

## *Clientelistic State Corporatism: The United Front Model of “Pairing-Up” in the Xi Jinping Era\**

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### *Abstract*

United front work has played an important role in the history of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Since 2012, Xi Jinping has strengthened the united front system's efficacy and further proposed formation of a “great united front.” He holds that united front work's essence is “making friends,” in which regard the CCP under Xi has introduced a new practice called “pairing-up.” It stipulates that local governments at all levels must facilitate establishment of “friendly” relations between members of Party committees and specific persons in charge of so-called democratic parties to further implementation of united front work. This new form of united front embodies “clientelistic state corporatism.” We use the case of L City to analyze the united front model of pairing-up, its effects and limitations, and the CCP's social control strategy.

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