

“Inside the Great Firewall”

Red Lantern Analytica’s fortnightly China Digest: June 15th to 30th 2025

1. June 15 – Top Security Czar Orders Tibet Stability Operations Chen Wenqing, member of the Politburo and Secretary of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission, oversaw a high-level meeting in Qinghai focused on maintaining stability in Tibet and related regions. This pre-emptive internal security push hints at ongoing anxiety in Beijing over regional dissent and ethnic tensions.

2. June 17 – NPC Pushes for National AI Law Amid Global Scrutiny China's National People's Congress (NPC) is formally considering proposals for an Artificial Intelligence Law to regulate AI development. While framed as governance, the timing suggests preemptive censorship tools are being codified as "rule of law" in response to both domestic innovation and international pressure.

3. June 17 – CPC Rebrands Cyber Governance as “Rule of Law” The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) released a 278-page report stressing “rule of law in cyberspace.” Yet the report mostly documents surveillance expansions, especially over AI and dissenting online communities, underscoring the regime’s persistent conflation of legality with control.

4. June 23 – Rare Earth Group Leadership Purge Raises Eyebrows China Rare Earth Group, which controls over 60% of global rare earth supply, abruptly reshuffled five senior executives, including the chairman, citing “work reasons.” Despite official denials of disruption, the scale of change suggests internal discipline issues or strategic recalibration at a critical national industry node.

5. June 24 – Legislature Fast-Tracks Laws on Public Security and Media During the NPC Standing Committee's session, lawmakers reviewed sweeping changes to laws on public order,

media propaganda, and public health emergencies. With minimal public debate, the move reflects China's shift toward technocratic authoritarianism under the guise of legislative efficiency.

6. June 25 – UAE-China Exchange Reveals China's Elite Technocratic Face The International Department of the CPC met UAE counterparts in Beijing with over a dozen high-level Chinese officials present. Beyond diplomacy, the closed-door nature of such summits highlights China's opaque policymaking elite now spanning urban governance, tech, and central planning.

7. June 25 – Vice Premier Tours Rural Fujian to Push Xi's "Ten Thousand Villages" Model Liu Guozhong, Vice Premier and Politburo member, led an inspection to Fujian, ordering local officials to accelerate implementation of Xi Jinping's rural revitalization directives. The focus on slogans over reform illustrates China's heavy reliance on top-down developmentalism to mask systemic rural decay.

8. June 26 – State Narcotics Chief's Surprise Anti-Drug Tour in Beijing Wang Xiaohong, Minister of Public Security, made a high-profile appearance to inspect anti-narcotics efforts. Such visibility from a senior police figure signals rising concern over domestic social instability, often attributed to economic stagnation and rising youth frustration.

9. June 27 – NPC Expels Navy and Nuclear Officials in Quiet Purge Vice Admiral Li Hanjun and senior nuclear scientist Liu Shipeng were expelled from the NPC, while former ideological czar Miao Hua was removed from the Central Military Commission. The silent purge hints at possible corruption or factional infighting at the apex of China's security state.

10. June 27 – Xi Jinping May Skip BRICS Summit, Signaling Diplomatic Retrenchment Preliminary reports suggest Xi Jinping may opt out of attending the upcoming BRICS summit in person, potentially delegating the role to Premier Li Qiang. If confirmed, this would mark a notable deviation from China's usual summit diplomacy, possibly reflecting Beijing's unease over Russia's optics or internal political distractions within the CCP's upper ranks.

11. June 28 – Xi Jinping’s Writings on Party Unity Republished The CPC’s flagship journal *Qiushi* republished Xi Jinping’s speeches on “unity and struggle.” While presented as ideological guidance, the timing aligns with rising internal discontent, suggesting these pieces are more about loyalty enforcement than moral inspiration.

12. June 30 – Politburo Approves New Regulations on Decision-Making Bodies At its monthly meeting, the Politburo reviewed new “regulations” standardizing decision-making and coordination bodies. Rather than decentralizing authority, the vague language likely consolidates Xi Jinping’s top-down control, with layers of bureaucracy now codified under his watch.

13. June 30 – Politburo Study Session on Party “Self-Revolution” Xi Jinping led the Politburo’s 21st group study on reinforcing the Eight-Point Regulation and combating corruption. Publicly framed as moral reform, the session signals ongoing internal purges, political loyalty tests, and a renewed tightening of the ideological grip across the CCP ranks.

14. June 30 – State Council Grants 10% Tax Credit for Foreign Reinvestment In a rare pro-market move, China’s Ministry of Finance introduced a 10% tax credit for foreign investors who reinvest dividends locally. While helpful on paper, it reflects desperation as Beijing tries to reverse capital flight without addressing underlying investor fears of opacity and political risk.

15. June 30 – Premier Li Qiang Holds Emergency Meeting on Public Services Premier Li Qiang convened a State Council meeting focused on science and technology and public service efficiency. The rushed tone suggests bureaucratic unease over stagnating innovation—where performance metrics are political, not empirical.

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