

Liu Qibao, Sichuan Party Secretary, Rising Star(?)



Overview:

Born: 1953 Anhui Province.

Education: 1992 MA in Economics, Jilin University.

Career: since December 2007 Party Secretary of Sichuan, considered – because of its size - one of the most important provinces in the country. An ally of Hu Jintao through the China Youth League.

Prospects: Tipped by Cheng Li for promotion to the Politburo in 2012, although has been described by Willy Lam as “lack-luster”.

Relevance to Tibet: Currently Party Secretary of Sichuan Province.

Standing in the Party and Career Highlights:

Member, 17th CPC Central Committee. Spent 30 years working in Anhui. Work history includes being deputy editor-in-chief of People’s Daily. Has Communist Youth League experience (Cheng Li thinks Liu is one of Hu’s closest Youth League friends). In 2006 became Party chief of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and succeeded Du Qinglin (UFWD) as Party Secretary of Sichuan Province in December 2007. Was a “sent-down youth” who during the Cultural Revolution were rusticated as teenagers, from cities to the countryside to do manual labor for years.

Comments By/About:

Cheng Li 2010: Sichuan Party Secretary Liu Qibao and Shandong Party Secretary Jiang Yikang hold the top positions in two of the most important provinces in the country. Both have broad leadership experience within the central government, and they are among the leading candidates for the next Politburo. (Note contrast with Willy Lam below)

Willy Lam, Jamestown: “a large number of Youth League heavyweights have proven to be lackluster cadres who owe their rise to patronage rather than performance. Examples include the party secretaries of Tibet, Xinjiang, Sichuan and Shanxi...*Liu Qibao together with his predecessor Du Qinglin* has been faulted for the large number of shoddily constructed buildings that collapsed during the Sichuan Earthquake last year.

World Socialist Web Site 2007: reported riots and crackdowns in Guangxi about the one-child policy: “Responsibility for the riots, however, rests squarely with the Chinese government. Liu Qibao, the provincial party boss in Guangxi, is a rising political star, closely associated with Hu Jintao’s party faction. Since his appointment...he has become well known for aggressive policies aimed at making the province “economically competitive”. At a family planning conference in February, he gave a “yellow card” warning to the Bobai authorities for falling behind in meeting the quotas of the one child policy. In order to clear the “yellow card” by August, officials in Bobai County and their superiors in the regional centre of Yulin city implemented a repressive campaign of forced sterilization of women and property confiscation in lieu of fines. Between February 6 and April 10, Yulin carried out 48,554 sterilisations and collected some 27.6 million yuan (about \$US3.5 million) in fines. The local Guangxi Daily praised the Yulin city government and hailed the one child policy as a positive factor for “social harmony”.