

INFORMATION POLICY OF CHINA

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Abstract. *This article analyzes the theoretical, institutional, and technological foundations of the domestic information policy of the People's Republic of China. It examines the main directions of state regulation of the digital sphere, mechanisms of ideological control, and strategies for ensuring information security. Particular attention is paid to the role of the Communist Party of China in shaping and implementing information governance strategies, as well as the legal framework that defines the functioning of the digital environment. The study identifies the main achievements of the Chinese model and highlights key challenges related to maintaining a balance between control and innovation.*

Keywords: *China, information policy, cybersecurity, digital governance, censorship, ideology, Communist Party of China, cyber sovereignty.*

Introduction. In the twenty-first century, the information sphere has transformed into one of the most decisive dimensions of global politics and national governance. No longer limited to the technological field, it now serves as a central arena of political power, where control over data, narratives, and communication channels directly shapes the legitimacy and stability of state authority. For the People's Republic of China (PRC), the regulation and management of information flows hold strategic importance, forming a cornerstone of the state's efforts to safeguard national security, sustain ideological unity, and ensure the continuity of political order. Within this framework, information policy is not merely an administrative instrument but an essential component of China's comprehensive national power and modernization strategy.

The evolution of China's domestic information policy reflects the complex interplay between ideology, law, and technology. Since the early 2000s, Beijing has sought to integrate digital development with political governance, positioning information management as both a mechanism of social control and a driver of economic modernization. The current system has developed at the intersection of three interdependent factors: (1) the consolidation of Party-state control over ideology and mass communication; (2) the legal and institutional regulation of the digital environment; and (3) the technological governance of data, algorithms, and information processes. Each of these dimensions operates within the overarching logic of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) pursuit of "informational sovereignty" —

the principle that the state retains ultimate authority over the production, distribution, and interpretation of information within its borders.

The Concept and Essence of China's Domestic Information Policy

Information policy is understood as a set of state principles, goals, and instruments aimed at regulating information flows, shaping public consciousness, and ensuring security within the digital sphere. In the Chinese context, information policy forms an integral part of the Party's overall governance strategy, implemented in accordance with the concept of 'socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era'. The central task of China's domestic information policy is to maintain ideological unity and social stability through comprehensive control over the media, the Internet, and new communication technologies.

Theoretical and Methodological Foundations

The study applies institutional, structural-functional, and comparative approaches. From an institutional perspective, China's information policy can be viewed as a system of formal and informal institutions ensuring state control over information dissemination. The key theoretical principle underpinning this policy is the concept of national cyber sovereignty, which asserts the right of each state to determine its own rules for managing its cyberspace. Equally important is the notion of information security, which in China includes not only data protection but also the safeguarding of ideological and political stability.

Institutional and Legal Mechanisms of Information Regulation

China's information governance system is highly centralized and hierarchically structured. At the apex stands the Central Commission for Cybersecurity and Informatization, chaired by President Xi Jinping. Its executive body, the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), coordinates the implementation of policies related to cybersecurity, content regulation, and digital governance. The main legislative foundations include: Cybersecurity Law (2017), Data Security Law (2021), Personal Information Protection Law (2021), and Regulations on Algorithmic Recommendation Management (2022). These legal instruments formalize state control over digital platforms, ensure data protection, and oblige private technology firms to cooperate with government authorities.

China's domestic information policy operates through four major dimensions: 1) Ideological – promoting Party values, maintaining narrative coherence, and combating 'ideological pollution'; 2) Technological – deploying artificial intelligence, big data, and social credit systems for information monitoring and regulation; 3) Administrative – licensing, censorship, and regular 'clean-up' campaigns aimed at controlling online discourse and content; 4) Cultural-educational – cultivating digital patriotism and fostering a 'positive online culture'. In practice, this policy merges political control

with technological innovation, creating a sustainable model of digital governance that ensures both stability and efficiency.

Distinctive features of China's information policy include: centralized governance under Party leadership, integration of technological and administrative regulation, ideological framing of digital management, and the priority of social stability over freedom of expression. The main achievements are the creation of a robust cybersecurity infrastructure, the rise of domestic IT corporations, improved digital literacy among citizens, and the maintenance of political stability. Nevertheless, several challenges remain: balancing innovation with control, ethical concerns surrounding digital surveillance, and international criticism of 'information authoritarianism'. Future prospects lie in the intellectualization of governance tools and the construction of a 'harmonious cyberspace', aligning technological development with social and ideological objectives.

Conclusion. The evolution of China's domestic information policy under the conditions of digitalization represents one of the most illustrative examples of how state power adapts to the challenges of the information age. The Chinese model integrates ideological, technological, and legal components, enabling the state not only to maintain stability in the context of rapid digital development but also to establish its own standards of cyber governance.

The core principles of this policy are ideological consolidation, technological self-sufficiency, and legal regulation. Through ideological consolidation, the state ensures the unity of the political and informational space, promoting a system of values aimed at strengthening national identity and social stability. Technological self-sufficiency allows China to develop domestic digital platforms, enhance cybersecurity, and reduce dependence on foreign technologies. Legal regulation provides a normative foundation that balances security, innovation, and citizens' rights in the digital sphere.

However, the further development of this system is accompanied by inherent contradictions. Strengthening control over information flows and digital data increases national security but simultaneously raises questions about the limits of personal freedom and privacy. Thus, one of the key challenges for China lies in finding an optimal balance between security and freedom, innovation and control, modernization and stability.

In conclusion, China's domestic information policy demonstrates not only the effectiveness of state governance in the digital era but also contributes to the global debate on the principles of regulating cyberspace. In the long term, China's ability to harmonize control with innovation will determine both its internal resilience and its role in shaping the emerging global digital order.

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