

Bo Xilai Downfall Could Bring More Reforms to China

Contributed by Tom McGregor
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BEIJING: The Communist Party of China (CPC) expelled Bo Xilai from the Party, as well as from public office. He will soon go on trial and faces the strong likelihood of spending the rest of his life in prison.

He had risen to prominence as mayor of Dalian in Northeast China and then gained global stardom as the so-called Chongqing boss who fought the mafia underworld. He was a media darling of the Western media and many believed he would eventually rise to the top echelons of power in Beijing.

However, the so-called crime fighter seems to have been an alleged criminal thug too. Rumors have swirled that he's somehow behind the mysterious deaths of many of his political rivals. Planes had an odd way of crashing in Dalian when he seized power in the region. He stands accused of amassing hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes, while laundering funds into the U.S.

However, Bo Xilai's crimes against market-oriented and political reforms in China appeared to his most diabolical deeds.

He claimed to support Maoist economic policies, demanded Chongqing officials pay tribute to 'Red China'; tourism and enforced media policies in which he banned soap operas, dramas, comedies and game shows on TV to replace them with shows praising Mao's Cultural Revolution idealism.

Perhaps, his actions should come as no surprise. He allegedly betrayed his own father by deploying Red Guards to pack his dad off to a re-education camp during the Cultural Revolution.

Ironically, his ultimate fall from grace occurred when his chief political ally, former Chongqing vice mayor Wang Lijun, fled to the US Consulate in Chengdu to expose the criminal misdeeds of Mr. Bo. He complained to reporters that his best friend betrayed him. So what comes around goes around.

Bo Xilai had become a menace to reforms in China and a vile representation of the ills of the country. Some may consider him nothing more than a scapegoat, but that fails to explain that Bo acted like a Chinese mafia boss, who resorted to violence in a desperate power grab.

Fortunately for all of China, he lost in his bid for power and most likely he can reflect over his demise behind bars.

To read the entire article from the China Daily, link here:tmcgregordallas@yahoo.com