CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA*

Adopted by the Fifth Session of the Fifth National People's Congress, 4 December 1982.

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Preamble

China is one of the countries in the world which have a very long history. The Chinese people, of all nationalities, have together created a splendid culture and have a glorious revolutionary tradition.

After 1840, feudal China was gradually reduced to a semi-colonial and semi-feudal country. The Chinese people waged a ceaseless heroic struggle for national independence and liberation and for democracy and freedom.

During the twentieth century, great and earth-shaking historical changes happened in China.

The 1911 Revolution, led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, abolished the feudal imperial system and gave birth to the Republic of China. However, the Chinese people had not yet completed their historical task of overthrowing imperialism and feudalism.

In 1949, the Chinese people of all nationalities under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, led by Chairman Mao Zedong, after having undergone long, hard, and tortuous struggles, armed and otherwise, finally overthrew the rule of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism, achieved the great victory of the new-democratic revolution, and founded the People's Republic of China. Thereupon, the Chinese people took state power into their own hands and became masters of the country.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the society of our country was transformed step-by-step from a new democratic to a socialist society. The socialist transformation of the private ownership of the means of production was completed, the system of exploitation of man-by-man was eliminated, and the socialist system was established. The people's democratic dictatorship led by the working-class and based on the alliance of workers and peasants, in essence the dictatorship of the proletariat, has been consolidated and developed. The Chinese people and the Chinese People's Liberation Army have overcome the aggression, sabotage, and armed provocations of the imperialists and the hegemonists, safeguarded national independence and security of the state, and strengthened its national defense. Major successes have been achieved in economic construction and an independent, fairly comprehensive socialist industrial system has been basically set up. There has been a marked increase in agricultural production. Significant progress has been made in educational, scientific, cultural, and other undertakings, and socialist ideological education has yielded noteworthy results. The livelihood of the people has improved considerably.

Both the victory of China's new democratic revolution and the success of China's socialist cause have been achieved by the people of all nationalities of China under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, guided by Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought and by upholding truth, correcting mistakes, and overcoming numerous difficulties and hardships. From now on, the basic task of the nation is to concentrate its strength on carrying out socialist modernization. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the guidance of Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought, the people of all nationalities of China will continue to uphold the people's democratic dictatorship and follow the socialist road, steadily improve the socialist system in all respects, develop socialist democracy, put the socialist legal system on a sound basis and work self-reliantly and hard to bring about the modernization of industry, agriculture, national defense, and science and technology to turn our country into a socialist country with a high level of culture and democracy.

The exploiting classes as such in our country have been eliminated but class struggle will continue to exist, within certain limits, for a long time to