction. On how to strengthen the Party's construction, the revolutionary mentor Lenin made continuous exploration and achieved great results. In Lenin's later years, in the face of the serious crisis within the party, he produced deep worries, leaving a series of articles and letters known as "political will". At the fourth Plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed to uphold and improve the Party's leadership, constantly strengthen the Party's ruling ability and comprehensively deepen the strict administration of the Party, so that the Party will always become the strong leading core of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. As to how to strengthen the construction of the Communist Party of China in the new era, Lenin's "political will" can still provide us with important enlightenment.

## 2. Strengthening the Construction of Cadres and Improving the Quality of Cadres

Building a contingent of high-quality and high-quality cadres is a major strategic task for the long-term development of the Party and the country, and is the basic requirement for improving the Party's ruling level. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the 19th National Congress of the Party that "Party cadres are the backbone of the cause of the Party and the state"[] Only by strengthening the building of the cadre ranks can we provide personnel protection for all undertakings of the Party and the state. On how to strengthen the construction of the Party's cadre team, Lenin gave the following three enlightenment in the political will.

(1) Party members and cadres must have good personal conduct. Party members and cadres are the bones and flesh of the Party, and to strengthen the construction of the contingent of cadres, we must adhere to the correct orientation of selecting and employing people, adhere to both morality and talent, and take morality as the first step. This requires that the broad masses of party members and cadres have good personal conduct, and good personal conduct is the first condition for party members and cadres to carry out their work. In his letter to the congress, Lenin stressed that the party's leading cadres should be "more patient, more humble, more polite, more concerned about comrades and less willful" []340 To be modest and prudent and not arrogant is a fine style of work of the Communist Party of China. It is also an important magic weapon for maintaining the party's flesh and blood ties with the people. Only with patient and prudent character can party members

and cadres shoulder their responsibilities and shoulder the entrustment and trust of the party and the people. In the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the biggest crisis facing our party is to break away from the crisis of the masses. Pride and arrogance have seriously weakened the Party's image in the eyes of the masses and cut off the Party's ties with the masses.

(2) Party members and cadres should have excellent professional skills. The Communist Party of China is the leading core of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Only if Party members and cadres have excellent professional skills can they cope with the ruling work of the Party, make the people satisfied and win the support and respect of the people. In his later years, Lenin paid special attention to the ability of Party members and cadres. In his "Better, Better ", he stressed that " the talents with real modern qualities, that is, those who are not inferior to the outstanding talents in Western Europe, are concentrated in the industrial and agricultural inspection homes "[2]378In essence, the quality of state organs is the professional ability of Party members and cadres. Only when the level of cadres is improved can the quality of state organs be improved. For the selection of party members and cadres, Lenin pointed out that "before they are appointed, they must be examined again and again"[2]382 so as to ensure that the selected Party members and cadres can be competent for their work tasks. General Secretary Xi Jinping once pointed out : " the cadre troop ability insufficiency , 'skill panic' the question is quite prominent ." To this end, we must appoint cadres with outstanding ability and strive to improve the professional ability of party members and cadres.

(3) Improve inner-party supervision and strict management of party members and cadres. General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed that good cadres are selected and managed. To strengthen the construction of the contingent of cadres, we must strictly enforce the party's political discipline and strictly observe the party's political rules. Only strict discipline rules can prevent party members from degenerating and deteriorating, and only by doing a good job of inner-party supervision can we effectively curb corruption and ensure the implementation of party discipline and party rules. In his later years, Lenin made clear demands on the inner-party supervisory organs. He pointed out that the supervisory organs "should be careful not to let anyone's prestige, whether it is the general secretary or the prestige of some other central committee member, prevent them from asking questions, checking documents, so as to be absolutely aware of the situation and make all matters strictly in accordance with the regulations ."[2]377Only supervisors dare to control, dare to investigate, can effectively stop the wind of corruption, build a clean cadre team. It is necessary to adhere to strict management, strict supervision, and carry out strict management of cadres into the whole process of building the contingent of cadres, which is the earnest instruction of General Secretary Xi Jinping to strengthen the supervision of party members and cadres, and also the important requirement of Lenin on how to manage party members and cadres well.

### **3. Improve the Culture of Inner-Party Democracy and Raise the Level of Leadership of the Party**

The fourth Plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee pointed out that to improve the Party's ruling ability and leadership level, we should adhere to democratic centralism and constantly develop and improve inner-party democracy. Improving inner-party democracy is the foundation of safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of all Party members and developing inner-party political culture. Strengthening inner-party democracy is the meaning and inevitable requirement of the construction of the ruling party of the Communist Party of China. As for how to strengthen the inner-party democracy construction, Lenin's later works pointed out that it is necessary to improve the inner-party system construction and strengthen the party's collective leadership; and second, to expand the inner-party democratic life and promote the scientific and democratic decision-making within the party.

Improve the inner-party system construction and provide system guarantee for inner-party democracy construction. System construction is an important measure to promote the modernization of national governance system and governance ability in the new era, and the inner-party system construction is related to the Party's leadership level and ruling ability. In order to make the Central

Committee have greater stability in the inheritance of its work and in resisting division, Lenin put forward the principle that democratic centralism and collective leadership must be carried out. In "How to Reorganize the Workers and Peasants Inspection Institute ", he mentioned " turning the Central Plenary Session into the Party's Supreme Council of Representatives "[2]374 To strengthen the Party's collective leadership by improving the system of the Central Plenary Session and to achieve democratic decision-making within the Party as far as possible. In his later years, Lenin's greatest concern for the Party was the division of the Party due to the struggle for power within the Party, and the fundamental organizational principle of democratic centralism was undermined by the expansion of power and individual monopoly. To this end, he stressed the establishment of a mechanism of checks and balances of power within the party, so that the party's Congress directly elected the party's supervisory body, and the supervisory body has the right to participate in all meetings of the political bureau, so as to prevent excessive concentration of power and threaten party democracy. To strengthen the construction of inner-party democratic culture in the new era, we must adhere to the system of democratic centralism and the party's Congress, perfect the supervision system of the party and the state, discuss and decide on the major issues of the party and the state, make democratic consciousness a conscious and autonomous consciousness of all party members, and create a democratic cultural atmosphere.

Expand the democratic life within the party and provide the party member foundation for the democratic construction within the party. The Party's decision-making level directly determines the future and destiny of the Party and the country, and the scientific decision-making is based on the democratization of decision-making. Democracy can not be the democracy of a few people, strengthen the democratic culture within the party, must have a deep party member foundation, only have sufficient decision-makers can adhere to democratic centralism when voting on major issues within the party, solve problems according to the opinions of the majority, so as to ensure the scientific nature of decision-making within the party. In his letter to the congress, lenin wrote , " the more members of the central committee, the more trained by the central work, and the less danger of division caused by some carelessness ."[2]341 "To increase the number of members of the Central Committee to dozens or 100[2]341 The proposal is intended to reduce the individual and accidental factors of inner-party voting by increasing the number of decision makers, so as to consider the rationality of decision-making more comprehensively and make party decision-making more scientific. In the face of the problem of expanding the number of decision makers, Lenin also put forward the idea of increasing the number of grassroots cadres to the number of decision makers. In "How do we restructure the Workers and Peasants Inspection Institute ", he wrote , " Select dozens of workers and peasants who have fully believed in conscientiousness and loyalty to join the Central Committee of the Party"[2]433 Taking into account that cadres at the grass-roots level have close contact with the masses of the people, Lenin is more aware of the problems faced by the masses of the people than those who have been working in the organs for a long time, and that by joining them in the decision-making ranks, the Party's decision-making will be more in line with objective reality and with public opinion. To strengthen the construction of inner-party democracy in the new era, we must expand inner-party democracy, fully listen to the opinions of party members, absorb the wisdom of party members, ensure the exercise of party members' power, create a good environment for inner-party democracy, and make democratic consciousness go deep into the hearts of every party member.

#### **4. Strengthening the Learning of Party Members and Building a Learning Party**

In the report of the Nineteenth National Congress of the Party, General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward that "our party should be both politically and competent"[1] Only by studying continuously can the broad masses of Communist Party members cope with new situations and challenges. Strengthening the study of Party members, building a learning-type political party and creating a inner-party atmosphere that loves learning is an important means to improve the Party's ruling ability, and is also an inevitable requirement for strengthening the inner-party cultural construction. In his later years, lenin attached particular importance to the study of party members. He proposed

that party members should not only learn to build excellent skills and strengthen their ability to govern, but also learn advanced ideas, transform our minds and remove stale old ideas.

In his later years, Lenin proposed that only by having knowledge and culture can the broad masses of Party members adapt to the work of the organs and better govern the country. In "Better, but Better," he pointed out that "brute force or assault, ingenuity or perseverance, as well as any good qualities of human beings, are of no avail."<sup>[2]379</sup> Only with professional knowledge can we deal with practical problems in the work of party and government organs. In order to solve the problem of shortage of talents in the Party and the state, Lenin warned all Party members that "study first, study second, study third or study"<sup>[2]380</sup> By studying all kinds of professional knowledge, we can improve the professional accomplishment of Party members and cadres in various organs, and then improve the Party's leadership ability and ruling level. In addition, he also asked all party members to constantly check whether what they have learned is deep into the flesh and blood, not only to learn but also to "learn and be useful", not only to do superficial work, but to make knowledge and culture a part of themselves. As for the quality of talent, Lenin suggested that it would be better to have two or even three more years than to rush into it and have no hope of getting good talent<sup>[2]380</sup> We don't mean to be formalistic, but to really master a course of learning, the worst thing about learning is to know a little bit, they always think they know something, if let these people to govern the country is undoubtedly a great disaster for the country. We must recognize our own shortcomings, attach great importance to the study of science and technology and theoretical knowledge, for learning, the greatest enemy is self-satisfaction, only with a tenacious learning spirit, can cultivate excellent talent. The fourth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee established the system of "never forgetting the original ideals and aspirations and bearing in mind the mission" as a system of great significance for strengthening the study of party members and party building. At the same time, we must bear in mind Lenin's advice that "we would rather have a smaller quantity but a higher quality".

To create a cultural atmosphere within the Party that is willing to learn, we should not only learn professional skills and scientific and cultural knowledge, but also always arm our minds with advanced ideas and fight against the old and stale ideas and customs. In the face of the state apparatus, Lenin said, "if not disgusting, at least very sad."<sup>[2]378</sup> Although the old system has been overthrown, the old culture still deeply influences people's behavior habits, the most prominent of which is bureaucratic thought. Lenin pointed out that "bureaucrats exist not only in the Soviet organs, but also in the organs of the Party"<sup>[2]385</sup> These bureaucrats are pretentious and arrogant, and the root of bureaucracy is tsarist Russia's bureaucracy and conservative corruption habits, it is very difficult to change it. In order to improve the work style of the organs, we must raise the ideological understanding of the Communist Party members and maintain the advanced nature of the Party. In response, Lenin laments that "the truly great revolution arose from the contradiction between old things and the intention to transform old things and the abstract desire to pursue new things."<sup>[2]388</sup> We should dare to change, dare to break through the old ideas and cultures, and replace the stale old cultures with new ideas and new cultures. The fourth Plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee put forward that we must vigorously correct bureaucracy and situationalism, while preventing bureaucracy and formalism must start from ideological understanding, strengthen party members' study and education on party spirit, Strengthen the guiding position of Marxism in ideology, always use Xi Jinping's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics to guide practice.

To strengthen the construction of learning-type political parties in the new era, we should constantly strengthen the study and understanding of Marxist theory and guide practice with Marxist theory. In "On the Revolution of China", Lenin strongly refutes the anti-Makism argument that the level of productivity and cultural development in Russia has not reached the level of socialism. In criticizing Menshevik and others, he pointed out: "the decisive thing in Marxism, that is, Marxist revolutionary dialectics, they do not understand at all."<sup>[2]369</sup> which led to their epistemological and methodological errors. Therefore, Lenin stressed that the Party and the people must be ideologically armed with Marxist revolutionary dialectics, and strengthened the belief that

socialism will win. In the new era, we should still adhere to the guiding position of Marxism, strengthen the study of Marxist theory, and truly guide us to build a socialist modern power with Marxism.

Lenin's "political will" on how to strengthen the construction of the ruling party's suggestions and ideas, for the Communist Party of China to strengthen the ability to govern has an important guiding significance. Lenin's "political will" tells us that to strengthen the construction of the ruling party of the proletariat, we should constantly improve the personal cultivation and professional ability of party members and cadres, perfect inner-party supervision, expand inner-party democracy, constantly learn new knowledge to enrich ourselves, and promote the development of the party in all directions.

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