

The Structure and Problem of “Social Management” in China

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In the face of frequent outbreaks of violent “mass incidents”, the Chinese Communist Party, or CCP, has placed increasing emphasis on the importance of “Social Management”. Under this structure, almost all the party and government bureau, private sectors and even individuals have been integrated into one system, in order to maintain “Harmony” and “Stability”.

However, for one part, as the areas concerning “Social Management” are so broad, most of the related matters simply resulted in cosmetic implementation. On the other hand, it makes it much easier for local CCP leaders to resort to immediate and strong measures, which lead to an even bigger and wider abuse of power, in the absence of effective measures and regulations to prevent them from happening.

In conclusion, the system is in dire need of a fundamental reconstruction, as it is unconformable with their goals, namely “Harmony” and “Stability”, and the cost of sustaining the system is too high. Moreover, it will escalate the magnitude of the collision as the system itself brings about bigger and stronger upheavals.

It is obvious that the only way to avoid a fatal collision is to rebuild basic communities as a stage for people to exercise their right of autonomy and participation. But because the system of “Social Management” has spread into almost every corner of any entity, and the leaders of CCP seem unwilling to loosen up the system, it is very difficult to change the course and the prospect of “Social Management” remains uncertain.