

## FOX HUNT 2014 v1

China President Xi Jinping is two years into his unprecedented fight to eliminate the corruption that permeates the Communist Party in China. Since assuming office in early 2013, Xi has vowed to "hunt tigers and swat flies," meaning he'll target both high- and low-level officials.

In contrast to previous Chinese leaders, Xi has been adamant that no one is untouchable. Big targets like former security czar Zhou Yongkang and former military chief Xu Caihou, once thought untouchable by even top officials, were some of the first to fall in Xi's crusade.

While Xi and the Party are notoriously tightlipped about the inner workings of the Communist Party, they have been remarkably open about the illicit goods, cash, and properties found in the hands of the corrupt officials they've taken down.

Of course, Xi may have a hidden motive for being so transparent — to convince the public he's winning the battle against corruption. Whatever the reason, he's given Western observers an unprecedented view into the level of corruption of Chinese officials.

Here are a few of the more outrageous examples:

### Zhou Yongkang



REUTERS/Jason Lee China's then-Public Security Minister Zhou Yongkang attends the opening ceremony of the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China at the Great Hall of the People, Beijing, Oct. 15, 2007.

Zhou Yongkang once belonged to the all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee and served as national police chief when he came under investigation in July 2014. His arrest in December could be a move to add legitimacy to Xi's corruption campaign. It was previously taboo to investigate current or former members of the Politburo.

NTD Television reported Zhou's ill-gotten gains, which include assets totaling \$16.05 billion.





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### Liu Zhijun

Liu Zhijun joined the Communist Party as a low-level bureaucrat at the National Ministry of Railways in the 1970s, eventually rising to become the minister of the department. This past July, a Beijing court sentenced him to death for bribery and abuse of power.

Liu accepted bribes totaling \$10.4 million from 1986 to 2011, according to Xinhua. In 2013, investigators seized \$142.1 million in cash, undisclosed amounts of shares, 16 vehicles, 374 properties, and other valuables, according to The Guardian. In addition, investigators found the minister had 18 mistresses, including multiple actresses from a popular television show, nurses, and train stewards.

### Gu Junshan



REUTERS/StringerA visitor stands in front of a statue of China's late Chairman Mao Zedong made of gold, jadeite, and diamond during an exhibition in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, Dec. 13, 2013. According to local media, the 50 kg (110 lb) statue is worth more 100,000,000 yuan (\$16,470,000).

Lieutenant General Gu Junshan was arrested in early 2012 after his suspected involvement in a massive scheme that involved the sale of military appointments. The supposed bribery scheme involved nearly \$5 billion, roughly \$100 million of which Gu allegedly kept for himself.

When police raided Gu's mansion in 2013, they found the stupendous spoils from that racket, including four military trucks worth of luxury items, a cellar of expensive wine, a gold hand basin, and a pure gold statue of Chairman Mao, according to The Telegraph.

Gu reportedly distributed the money from the racket to his underlings by filling Mercedes vehicles with \$3.8 million in gold bars and handing the recipient the keys.

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### Ni Fake

REUTERS/Aung Hla Tun A jade merchant inspects the most valuable jade lot that will be auctioned at the Mid-Year Emporium in Yangon, Nov. 13, 2007.

The former vice governor of Anhui province in central China, Ni Fake, is one of Xi's strangest targets. He's hardly the big name that Xu or Zhou is, but the Chinese media has given him a lot of attention because of the form his loot has taken. Almost 80% of Ni's fortune was jade.

Ni's obsession with jade was well known, leading party investigators to warn him about his ostentatiousness nearly two years before the investigation. By most accounts, Ni did not listen. He always wore a jade necklace and carried a small flashlight and magnifying glass to examine new jade that might enter his collection, according to The New York Times.

The state-run China News website reported that on the weekends, Ni would spread out his favorite jade pieces and look at each. Every other week, he waxed his jades, and on every work trip he would visit the local jade market. His jade collection amounted to an estimated \$1.6 million in pendants, ornaments, and carved stones. The rest of Ni's bribes came in the form of cash, paintings, or property.

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### Wei Pengyuan



REUTERS/Stringer An employee counts renminbi banknotes at a Bank of China branch in Changzhi, Shanxi province, Nov. 13, 2009.

Wei Pengyuan, deputy chief of the coal bureau at the National Energy Administration, has been charged with taking \$5.8 million in bribes from 2002 to 2012. When investigators searched his home, they found an astounding amount of cash: \$33 million, or 200 million yuan.

It is estimated that the cash, which was likely in 100-yuan banknotes, would weigh more than 2.2 tons and climb 656 feet in the air if it were stacked.

### Ma Chaoqun

Not every official nabbed with a ridiculous fortune was a “tiger.” Many, like Ma Chaoqun, were flies. Ma was a midlevel water-supply official in Beidaihe, a resort town near Beijing favored by top government officials.

Ma allegedly used his position to stack up a prodigious fortune: \$19.3 million in cash, 81 pounds of gold (worth about \$1.4 million), and 68 properties totaling \$163 million