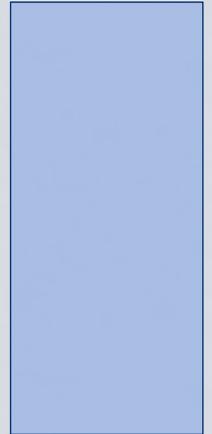


INRL 211 - CONTEMPORARY STATE SYSTEMS

CHINA



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

- Established in 1949.
- 1.3 billion – 662 cities
- Communist party state (Communist Party was established in 1921).
- Official ideology: Marxism – Leninism
- China is a nuclear power with the worlds' largest conventional military force
- It is an active member of nearly all international organizations
- Collective national identity.

FIGURE 13.1

The Chinese Nation at a Glance

Ethnic Groups
Other nationalities 8.1%,
(including, for example, Zhuang;
Uyghur; Hui; Yi;
Tibetan; Miao;
Manchu; Mongol;
Buyi; Korean)

Languages
Standard Chinese (Mandarin) based on the Beijing
dialect; other major dialects include Cantonese and
Shanghaiese. Also various minority languages, such as
Tibetan and Mongolian.

Religions
Officially atheist;
None: 81%; Buddhist 12%; Christian 2%; Muslim 1-2%;
Daoist <1%; Don't know/refused to answer 5%

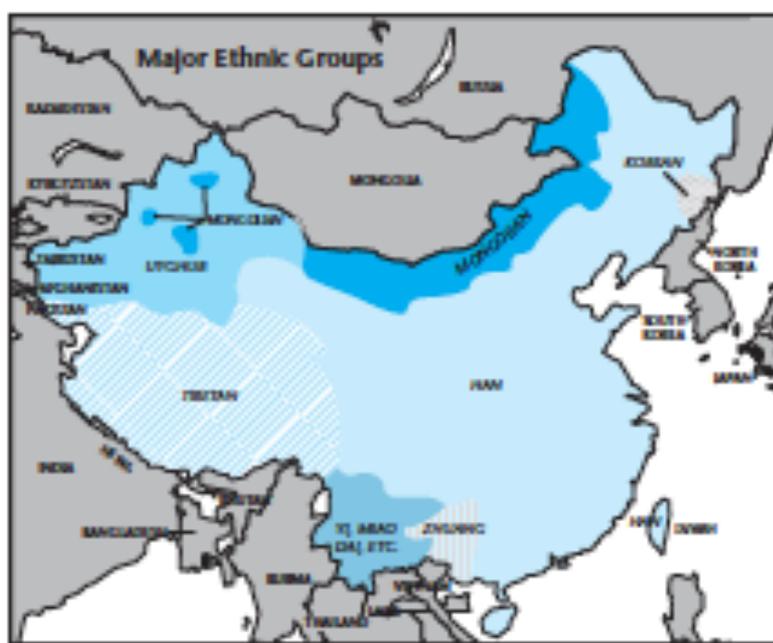
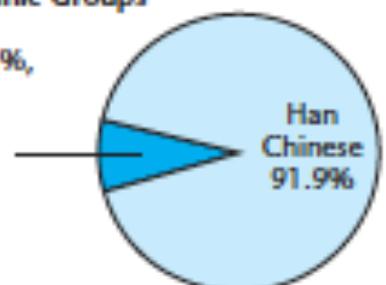


Table 13.1

Political Organization

Political System	Communist party-state; officially, a socialist state under the people's democratic dictatorship
Regime History	Established in 1949 after the victory of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in the Chinese civil war
Administrative Structure	Unitary system with twenty-two provinces, five autonomous regions, four centrally administrated municipalities, and two Special Administrative Regions (Hong Kong and Macao)
Executive	Premier (head of government) and president (head of state) formally elected by legislature, but only with approval of CCP leadership; the head of the CCP, the general secretary, is in effect the country's chief executive, and usually serves concurrently as president of the PRC.
Legislature	Unicameral National People's Congress; about 3,000 delegates elected indirectly from lower-level people's congresses for five-year terms. Largely a rubber-stamp body for Communist Party policies, although in recent years has become somewhat more assertive.
Judiciary	A nationwide system of people's courts, which is constitutionally independent but, in fact, largely under the control of the CCP; a Supreme People's Court supervises the country's judicial system and is formally responsible to the National People's Congress, which also elects the court's president.
Party System	A one-party system, although in addition to the ruling Chinese Communist Party, there are eight politically insignificant "democratic" parties.

STRUCTURE OF THE Communist PARTY STATE

- Marxism-Leninism official ideology
 - Mao and the peasants
- Guardianship
 - Describes the main relationship between the Communist Party and society
 - Representation of “society’s best interests”
- Parallelism between party and government structures
- Local governments operate ‘under the unified leadership of the central authorities’

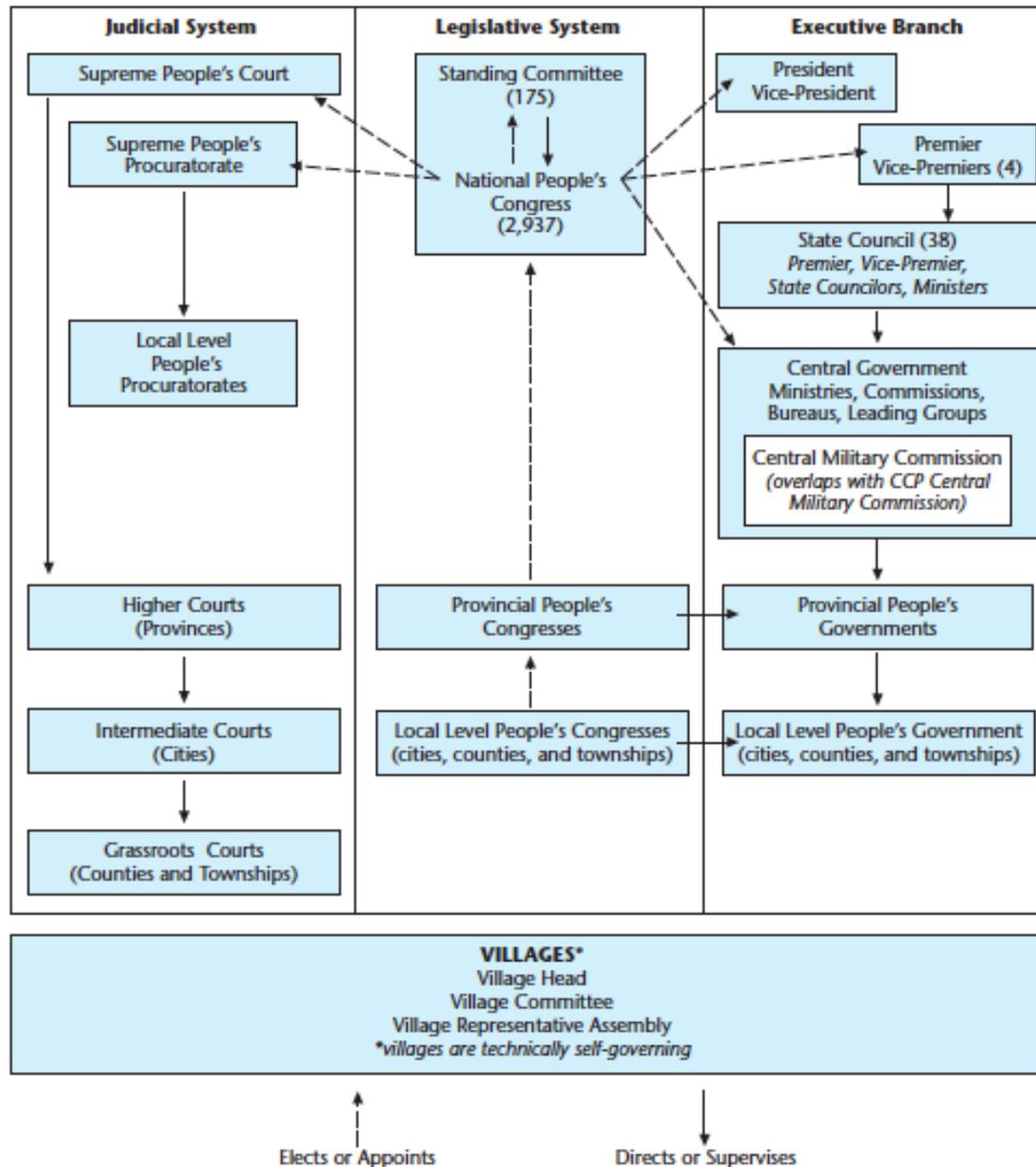
Political Economy

- 1949-1958: Soviet model of state socialism
 - State control, own, command most economic resources
 - Land redistributed from the rich to the poor

- 1978- :Transition to a market economy
 - Pragmatism and Economic Growth
 - Decentralization: Decisions are to be made by factory managers, families, not state bureaucracy
 - Reform : Fewer but still in key sectors: steel, petroleum, telecommunications, banking
 - Leasing agricultural land to entrepreneurial farmers: not privatized

FIGURE 13.4

Organization of the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC)



Note: Numbers in parentheses refer to the membership of the organization as of early 2008.

EXECUTIVE

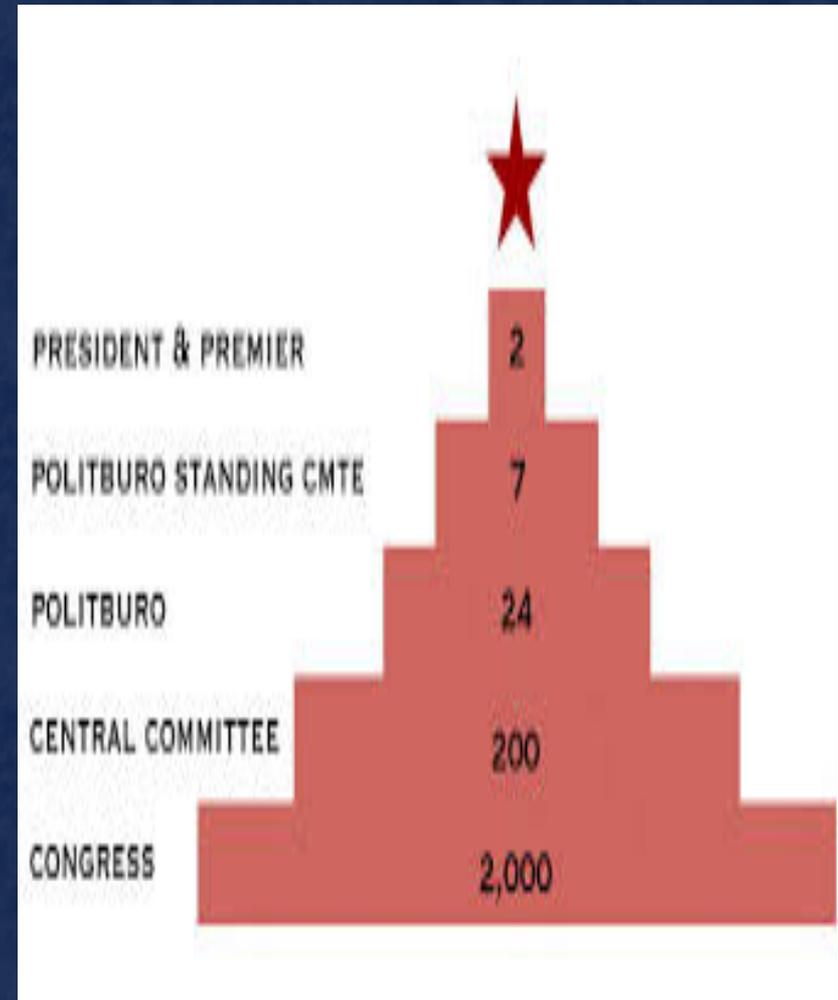
- PRC government is distinct from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).
- PRC executive = Prime minister + president but in CCP = general secretary is the head
- CCP constitution – PRC constitution

Governance and Policymaking

- The President
 - China's head of state, meets world leaders
 - Can serve two five-year terms
- The Premier (Prime Minister)
 - Supervises policy implementation
 - Appointed formally by the President
 - But IN REALITY: The Party decides
 - Can serve two five-year terms
- The State Council (Like a cabinet of ministers)
 - Highest organ of the executive
 - National People's Congress elects
 - But IN REALITY: the Party leadership chooses
 - Two term limit (Does it matter?)

Governance and Policymaking

- The Party Executive
- The highest bodies in the CCP are the National PARTY Congress and the Central Committee
- National Party Congress
 - Little debate in the Congress, meets for a week in five years
 - No real powers
- The Central Committee
 - Rules the party when the Congress is not in session
 - Controlled by the leaders
- The Politburo and the Standing Committee
 - Elected by the Central Committee
 - Not accountable to the lower levels



Governance and Policymaking

- The State Executive
- Power formally vested in a system of people's congresses
- The highest one is the National PEOPLE'S Congress
- Provincial PCs, City PCs, Township PCs
- The executives are more accountable to the party than they are to the congresses

Governance and Policymaking

- National People's Congress (NPC) – legislative
 - Elected for five-year terms by delegates in provincial-level congresses
 - Assemble once annually for a plenary session of about two weeks
 - Formally has extensive powers:
 - amendment of the constitution,
 - passage and amendment of legislation,
 - Electing the President and vice-President of China.
 - But IN REALITY:
 - There is one candidate for each office chosen by the Party.

The Judiciary

- The Supreme People's Court highest court
- Supervises lower courts but no powers over the government policies
- Criminal justice system with 99% conviction rate.
- Death penalty used for murder, rape, embezzlement, corruption, recently mass polluting
- The Constitution guarantees judicial independence but IN REALITY the Party controls them

Policymaking

- Party Dominance
 - Politburo and the Party wields nearly unchecked political power.
 - Nomenklatura system (elites holding the power)
 - The most important mechanism by which the Communist Party exerts control over officials.
 - Personal ties are key to getting any work done.
- Corruption

HONG KONG

- 1842 the island of Hong Kong ceded by treaty to the British.
 - Due to result of wars fought to impose trade on China
 - For nearly a century, China was almost a colony.
- the principle of “one country, two systems” applicable to Hong Kong after 1997
 - Hong Kong reverted to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 but would continue to enjoy a “high degree of autonomy.”



TAIWAN

- Governed by the Nationalists as the Republic of China since 1945
- Today fewer than 30 countries recognize Taiwan.

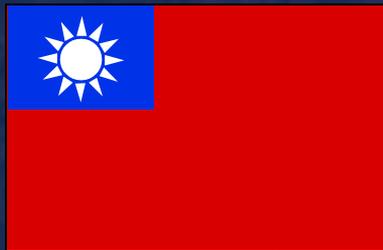
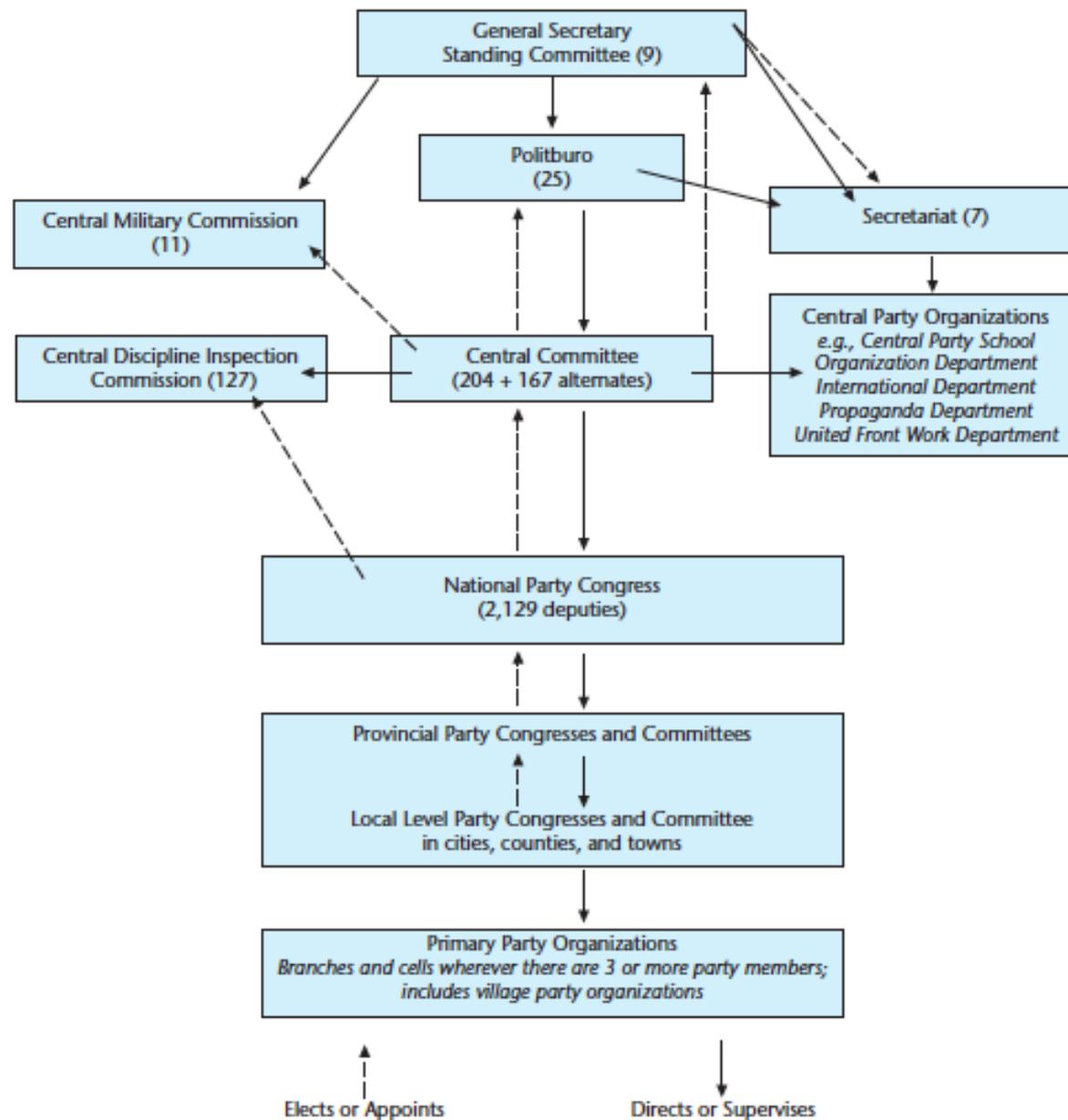


FIGURE 13.3

Organization of the Chinese Communist Party (73 million members)



Note: Numbers in parentheses refer to the membership of the organization as of early 2008.

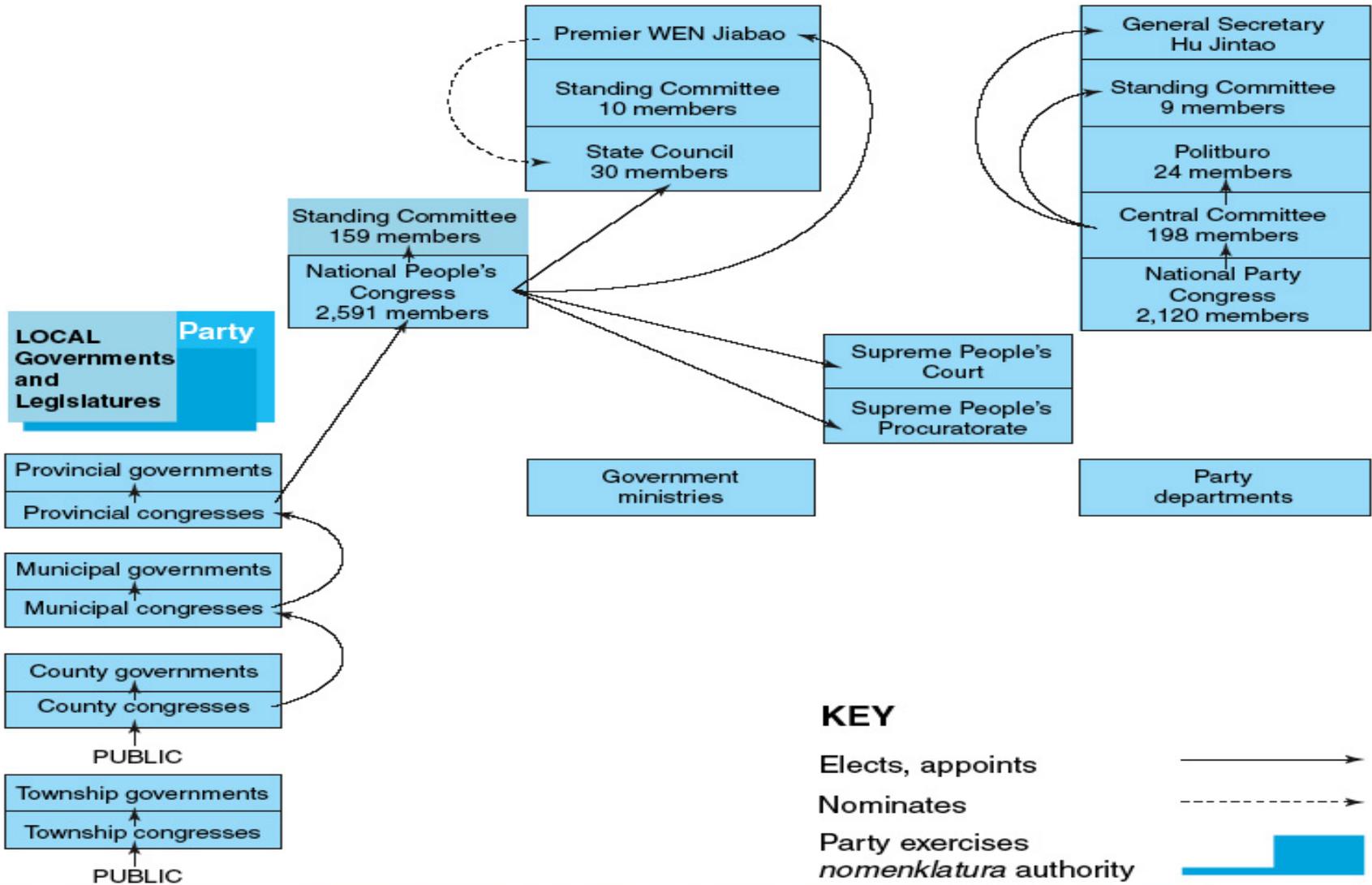
CENTRAL STRUCTURES

Legislature

Government

Judiciary

Party



Chinese Communist Party Congresses and Growth of Party Membership, 1921–2005

TABLE 13.1

Congress	Year	Party Members
1st	1921	More than 50
2nd	1922	123
3rd	1923	432
4th	1925	950
5th	1927	57,900 ^a
6th	1928	40,000
7th	1945	1.2 million
Founding of the PRC, 1949		
8th	1956	11 million
9th	1969	22 million
10th	1973	28 million
11th	1977	35 million
12th	1982	40 million
13th	1987	46 million
14th	1992	51 million
15th	1997	58 million
16th	2002	66 million
	2005	71 million

^aCommunist party membership dropped from 57,900 to 10,000 after April 1927, when the Nationalists broke the "united front" with the communists in a massacre that decimated communist forces and ignited civil war.

Source: *Beijing Review*, 41, no. 8 (1998): 22; *People's Daily*, 2 September 2002, and 19 June 2006.

Political Participation in Beijing (percent reporting having participated in political act)

TABLE 13.2

Political Act	1988	1996
Voting for deputies in 1988 local congress elections	71.5	81.0
Contacting leaders of workplace	51.2	54.2
Complaining through bureaucratic hierarchy	43.0	47.5
Voting for leaders in workplace	34.8	16.1
Complaining through trade unions	18.9	24.4
Using connections (<i>guanxi</i>)	15.5	16.6
Complaining through political organizations	15.0	17.7
Slowing down on the job	12.6	9.3
Writing letters to government officials	12.5	15.3
Persuading others to attend campaign meetings for congress deputies	8.9	13.0
Complaining through congress deputies	8.6	14.1
Persuading others to attend campaign or briefing meetings at workplace	7.7	5.4
Organizing others to fight against leaders	7.6	3.0
Writing letters to newspaper editors	6.8	8.3
Persuading others to vote for certain leaders in workplace elections	5.7	3.5
Whipping up public opinion against workplace leaders	5.1	1.7
Persuading others to vote for certain deputies in congress elections	4.7	8.0
Giving gifts in exchange for help	4.6	8.0
Persuading others to boycott unfair workplace elections	4.6	2.9
Reporting to complaint bureaus	4.0	8.1
Persuading others to boycott unfair congress elections	3.7	6.8
Bringing cases to court	1.2	4.5
Participating in strikes	0.9	2.6
Participating in demonstrations	0.4	1.4

Source: Tianjian Shi, "Mass Political Behavior in Beijing," in Merle Goldman and Roderick MacFarquhar, eds., *The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999), 155.