

## 《CCTV9英语新闻：西藏农奴解放57周年》

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BEIJING, March 27 (Xinhua) -- On March 28, 1959, about 1 million Tibetans broke the chains of serfdom in a historic democratic reform. Fifty-seven years on, the autonomous region once beset by inequality and oppression has witnessed encouragingly fast economic growth and better-than-ever standards of living.

As a documentary that China Central Television (CCTV) aired over the weekend showed, serfs in Tibet were belittled, discriminated against, and treated no better than livestock.

In 1959, a new page was turned. The democratic reform, which centered on abolishing serfdom, was one of the most comprehensive and profound social changes in human history.

Serfs were emancipated, and given the dignity and respect they had long craved. For the first time in centuries, they became masters of their own fate, and their country.

The reform, led by the Communist Party of China, ushered in a new era marked by brightness, progress and prosperity. The potential of former serfs, who were given land and livestock after the reform, was thoroughly unleashed, and change swept through the land.

Over the past 57 years, especially during the 30 plus years of reform and opening up, the people of Tibet, regardless of their ethnic background, have become increasingly aware of the significant role the 1959 reform has played in the history of Tibet.

Generations of Chinese leadership have studied the conditions of the region, formulated forward-looking policies and programs accordingly, and made rapid economic growth, improved living standards and long-lasting social security and stability possible.

If the achievements Tibet has made over the past 57 years prove anything, it is that the 1959 democratic reform was an inevitable choice of Tibetan people and the history, and also what it needed to ensure economic and social development in this region.

only by remembering the ruthlessness of serfdom and the damage it did over centuries to the vast majority of Tibetans could the historic contribution of the 1959 reform be properly acknowledged.

only by drawing lessons from history can Tibet continue on the right path and its people work toward a brighter future.

Tibet, now standing at a new historic juncture, is presented with vast opportunities for greater growth.