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Chinese assertiveness and the rise of Xi Jinping: ideational mobilization, elite contestation, and the struggle over regional order
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Chinese Assertiveness and the Rise of Xi Jinping:
Ideational Mobilization, Elite Contestation,
and the Struggle over Regional Order

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Universiteit
Leiden

Chinese Assertiveness and the Rise of Xi Jinping

*Ideational Mobilization, Elite Contestation,
and the Struggle over Regional Order*

Doctoral Dissertation

Friso M.S. Stevens

This is a thesis submitted to the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs of Leiden University for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.).

Keywords that characterize this study are international security studies; elite politics; Chinese foreign policy and popular mobilization; Sino-American security relations; the regional order of East Asia.

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For my mother, Gerda, to whom I owe all

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ABBREVIATIONS

ASEAN	—	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
Aukus	—	Australia, UK, US security pact
BRI	—	Belt and Road Initiative
BRICs	—	Brazil, Russia, India, and China
CASS	—	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
CCP, Party	—	Chinese Communist Party
CCDI	—	Central Commission for Discipline Inspection
CC	—	Central Committee
CFALSG	—	Central Foreign Affairs Leading Small Group
CLSG	—	Central Leading Small Group
CMC	—	Central Military Commission
CPS	—	Central Party School
CPPCC	—	Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference
EEZ	—	Exclusive Economic Zone
GDP	—	Gross Domestic Product
MFA	—	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NPC	—	National People’s Congress
OECD	—	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PBSC	—	Politburo Standing Committee
PLA	—	People’s Liberation Army
PRC	—	People’s Republic of China
S&ED	—	Strategic and Economic Dialogue
SED	—	Strategic Economic Dialogue
SOE	—	State-owned Enterprise
UN	—	United Nations
WTO	—	World Trade Organization

KEY TERMS AND SLOGANS

Pinyin

baquan

bainian guochi

bangpai

chang zheng

chaogong tizhi

cong qunzhong zhong lai,

dao qunzhong zhong qu

da yitong

daguo jueqi

dang shi lingdao yiqie de

dangjian

dangjin shijie zheng chuyu

dangnei minzhu

bainian wei you zhi da bianju

dangxing

dangzheng fenkai

duinei xuanchuan

duiwai xuanchuan

duojihua

duobian waijiao

fang/shou

fazhanzhong guojia

fuqiang

fluxing

gaige kaifang

gongtong fuyu

guanxi

guoji dingwei

guoji geju

guoji xingshi

guoji zeren

heping fazhan

heping jueqi

heping yanbian

hezuo gongying

huayu quan

jiben luxian

jingji danwei

jingwai didui shili

jiti lingdao

junmin jiehe ping zhan jiehe

Meaning

Hegemony, from *ba*, a hegemon or wicked king that rules via force and coercion

Century of National Humiliation (1839-1949)

Faction

Long March (period of strategic retreat; centerpiece in the CCP's origin story of eventual triumph)

Tributary system (ritual, hierarchy based)

From the masses, to the masses (Party mobilization doctrine called the "mass line," or *qunzhong luxian*)

The great unity (of the nation)

Rise of great powers

Party leads over everything

Party building

The world today is undergoing major changes

Intra-party democracy

unseen in a century

Party spirit

Separation between Party and government

Internal propaganda

External propaganda

Multipolarity, multipolarization (of the international system)

Multilateralism, or multilateral diplomacy

Relaxing/tightening (cycle in CCP politics)

Developing country

Wealth and power (of the nation)

Rejuvenation (of the nation)

Reform and Opening Up (Deng Xiaoping Theory)

Common prosperity (Xi era slogan)

Culturally-rooted association of mutual obligation

International positioning (of the country)

International power configuration (balance of power)

International situation

International responsibilities

Peaceful Development (policy under Hu Jintao)

Peaceful Rise (term replaced by Peaceful Development)

Peaceful evolution (by American/Western liberal actors)

Win-win cooperation

Discourse power

Basic line (to achieve the final stage of socialism)

Centralized economic unit (of Wang Jingwei)

Hostile foreign forces

Collective leadership (decision-making)

Combine the military and the civil, combine

<i>junpin youxian yi min yang jun</i>	peacetime with wartime, prioritize military products, and let the civilian sector support the military sector (quote by Deng Xiaoping)
<i>jingshen wuran</i>	Spiritual pollution (by liberal ideas from the West)
<i>kexue fazhan guan</i>	Scientific Development Concept (governing ideology of Hu Jintao)
<i>kou</i>	Gateway (substantive area in the Party-state apparatus)
<i>liang hui</i>	Two Sessions (relating to government work)
<i>liangge quantou daren</i>	Fighting with two fists (against both the Soviet Union and the US)
<i>liangge yibai nian</i>	Two Centennial Goals (toward national rejuvenation)
<i>liangge zhenying</i>	Two Camps (Soviet Union alignment against the US)
<i>lingdao guanxi</i>	Leadership relations (hierarchical authority in the bureaucracy)
<i>lishi chaoliu</i>	Historical trend (of the inevitability of socialism; Marxist idea about the world's trajectory)
<i>lishi jueyi</i>	Historical resolution (rare political judgment on the Party's past and present)
<i>luxian</i>	Party line
<i>maofen</i>	Mao fan
<i>meiyou gongchandang jiu</i>	Without the Party, no New China
<i>meiyou xin zhongguo</i>	
<i>minzhu</i>	(People's) democracy
<i>minzu</i>	Nation (motherland) or ethnic group or national identity
<i>mulin youhao</i>	Good neighborliness
<i>nei luan wai huan</i>	When there is internal instability, external forces intervene (exploit the weakness, opportunity)
<i>qiangguo</i>	Strong (great) power
<i>qiushi</i>	Seeking Truth (theory journal of the Party)
<i>renmin lingxiu</i>	People's Leader
<i>riqu qiangying</i>	Increasingly tough (imperfect translation of assertiveness)
<i>san re'ai</i>	Three Passions (for homeland, socialism, and Party)
<i>san zhan</i>	Three Warfares (propaganda doctrine)
<i>sange daibiao</i>	Three Represents (governing ideology of Jiang Zemin)
<i>sange shijie de lilun</i>	Three Worlds Theory (of Mao Zedong Thought)
<i>sanmin zhuyi</i>	Three People's Principles (Sun Yat-sen's doctrine)
<i>sege xiandaihua</i>	Four Modernizations (of Zhou Enlai)
<i>shaji jinghou</i>	Killing a chicken to frighten the monkeys (tactic)
<i>sixiang jiben yuanze</i>	Four Cardinal Principles (of Deng Xiaoping Theory)
<i>sixiang gongzuo</i>	Thought or ideological work (aimed at controlling public communications)
<i>shehui guanli</i>	Social management
<i>shehui zhili</i>	Social governance
<i>shehui zhuyi xiandaihua guojia</i>	Modern socialist country (second centennial goal)
<i>shi</i>	Assessment of the balance of power and trend of the time
<i>shishi qiushi</i>	Seeking truth from facts (Deng era slogan)
<i>shuangying</i>	Mutually beneficial
<i>tao guang yang hui</i>	Keeping a low profile (of Deng Xiaoping Theory)

<i>tianxia</i>	All under Heaven (characterization of regional order during imperial times)
<i>tiao/kuai</i>	Branch and lump (nature of the CCP political system)
<i>tong san tong</i>	Unifying the three traditions: Reform and Opening Up, the legacy of Mao, and traditional Chinese culture
<i>weiwen</i>	Maintaining social stability
<i>wenhua zhuquan</i>	Cultural sovereignty
<i>wumao dang</i>	50 Cent Army (auxiliary netizen forces of the Party-state)
<i>xian annei hou rangwai</i>	First pacify the country, then resist foreign enemies (Kuomintang/Chiang policy)
<i>xiao fenhong</i>	Little Pink (label for online jingoistic nationalists)
<i>xiaokang</i>	Comparatively well-off (of Wang Hui)
<i>xiaokang shehui</i>	Moderately prosperous society (first centennial goal)
<i>xin zhongguo</i>	New China (post-Qing/Republican state of the nation)
<i>xin zuopai</i>	New Left
<i>xinxing daguo guanxi</i>	New type of major power relations
<i>xitong</i>	Hierarchical line of authority in the bureaucracy
<i>yiren de dao jiquan shengtian</i>	If a man succeeds, his chickens and dogs (will also) ascent to Heaven (promotion through <i>guanxi</i> patron-client relations)
<i>you suo zuowei</i>	Achieving something
<i>you zhongguo tese de shehui zhuyi</i>	Socialism with Chinese Characteristics
<i>yulun douzheng</i>	Public opinion struggle
<i>zao yulun</i>	Forging public opinion
<i>zhanlue jiyuqi</i>	Period of strategic opportunity (assessment of the international system)
<i>zhengce</i>	Policy
<i>zhengzhi guashuai</i>	Politics in command (Mao era slogan)
<i>zhiqing (zhishi qingnian)</i>	Sent-down youth (during the Cultural Revolution)
<i>zhongguo</i>	Middle or Central Kingdom, country (China)
<i>zhongguo meng</i>	Chinese Dream
<i>zhongguo moshi</i>	China Model
<i>zhongguo waijiao</i>	Chinese diplomacy
<i>zhonghua minzu</i>	Chinese Nation (Han race)
<i>zhonghua minzu weida fuxing</i>	Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation
<i>zhonghua wenhua jingshen</i>	The Chinese cultural spirit
<i>zhongnanhai</i>	Party and government headquarters
<i>zhongxin renwu</i>	Central task (for the government)
<i>zhongyang</i>	Center (political)
<i>zhongyang lingdao xiaozu</i>	Central Leading Small Group
<i>zhuyao maodun</i>	Principle contradiction (to reach the final stage of socialism)
<i>zili gengsheng</i>	Self-reliance (in developing the country)
<i>zou chuqu</i>	Go out (foreign economic slogan under Hu Jintao)
<i>zhiqiang yundong</i>	Self-strengthening Movement (during the Qing)
<i>zonghe guoli</i>	Comprehensive national power

