



President Xi Jinping at a grand celebration of the 40th anniversary of the country's reform and opening-up at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Dec 18.

XIE HUANCHI / XINHUA

CHINA EMBRACING WORLD

President sums up nation's success over the past 40 years, charts tasks for the future

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At a grand gathering on Dec 18 to mark the 40th anniversary of the country's reform and opening-up, President Xi Jinping reaffirmed China's commitment to opening up even more to the world.

"The practice of reform and opening-up over the past 40 years has shown that openness brings progress, while seclusion leads to backwardness," Xi said.

The president pledged to support the building of an open, transparent, inclusive and nondiscriminatory multilateral trading system, facilitate trade and investment, and promote more openness amid ongoing economic globalization.

The high-profile conference was attended by Xi and the six other members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central

Xi's quotes

- China has bid farewell to the problems that plagued its people for thousands of years, including hunger, shortages and poverty.
- No matter how far China develops, it will never seek hegemony.
- China is moving closer to the center of the global stage as a widely recognized promoter of world peace, a contributor to global development and an upholder of international order.
- The practices over the past 40 years have shown that innovation is the lifeline of reform and opening-up.
- There is no textbook of golden rules to follow for reform and development in China, a country with over 5,000 years of civilization and more than 1.3 billion people.
- No one is in a position to dictate to the Chinese people what should or should not be done.
- We must resolutely reform what should and can be changed, and we must resolutely not reform what shouldn't and can't be changed.

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Committee, as well as Vice-President Wang Qishan. Premier Li Keqiang presided over the meeting.

Over the past 40 years, China has recorded an average annual GDP growth rate of around 9.5 percent. This contributed over 30 percent to global economic growth and lifted more than 740 million people out of poverty, Xi said, calling the four

decades "a glorious process".

The country will focus on jointly building the Belt and Road with other nations and establish a new platform for international cooperation while continuing opening-up measures, Xi said.

China will never seek self-development at the cost of other countries' interests, nor will it give up its justifi-

ed interests, Xi said, adding that China's development will pose no threat to any other nation, and it will never seek hegemony no matter how developed it becomes.

China's development provides successful experience and offers bright prospects for other developing countries as they strive for modernization, and it represents China's

great contribution to the progress of human civilization, Xi said.

During the conference, Xi stressed the Party's leadership over all work while calling for constantly enhancing and improving Party leadership.

Reform and opening-up show that Party leadership is the most essential attribute of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the greatest strength of this system, Xi said.

"It is by upholding the centralized, unified leadership of the Party that we have been able to achieve the historic transformation, usher in a new era of reform and opening-up, and embark on a new journey of great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," he said.

All Party members and people must maintain a high degree of awareness in terms of thinking, political orientation and actions in ensuring leadership by the Party — a fundamental principle that bears

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