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# CHINESE EXPERIENCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM

Elyorbek Otajonov

Doctoral student, Institute for Research of the Youth Problems and Training Prospective Personnel, Uzbekistan

## Abstract

Administrative reforms are an important part of political reforms, an important part of reforms and development of China. Administrative reforms include the evolution of administrative power structures, regulation of administrative organization, administrative management systems, innovation of administrative tools, etc. 40 years after that how China's attempts at reform began, it seems that administrative reforms have made great progress. Be that as it may, this is confirmed by studying great course and valuable experience of administrative reforms in China. In addition, studying and exploration of key issues aimed at continuously advancing reforms can be of great importance for a deep understanding of the great achievements of reform and discovery, continuous deepening of reforms of administrative systems and coordinated promotion of the "Four Comprehensive Steps" strategy layout.

**Keywords** China's administrative reforms, administrative reforms, social development, management system, modernization in public administration, marketization and socialization of public services.

## INTRODUCTION

Reform is the process of transitioning from an existing system to a new one. It is believed that reforms can be implemented through traditional methods of public administration, but they also depend on market self-regulation. The People's Republic of China was established on October 1st, 1949, and the establishment of a socialist system led to the need to learn how to create new forms of administrative governance. In 1951, the Administrative Council of the government issued a resolution to reform organizations and reduce staff, as well as optimize administrative work for the first time after the establishment of New China. Later, in 1954, the National People's Congress adopted the first constitution and elected a president, establishing a state council that formed the basic administrative structure of New China.

Following this, there was a period of central and local government simplification lasting more than a year from 1955 onwards. In 1966, a resolution was passed regarding the authorization of relationships between central and local government bodies[1]. Based on the proposals presented at the national system conference that year, the first step towards improving the national administration was the distribution of administrative functions and powers between central government, provincial, autonomous region, and municipal levels. Reforms and openness in China have demonstrated a successful path for gradual change. Administrative system reform was an important component of this process and helped to deepen other reforms, leading to the creation and improvement of a

socialist market economy and the development of democratic policies. Administrative reform in China has followed a path of gradual transformation. This approach has emphasized orderly and innovative self-improvement as well as revolutionary development of the socialist system within the framework of the political leadership of the Communist Party and the basic principles of socialism with Chinese characteristics. China's administrative reforms were guided by the need to maintain a balance between economic development and political stability. The reforms were designed to ensure that they do not disrupt the overall stability of the country. This approach allowed for a gradual and controlled implementation of reforms, which was successful in promoting economic growth and social progress.

#### **PURPOSE AND TASK**

It is an administrative system designed to maintain China's core political system and governance structure. The study suggests that China's administrative reforms have successfully managed the balance between socialism and market-based economic principles. This has been an unprecedented process, achieved through a series of steps that involved "crossing rivers and touching rocks" while adapting to the demands of a socialist-market economy. Each stage in the reform process must be implemented correctly, with accuracy and reliability [2]. Innovation in the context of administrative reform in China entails not only significant alterations to the original power structure and interest model, but also a profound transformation of concepts and ideological underpinnings. Practice has demonstrated that each step of this reform process is the fruit of preserving freedom of thought, pursuing truth through reliance on factual evidence, and making improvements over time. To further advance administrative reforms, China strives to establish long-term objectives, comprehensive plans, clear

pathways, and directions for reform. The Chinese Communist Party and government serve as the driving force behind these reforms, with the aim of enhancing citizens' lives and promoting economic and social development. Since the inception of China's reform process, the ultimate goal has been serving the people. This principle is evident in the country's efforts to promote civil reforms that uphold the rule of law, protect the rights, and safeguard the interests of all individuals. The reforms are designed to benefit the general public and allow everyone to share in the benefits of progress. Based on the dynamic nature of administrative reform in China, the country places great emphasis on public enthusiasm, initiative, and involvement, which increase socio-economic sustainability and creativity. Only through administrative reform can the interests of the people be ensured in China, as it reflects popular support and relies heavily on people to lead government initiatives. People are satisfied as they receive sincere assistance from government propaganda and strong public support. Since 1978, a number of measures have been implemented under the "Open Door" policy, which was initiated in 1978. This policy was an experiment conducted in a specific region and has since become a cornerstone of China's government strategy. Through reforms and openness, China has experienced increased interaction and cooperation with foreign nations [3]. The administrative reform aims to redefine the relationships between governmental bodies and restructure the management system. This reform is different from other reforms in China as it is not simply a replication of foreign models but rather a response to evolving trends and developments in global public administration. Moreover, the reform considers the vast geographical area and diverse circumstances of different parts of China, as well as the profound influence of traditional administrative concepts and other factors. As a

rapidly developing nation, healthy economic growth in China is not only the top priority but also a significant contributor to global development. Therefore, economic development direction, support for economic growth, and adaptability to change have consistently been the primary driving forces behind government reforms in China. The administrative system forms the backbone of the national structure and is an essential component of Chinese political governance, serving as the nexus between economic, political, social, and other systems. Administrative reforms in China encompass, among other aspects, the establishment and regulation of governmental agencies, formulation and implementation of national economic policies, decision-making processes, industrial development initiatives, and various other facets of public life. These reforms also entail significant interactions between central and regional governments, governmental entities and civil society, the government and business sectors, common interests, and regional interests. Consequently, administrative reform initiatives are carefully planned to ensure the seamless operation of governmental functions and the continued growth of the economy [4]. Many of the core policies and practices of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Chinese government are rooted in public innovation and implemented at the grassroots level. As part of the process of administrative reform, it is crucial to encourage and support local governments and agencies. We believe that gaining experience, adapting to local circumstances, learning boldly, fostering innovation, and deepening reform are all essential. In recent years, numerous local government bodies have actively studied the organizational structure, hierarchy, management system, working mechanisms, service procedures, and other aspects of government activities. They have also promoted reforms in the overall system and studied direct management systems. The province is

implementing reforms aimed at revitalizing district, city, and administrative management systems, standardizing public services, and comprehensively reforming the law enforcement system.

These reforms differ from self-liberalization in that they are being led by the pragmatic hand of the government. There will continue to be discussion about these reforms.

## **RESULTS**

In 1991, Jiang Zemin emphasized that if the reform process was not implemented, the country's ability to maintain its economic stability would be threatened. He further cautioned that if socialist ideology was not followed during the reform, all the progress achieved through the 70 years of struggle by the party and the people could be undone. Therefore, while reform should free the mind from preconceptions, it should also be guided by certain principles.

The process of reform and opening in China can be divided into three stages:

1. The first stage: addressing critical issues.
2. The second phase: rejecting the dichotomy between socialism and capitalism.
3. Third phase: Continuing forward towards development and prosperity – In the third phase, in 1997, the government chose not to oppose the ideas of public and private ownership. However, this was merely a superficial approach. In reality, both concepts needed to be abandoned. However, it was not possible to simultaneously discard the concepts of “socialism,” “capitalism,” “public,” and “private.” It is surprising that these concepts are still used today to define the essence, direction, and primary path of reform [5] Various scholars have reached similar conclusions regarding the economic reforms in China. For example, Professor Zhang Yu argues that these reforms seek to establish a market-oriented economy within the

framework of the socialist constitutional system. The aim of this process is to enhance the socialist system, promote post-industrialization, and modernize the country. The constitutional order in this context refers to the political and institutional framework of socialism. Despite the passage of time, the fundamental principles of China's economic reform have remained unchanged. The current economic reforms initiated in the early 21st century continue to adhere to this approach. These reforms are implemented through continuous study, and in terms of transforming the economic system and its operational mechanisms, the trajectory is clear: a gradual shift from a planned economy to a market-driven one. The reform was not originally proposed by the leaders of the People's Republic of China (PRC), but it was rather an unavoidable choice for each economic entity wishing to generate profit. The aim of the reformers was to make decisions in a timely manner that aligned with development trends. The standard description of China's economic model is based on terms such as the "Chinese economic miracle" and the "socialist market economy." In the past 15 to 20 years, these phrases have gained widespread usage and have acquired the status of a guiding principle. Another significant reform in China is the implementation of the Family Contractor system[6]. The family contract system is a complex social institution with a significant impact on millions of people's lives. A reform has been implemented, which has affected farmers' interests and led to historic changes in the economic, political, and ideological landscapes of rural areas. This has helped Chinese agriculture break out of a period of stagnation and created a favorable environment for rural economic growth. As a result, villages have shifted to commodity farming, specialization, and modernization through a comprehensive or complete reform. During the early stages of the reform, the government has encouraged farmers' productivity,

primarily through increased purchase prices for agricultural products, promotion of various farming methods, stimulation of specialization in production, selection of crops based on regional comparative advantages, and expansion of agricultural land. The designation of the family as the main unit of agriculture was merely a reorganization of farming, involving collective, centralized management and distribution. Peasant households remained as consumer units. Following the allocation of production tasks to peasant households and the distribution of the entire workload among them, peasant farmers became producers and accumulators. This undoubtedly played a significant role in enhancing rural productivity. After peasant families began functioning as relatively independent economic entities, significant changes occurred in regulations regarding the preservation of rural property and the division of labor. Overall, the reforms implemented in Chinese rural areas serve as a clear example of the enormous potential for comprehensive development possessed by small farms. In the specific case under consideration, the reform of the agricultural sector contributed to the growth of other sectors and ensured political and societal stability during challenging times for China. By 2004, there were more than 22 million businesses in rural China, employing 138 million people. It is worth noting that the reform of the countryside required almost no effort on the part of the Chinese government, as collective farms were exhausted and land was distributed among families. Positive changes occurred through the activation of farmers. Following the Sal, a series of measures known as the "peasant farm responsibility policy" were implemented. Under this policy, farmers were permitted to sell some of their products at discounted prices. Agricultural markets emerged in villages, but this was only the beginning. By 1981, more than 98% of arable land in China belonged to peasant families. The Chinese

Constitution recognized citizens' rights to private ownership, which supported private initiative in the countryside. Peasants voluntarily united into small cooperatives and larger associations to protect their interests. In 1985, China began to feed its growing population and export grain due to this new policy. The Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping, emphasized the importance of agriculture. The positive results of the Chinese agricultural reforms later prompted the government to introduce similar reforms in other sectors. These positive outcomes were achieved through an increased focus on agriculture, reduced administrative oversight, and liberalization. This led to the realization that other sectors could also be reformed in a similar way. In response, the "Responsible Industrial Policy" was published as part of the "Peasant Farm Responsibility Policy." By 1992, all businesses in China had been transferred to an economic system, and as a result, the number of privately owned industrial enterprises increased from 100,000 to 5.8 million in just five years[7]. It has become feasible to establish joint ventures involving foreign investment. The Chinese strategy is to base decisions on reality: to establish a small number of peasant farmers while taking into account the needs of the populace, increase their financial interests, liberate peasants and entrepreneurs from administrative constraints, and remove administrative oversight over them. This is a promising path, which in our case represents the only means forward. We must pursue this route.

## **CONCLUSION**

The results of China's recent administrative reform efforts have been encouraging. In recent years, the country has implemented a series of comprehensive changes to its civil service system. These changes have had several positive outcomes, including:

1. Reduced corruption: China's anti-corruption

efforts have significantly reduced the level of corruption among civil servants.

2. Improved efficiency: The reforms have streamlined the work of civil servants, resulting in faster service delivery and increased efficiency.

3. Strengthened accountability: New systems hold civil servants accountable for their actions, allowing citizens to file complaints when necessary.

4. Promotion of merit-based service: Reforms focus on rewarding civil servants based on ability and performance.

5. Increased citizen satisfaction: All these changes have contributed to an increase in citizen satisfaction with public services due to reduced corruption, improved efficiency, and strengthened accountability.

Negative outcomes: Increased competition. The transition to a service-based system has resulted in increased competition among highly skilled and experienced civil servants, leading to stress and pressure in certain areas. Bureaucratic challenges: In some cases, new systems and procedures have led to an increase in bureaucracy, slowing down the decision-making process. Political interference concerns: Reforms have reduced the Communist Party's control over civil service appointments, causing concern among some officials.

Resource limitations: Certain parts of China lack sufficient resources to fully implement the reforms, leading to varied outcomes. Implementation challenges: There have been difficulties in fully implementing the reforms, and some local governments have resisted change. Overall, China's civil service reform efforts have generated both positive and negative impacts. Positive developments, such as decreased corruption, improved efficiency, and enhanced accountability, have been noted. However, there were also some unintended consequences, such as increased



competition and decreased bureaucracy. The Chinese government continues to address these challenges in order to continue improving its civil service system.

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