

**SPEECH AT A MEETING COMMEMORATING
THE CENTENARY OF THE REVOLUTION OF 1911**

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Comrades and Friends,

A century ago, Chinese revolutionaries led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen launched the Revolution of 1911, which shook the world and ushered in unprecedented social changes in China. Today, we solemnly commemorate the centenary of this revolution and with deep feelings recall the memory of the historic exploits of Dr. Sun Yat-sen and other pioneers of the revolution. We should emulate and carry forward their lofty spirit of revitalizing China with unshakable resolve, and inspire the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation at home and abroad to strive to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

After the Opium War in 1840, China gradually degenerated into a semi-colonial, semi-feudal society. Western powers brutally invaded China; its feudal rulers were corrupt and incompetent; the country was ravaged by strife and wars; the people suffered from hunger and cold; and the Chinese people and nation were in the grip of misery rarely seen in the world. At a time when China was beset by domestic turmoil and foreign aggression, every Chinese who was concerned about the future and destiny of the country and the Chinese nation came to see that to attain national independence and the people's liberation and to make the country strong and the people prosper, it was necessary to overthrow the feudal autocracy and bring about a fundamental change in Chinese society. The outbreak of the Revolution of 1911 epitomized the longing of the Chinese people for national independence and revitalization, and it was also a manifestation of their unyielding and indomitable struggle for national salvation.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen was a great national hero, a great patriot and a great leader of the Chinese democratic revolution. He stood in the forefront of the times, and called for "adapting to world trends and conforming to the needs of the masses" and "saving the people from misery and stopping our country from collapsing without delay." He held high the banner of struggle against feudal autocracy, and put forward the political program of the Three People's Principles – nationalism, democracy and people's livelihood. He was the first to cry out for "revitalizing China" in the hope of ridding the Chinese nation of feudal autocracy and foreign aggression and pushing China to catch up with

the pace of development and progress of the world and become one of the world's advanced countries. Dr. Sun Yat-sen's exemplary actions were in complete accord with his pledge, "I will press forward with indomitable will; the more setbacks I experience, the more determined and persistent I will be." Under his leadership and influence, large numbers of revolutionaries and countless dedicated patriots rallied under the banner of revitalizing China, spread revolutionary thinking far and wide, vigorously set the tide of progress in motion, and launched a series of armed uprisings, thus creating unstoppable momentum of revolution.

The Revolution of 1911 overthrew the Qing Dynasty, ended the absolute monarchy that had ruled China for thousands of years, spread the ideas of democracy and republic, and brought about earthshaking social changes in modern China that had a profound impact. Due to the constraints of the historical and social conditions prevailing at the time, this revolution did not change the semi-colonial, semi-feudal nature of Chinese society, lift the people out of misery, or complete the historic mission of winning national independence and the people's liberation. Still, it was a thoroughly modern, national and democratic revolution. The Revolution of 1911 greatly freed the minds of the Chinese people, opened the floodgate for progress in China, and explored a path for the development and progress of the Chinese nation.

The historic contributions made by Dr. Sun Yat-sen and other pioneers of the Revolution of 1911 to the Chinese nation have gone down in the annals of history. All those who fought heroically and those who laid down their lives in that revolution deserve the lasting respect and memory of the Chinese people. The Revolution of 1911 will stand forever as a towering landmark in the course of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Comrades and Friends,

Following the Revolution of 1911, the Chinese people led by visionary patriots who had gone through the test of this revolution continued to tenaciously seek a path to save the country and the people. The Communist Party of China (CPC) was founded in 1921 through the integration of Marxism-Leninism with the Chinese workers' movement. From then on, the

Chinese people were under the leadership of a Marxist political party guided by advanced theory, and the Chinese revolution took on a whole new countenance.

Chinese Communists are the staunchest supporters, closest cooperators and most loyal inheritors of the revolutionary cause Dr. Sun Yat-sen initiated, and are dedicated to achieving and furthering the lofty aspirations of Dr. Sun Yat-sen and other pioneers of the Revolution of 1911. Immediately after it was founded, the CPC adopted an anti-imperialist and anti-feudal program for democratic revolution, cooperated with the Chinese Kuomintang led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen and established a broadly based revolutionary united front. Having suffered repeated setbacks after the Revolution of 1911, Dr. Sun Yat-sen came to see that Chinese Communists were his close friends; and he reorganized the Kuomintang and implemented the policies of alliance with Russia, cooperation with the Communist Party, and assistance to peasants and workers. The Kuomintang and the CPC then entered into cooperation for the first time and launched a revolution that swept across China and dealt a heavy blow to the reactionary rule of the Northern Warlords. After Dr. Sun Yat-sen's death, Chinese Communists kept true to his wishes and carried on the struggle with all those who were loyal to his cause. After more than 20 years of arduous struggle, the Chinese people won victory in the new-democratic revolution and established the People's Republic of China in which the people controlled their own destiny. The Chinese people thus accomplished the historic mission of winning national independence and the people's liberation – a deeply cherished dream of the Chinese people and patriots throughout China's modern times, and ushered in a new historical era of development and progress for the Chinese nation.

After the founding of New China, the CPC carried forward and developed Dr. Sun Yat-sen's thinking of building a modern country in which the people enjoy democratic rights and prosperity. It united with and led the people of all ethnic groups in completing the transition from new democracy to socialism; carrying out large-scale socialist construction; and advancing the great cause of reform, opening up and socialist modernization through self-reliance and hard struggle. Through sustained efforts since the founding of

New China and particularly since the launching of reform and opening up, the Chinese people have made significant and widely recognized achievements, and written a glorious chapter in the history of China's development. Today, the people of all ethnic groups in China are working with great pride and enthusiasm to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects and accelerate socialist modernization. Dr. Sun Yat-sen's cherished aspiration of revitalizing China and the longings of other pioneers of the Revolution of 1911 for a bright future have become or are becoming a reality. The prospects for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation are brighter than ever before.

Comrades and Friends,

Achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is a momentous long-term task. We should seize and make the most of the important period of strategic opportunities for China's development; take Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important thought of Three Represents as our guide; thoroughly apply the Scientific Outlook on Development; continue to free our minds; steadfastly carry out reform and opening up; give impetus to scientific development; promote social harmony; and continue to work together for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

To achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, we must unwaveringly hold high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The history of the 100 years since the Revolution of 1911 shows that to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, it was necessary to find a correct path and a core force leading the Chinese people forward. The Chinese people eventually found them through painstaking efforts and enormous sacrifices. The correct path is the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the core force is the CPC. The path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is based on a thorough review of all the lessons we have learned from the efforts made in China's modern times to save and revitalize China, the experience, both positive and negative, in carrying out socialist construction in China, and the historical insights of other countries in achieving development and progress. This path accords with China's realities and the demands of the times, and conforms to the fundamental interests of the

overwhelming majority of the Chinese people and the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation. In carrying out the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, we must firmly uphold the leadership of the CPC, stay on and expand the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, maintain and enrich the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and adhere to and improve the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. We must ensure that development is for the people and by the people and it benefits the people. We must comprehensively advance economic development, political progress, cultural progress and social development, improve the ecosystem and carry out Party building. We must constantly ensure and improve people's wellbeing, strive to attain the grand goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, constantly make new progress in our endeavor to build socialism with Chinese characteristics, and lay a solid foundation for achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

To achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, we must unwaveringly hold high the great banner of patriotism. The history of the 100 years since the Revolution of 1911 shows that patriotism is the soul of the Chinese nation and that it is a powerful force mobilizing and uniting the whole nation to strive to revitalize China. The Chinese nation has a fine tradition of loving the motherland. It is a goal shared by all the sons and daughters of China to create a happy life for the Chinese people and have China stand firm among the nations of the world. Achieving great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation would be impossible without the concerted efforts of all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation, and it is also their bounden duty. In the course of achieving the great rejuvenation of China, we must vigorously foster patriotism, and strengthen the great unity of all China's ethnic groups and of all the Chinese at home and abroad. We must consolidate and expand the broadest possible patriotic united front, and foster harmonious relations between political parties, between ethnic groups, between religions, between social strata, and between compatriots at home and overseas. We must pool all the wisdom and strength of the Chinese nation, unite with all forces that can be united with, and work with one heart and one mind to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

To achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, we must unswervingly hold high the banner of peace, development and cooperation. The history of the 100 years since the Revolution of 1911 shows that the development and progress of the Chinese nation require not only a stable and united domestic environment but also a peaceful international environment. Dr. Sun Yat-sen once said, “If China becomes powerful and prosperous, we will not only restore our nation’s standing, but also take greater responsibility in the world.” In today’s world, there is a powerful current of peace, development and cooperation, and the future and destiny of China are increasingly linked with those of the world. China has been, is and will always be a positive force safeguarding world peace and promoting common development. In the course of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, we must adhere to an independent foreign policy of peace, the path of peaceful development, and the win-win strategy of opening up. We will develop friendly cooperation with all the other countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, work to make the international political and economic order more just and equitable, work with people from other countries to build a harmonious world with durable peace and common prosperity, and strive to make greater contributions to humankind.

Comrades and Friends,

Rejuvenating China, which was the cherished goal of Dr. Sun Yat-sen and other pioneers of the Revolution of 1911, should be the common aspiration of all compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. The people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits form a community of common destiny united by blood, and we share the same homeland – the mainland and Taiwan. Today, the Chinese on both sides of the Taiwan Straits have a historic opportunity to work together for common prosperity and development and for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The peaceful development of cross-Straits relations has become an important aspect of the cause of achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Working together to further the peaceful development of cross-Straits relations and achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation should be a goal pursued by compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Straits.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen once remarked, “Unification is the hope of all Chinese people. If unification is achieved, the people will enjoy a happy life; if it is not, the people will suffer.” Achieving reunification by peaceful means best serves the fundamental interests of all Chinese, including our Taiwan compatriots. We should firmly pursue the goal of peaceful development of cross-Straits relations, strengthen the political common ground of opposing Taiwan independence and upholding the 1992 Consensus, promote close exchanges and cooperation between compatriots on both sides of the Straits and share in the benefit of peaceful development of cross-Straits relations. We should increase the economic competitiveness of both sides of the Straits, carry forward the fine traditions of the Chinese culture, enhance the sense of a common national identity, constantly resolve problems on the way ahead, end cross-Straits antagonisms, heal wounds of the past and work together to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Comrades and Friends,

Looking back on the past 100 years of struggle of the Chinese nation, we are filled with pride. Looking ahead to the bright prospects of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, we are full of confidence. We call on all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation to join hands to fortify our ideal of achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation; make contributions worthy of the expectation of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, other pioneers of the Revolution of 1911 and our great nation; and dedicate ourselves to achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation amidst the mighty torrent of the progress of the times.