

Subject/Title	The Transformative Path in Post-Totalitarianism Authoritarian Regimes: The Case of Intra-Party Democracy of the CCP
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Abstract	<p>Adopting the concept of path dependency in historical institutionalism, this article is to present the impact of the post-totalitarian character on the measures of intra-party democracy recently taken by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Firstly, the author assesses three aspects of intra-party democracy, including the expansion of political participation in cadre appointments (direct elections of officials at the grass-root level and the selection of local leading cadres by ballot), the curtailment of the power centralization to Party committees (the "three-cut" reforms and the trials of permanent Party delegates), and the establishment of the check and balance mechanisms within the CCP. However, the author claims that inner-party democracy, representing the bottom-up expression and convergence of opinions within the Party, is difficult to be integrated with the Party's top-down commanding system. Secondly, the measures of intra-party democracy, if threatening the Party's post-authoritarian character, are eventually discarded or curtailed. Accordingly, this paper argues that the trajectory of intra-party democracy demonstrates the continuity of the core of the political establishment-one-party rule and the top-down commanding system-while political participation and the checks and balances of power within the Party does make progress in a limited extent.</p>
Keyword(s)	Post-Totalitarianism Authoritarian Regimes ; Democratic Centralism ; Intra-Party Democracy ; Permanent System of the Congress ; Organization Theory