

# CHINA DIGEST

## Quotable

**“Only a people who have created glories understand the meaning of rejuvenation. Only a people who have undergone hardships have a keen longing for rejuvenation.”**

### WANG QISHAN,

vice-president, describing China's reform and opening-up as a 'glorious history'. He placed the development against the backdrop of socialist exploration in the three decades before the opening-up, the struggle for rejuvenation since 1840 and the ups and downs of five millennia of history.



## ON THE SUBJECT OF ADMINISTRATION

Wenzi asked about morality, benevolence, righteousness and propriety. Laozi said: 'Virtue is what people treasure. Benevolence is what people admire. Righteousness is what people venerate, and propriety is what people respect. These are the four implements used by sages to lead and command the world.'

Scroll 35: Wen Zi

**Editor's note:** This is an extract from *The Governing Principles of Ancient China*, based on 360 passages excerpted from the original compilation of *Qunshu Zhiyao*. *Qunshu Zhiyao* or *The Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles*, commissioned by Emperor Tang Taizong of the Tang Dynasty in the seventh century, contains advice, methods and historical notes on the successes and failures of the imperial governments of China. Today it continues to be relevant as a source of inspiration for self-improvement, family management and interpersonal relations.

## Guangxi has historic chance for growth

The Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, with great achievements in the 60 years since its founding, should continue its reform and opening-up to bring the people more benefits, a senior official said.

The region in southern China, which is home to the country's largest number of ethnic minorities, marked its 60th anniversary on Dec 10. At a ceremony held in Nanning, the provincial capital, top national political adviser Wang Yang said Guangxi faces historic development opportunities in the new era.

He said President Xi Jinping visited Guangxi in 2017 and issued a series of instructions that have guided the development of the region.

"The region's GDP, back in 1958, was only 2.5 billion yuan (\$363 million) but surged ... to nearly 2.04 trillion yuan last year, seeing a boom both in the economy and society," Wang said.



Dancers perform at an event marking the 60th anniversary of South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region in Nanning on Dec 10. YU JING / FOR CHINA DAILY

## Xi welcomes Ecuador to help build BRI

China and Ecuador on Dec 12 signed a cooperative document on jointly building the Belt and Road, drawing the two countries into a closer relationship.

The signing was witnessed by President Xi Jinping and his Ecuadorian counterpart, Lenin Moreno, during Moreno's three-day visit to China, which started on Dec 11.

More than 140 cooperative agreements on the joint construction of the Belt and Road have been signed between China and other countries or international organizations.

Xi said China welcomes Ecuador to participate in building the Belt and Road and jointly promote cooperation in such areas as industrial capacity, agriculture, information technology and new energy.

Moreno said the Belt and Road is an important international public contribution from China and connects the two countries in a closer manner.

## Xi says trust key to China-Germany ties

China is ready to share its development dividends with countries including Germany, and it also

hopes the country will remain open to Chinese investment, President Xi Jinping told German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Beijing on Dec 10.

Xi said it is important to adhere to open and innovative cooperation to maintain the vitality of China-Germany relations. This year marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up, and German businesses have a head start in participating in the country's new round of opening-up.

He called on the two sides to continue to step up bilateral and multilateral cooperation and provide more stability to the world while benefiting the two peoples.

Steinmeier said Germany is willing to conduct closer coordination with China in international affairs and jointly safeguard free trade, adding that the country is opposed to any form of trade protectionism.

## President's Belt, Road discourses published

A book of discourses on the Belt and Road Initiative by President Xi Jinping has been published by Central Party Literature Press, with national distribution launched on Dec 11.

The book, compiled by the Com-

munist Party of China Central Committee's institution for Party history and literature research, contains 42 discourses totaling about 130,000 words written since 2013, when Xi first proposed the initiative.

Presiding over a meeting in August that marked the fifth anniversary of his proposal, Xi said that building the Belt and Road should rely upon high-quality development and focus on major infrastructure projects and cooperation in production capacity.

More than 50 countries and international organizations have signed cooperative agreements with China for the BRI this year, with the total number of such documents exceeding 140, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Newly issued loans surpass expectations

China's financial institutions accelerated lending to support economic growth in November, which boosted bank loans beyond the expected level, according to data reported by the central bank on Dec 11.

The country newly issued yuan-denominated loans of 1.25 trillion yuan (\$181 billion), more than the expected 1.2 trillion yuan and 697

billion yuan in October, the People's Bank of China, the nation's central bank, said in a statement on its website.

Total social financing, a broader measure of financial channels including trust loans, increased by 1.52 trillion yuan in November, compared with 728 billion yuan in October.

The central bank also reported that M2, a broad measure of money supply that covers cash in circulation and all deposits, rose 8 percent year-on-year, unchanged from a month earlier.

## Cultural relic looted in 1860 comes home

A Chinese bronze vessel some 3,000 years old that was looted and taken to the United Kingdom in the 19th century was transferred to the National Museum of China on Dec 11.

The vessel, called the Tiger Ying because the top and spout show images of tigers, is from the late period of the Western Zhou Dynasty (c. 11th century-771 BC). It was originally housed in the Old Summer Palace, which was looted by Anglo-French forces in 1860.

The Tiger Ying was grabbed by a

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China Daily Asia Weekly's circulation is audited by BPA Worldwide



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A member of the Asia News Network

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