The Chinese Communist Party, then and now

As it approaches its hundredth birthday, the Chinese Communist Party faces a crisis of legitimacy. It has weathered the turbulent events of the twentieth century to emerge as the single dominant force in Chinese politics. Ruling over half of the world’s population, the CCP is enmeshed with every organ of Chinese government and dominates the apparatus of state, from the military to the media. As Will Hutton notes in the foreword to Friends and Enemies, “Today’s China is the Party’s creation” (p. x). It is impossible to understand contemporary Chinese society without addressing the role of the CCP within it.

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