

From Mao to Xi: a timeline of China's leadership

Major figures since the start of communist rule



Mao Zedong
Chairman



Hua Guofeng
Chairman



Hu Yaobang
Chairman/
General secretary



Zhao Ziyang
General secretary



Jiang Zemin
General secretary



Hu Jintao
General secretary



Xi Jinping
General secretary



Zhou Enlai
Premier



Deng Xiaoping
Reform era leader

1949

76

81

87

89

2002

2012

February 25, 2018

Communist Party proposes deleting from the Constitution the stipulation that a president **"shall serve no more than two consecutive terms"** of five years – paving the way for President Xi Jinping to remain as head of state after 2023