

1949

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

September 21-30, 1949

Type of Meeting:

1st CPPCC

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

662 representatives:

1. Representatives of the fourteen political parties or groups 165
2. Representatives of the nine regional areas 116
3. Representatives of Army Headquarters and the five field armies 71
4. Representatives from sixteen public bodies 235
5. Representatives specially invited by the Communist Government 75

(Including those of the Communist Party of China (CPC), democratic parties, mass organizations, various localities, the People's Liberation Army, ethnic minorities, overseas Chinese and religious groups), attend the session.

Major agenda item:

Establishment of CPPCC

Speeches and Reports:

Mao Zedong "["THE CHINESE PEOPLE HAVE STOOD UP"](#)"

Liu Shaoqi "["Strengthen the Great Revolutionary Unity of the Chinese People"](#)", September 21, 1949: the significance and role of the CPPCC; CCP support of the Common Program. Liu Shaoqi made clear that the immediate concern was not the destruction of any particular economic sector but the encouragement of all sectors in order to "heal the wounds of war as quickly as possible and to restore economic activities." The CCP's maximum program of establishing socialism was not included in the CPPCC Common Program for fear it would confuse the measures that needed to be taken immediately. While declaring the transition to socialism inevitable, Liu said that this would occur in consultation with united front allies. Managing Transitions: The Chinese Communist Party, United Front Work, Corporatism, and Hegemony. Contributors: Gerry Groot - author. Publisher: Routledge. Place of Publication: New York. Publication Year: 2004. Page Number: 62.

Lin Boqu "The report of the secretary-general of the Preparatory Committee to the CPPCC" on September 22, 1949.

Zhou Enlai "["Characteristics of the draft common programme of the people's political consultative conference"](#)" September 22, 1949.

"The decision to omit the maximum program from the Common Program] is out of solemn respect for it and does not mean that it is being denied. The economic part of the Common Program has stipulated the actual ensuring of development toward this future."

"This suggests that the CCP's nation is a two-tiered structure. The core nation consists of the 'people', which is, so to speak, the in-group, or the real 'us'. The expanded nation includes all the Chinese citizens, who only becomes 'us' vis-à-vis the Other - the West, for example - or when united by sympathy or a common goal. The same can be said about the Pan-Chinese nation. As a distinction is still made between the 'people' on the one hand and 'citizens' on the other, power and rights are not to be equally distributed. The 'people' are the 'masters of the country', at least in theory, whereas some 'cannot enjoy the rights of the people', although 'they have to observe the obligations of citizens' "There is a difference between 'people' and 'citizen' 'People' mean the working class, the peasantry, the national bourgeoisie and certain (other) patriotic elements... (The remaining reactionary elements) are not within the category of 'people' but are 'citizens' of China. For the time being they cannot enjoy the rights of the people but they have to observe the obligations of citizens. This is the People's Democratic Dictatorship"

"China will stand at the side of Soviet Russia and other new democratic countries and will recognize that there is no neutral ground between the international peace camp and the imperial aggression camp."

He clarified that the New Democratic stage was a transition to socialism and communism.

Dong Biwu: Speech on the organic law of the CPG, September 27, 1949

"The underlying spirit of the organization of the Government is the principle of democratic centralism. Its concrete expression is that the Government should be based on the Peoples' Congress and the Peoples' Government in the different grades. The Peoples' Congress in the different grades is elected by the people according to universal franchise. The Peoples' Government in the different grades is elected by the Peoples' Congress. In the intervals between sessions of the Peoples' Congress, the

Peoples' Government exercises the political power of the different grades. The highest organ of state authority is the all-China Peoples' Congress.

During the adjournment of the Peoples' Congress the Central Government of the People is the highest organ to exercise the state authority.

The principle of democratic centralism is contrary to the theory of separation of powers under the old type of democracy. Under the democracy of the old type, there is a parliamentary system. This system allows one part of the bourgeois class to be in power and another part to be in opposition, that is, the opposition party. Though the minority can talk a great deal in the parliament, the party in power holds the political power tightly and carries out a program likely to further their own interests. This is the politics of exploitation and manoeuvring, division of spoils and playing tricks. The judiciary is also supposed to be independent, but in reality, it also exists merely to serve the interests of the ruling class. We gave up this kind of political institution. We prefer a political system which combines discussion and execution in one hand. This is the system of Peoples' Congress in which all power is centralized."

Mao Zedong "[LONG LIVE THE GREAT UNITY OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE!](#)" closing speech

Zhu De [Closing speech](#) September 30, 1949

Documents passed:

["THE ORGANIC LAW OF THE CPPCC."](#) September 27, 1949

["THE COMMON PROGRAM OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE"](#) September 29, 1949

["THE ORGANIC LAW OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT"](#) September 27, 1949

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

- Elected the Central People's Government, headed by Mao Zedong, with six vice-chairmen and fifty-six members. The idea of power sharing was exemplified in the ruling councils. The Government council chaired by Mao Zedong had six deputy chairpersons: three from the Communist Party, Liu Shaoqi, Zhu De and Gao Gang; plus Madame Sun Yat-sen (widow of the founder of the Republic of China), Li Jishen from the GMD Revolutionary Committee and Zhang Lan of the Democratic League. The State Administration Council (the cabinet) under Zhou Enlai had ten party members and eleven non-party members.
- Elected the [one hundred eighty members of the National Committee of the CPPCC](#)
- The Chinese Academy of Sciences is set up under the administration of the State Council, as a government institution for the management of the nation's scientific research
During the meeting, it is decided to make Beijing the capital of the republic, designate the five-star red flag as the national flag, declare the song of "March of the Volunteers" as the national anthem and the common era calendar was adopted.
- March of the Volunteers

Arise, refuse to be a slave-people! With our blood and flesh we shall build up a new Great Wall. The Chinese Nation is now in greatest danger. Everyone cries out with a loud voice: "Arise! Arise! Arise! We the masses of millions, are of one mind. We are braving the enemies' guns. March on! We are braving the enemies' guns. March on! March on! March on! On!

Remarks:

1. This convocation officially founded the Chinese People's Republic. Participants heard 100 speeches from representatives of political parties, districts, armed forces, groups, and from specially invited personages, as well as opening and closing remarks by the major leaders
2. Probably 634 persons actually present