

Carry Forward the Spirit of the Heroes of Anti-Japanese War, and Promote the Ideological and Political Education of College Students

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Abstract

This year is the 70th anniversary of the Anti-Japanese War. In order to strengthen the effectiveness of the ideological and political education of college students, we need to grasp the contemporary reality while understanding the actual situation of college students, need to commemorate the victory of anti-Japanese war, cherish the spirit of heroes of the war while carrying out college students' mission education, education of socialist core values and education of Chinese dream, need to integrate normalized education with nodal education, integrate coherent education with periodical education, integrate common education with targeted education so as to seize the opportunity to carry out effective ideological and political education.

Key words: Hero's spirit; Socialist core values; Chinese dream; Ideological and political education of college students

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INTRODUCTION

Last year, the national government established the Anti-Japanese War Memorial Day and Martyrs' Memorial Day in the national legislation. This year is the 70th anniversary of the victory of Anti-Japanese War and the World Anti-Fascist War. The whole country carried out a number of celebrations around this theme, and this is also an opportunity for us to effectively promote college students' ideological and political education.

1. EXPLORE IN-DEPTH THE VALUE OF HERO'S SPIRIT TO THE IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

1.1 Contemporary Manifestations of Patriotism

Patriotism is a concentrated expression of the heroic spirit. Since 1840, especially during the Anti-Japanese war, many people with lofty ideals made the ultimate sacrifice for national independence and prosperity. Patriotism is the traditional virtue of Chinese nation and the spiritual pillar to support Chinese nation's flourishing. How patriotism will be reflected in times of peace and how it will be reflected in college students requires us to explore in-depth from the patriotic spirit of the martyrs.

Firstly, today's peace is hard-earned, and cherishing peace, remembering the martyrs is the manifestation of patriotism. Students having such a good learning environment and the country having such an unprecedented development are inseparable from the contributions of the martyrs. Patriotism and the spirit of martyrs are internally consistent. Historical nihilism tries to derogate and negate our revolution, slander and ridicule Chinese people's struggles against imperialism and feudalism and struggles for national independence and

liberation, slander and deny China's social development orientation and the great achievements (Liang, 2012, p.115). The national government established the Martyrs' Memorial Day to commemorate the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the socialist revolution and construction. All martyrs fought for the interests of Chinese nation and struggled against imperialism and feudalism, which are an undeniable fact. Therefore, when we carry out patriotic education of college students, we should resist the penetration of historical nihilism.

Secondly, patriotism is also reflected as a sense of urgency, requiring us to converse patriotism into the practical actions of learning and construction. Due to Qing government's corruption and incompetence, China fell into warlordism and foreign invasion, the national sovereignty was violated. Patriotism would outbreak at these times, requiring college students to transform patriotism into a sense of urgency, and always keep in mind the painful lesson of being bullied. College students are the reserve army of young talents and the repository of national development. Only when they transform patriotism into the dedication for the construction of mother land, they are able to integrate martyrs' spirit with the great journey of the ongoing socialist construction with Chinese characteristics.

Thirdly, patriotism should also be converted to the self-confidence of the road, institution and theory. Loving our motherland, identifying our socialist road with Chinese characteristics, and identifying Marxism and its theoretical achievements in China which guide us to this path are coherent. In the new era, we need to convert patriotism into "three confidence". To carry out ideological and political education of college students, we should make them cherish, always adhere to, and continuously develop the fundamental achievement which Chinese Communist Party and the people have accumulated for over 90 years—socialism with Chinese characteristics, make them be firmly confident of the road, institution and theory (Huang, 2013).

1.2 Eternal Pursuit of the Supremacy of Ideal and Belief

According to incomplete statistics, about 20 million martyrs sacrificed their lives for the national independence, people's liberation, national prosperity and people's happiness. Many martyrs did not even leave their names (Interpretations of the Relevant Departments of Civil Affairs, para.5, 2014). What kind of spiritual strength drove the 20 million martyrs to make the ultimate sacrifice for the country? It is their ideal and belief!

Firstly, we must fully understand the importance of ideal and belief. Xi Jinping attaches great importance to ideal and belief, he said: "Ideal and belief are the spiritual 'calcium' of the communists. We must strengthen ideological and political construction, solve the 'main switch' problem about the world, life and values"

(Effectively Carry Out the Second Batch, para.6, 2014). Ideal and belief are the spiritual 'calcium' of everyone and the spiritual power to maintain the struggle for life. For young college students, ideal and belief are even more important. Xi Jinping said, "If the young generation has an ideal and a sense of responsibility, the country will have a future, the nation will have a hope, and our developmental goal will have an unfailing driving force." (*Selected Important Documents Since*, para.4, 2014, p.277). Young people are the future of the country and hope of the nation. College students are the leaders of young people, and must establish a correct ideal and belief.

Secondly, ideal and belief are to be established in comparison and identification. With the in-depth development of economic globalization, various social thoughts rise one after another. Many thoughts corrupted college students' thoughts with the banner of neutral values, such as democratic socialism, "universal values" and so on, so Xi Jinping pointed out that ideological work is an extremely important work of Chinese Communist Party (*Learn the August 19th Important*, para.5, 2013, p.1). Marxism also encountered a number of debates in the process of being popularized in China and accepted by the people. Marxism could occupy a dominant position in the New Culture Movement because it fought against all kinds of erroneous ideas, and made three major debates with the anti-Marxist thoughts (Wang, 2014; Chen & Zeng, (2012). Therefore, in the process of conducting education of martyrs' spirit to college students, we should strengthen the education of ideal and belief, especially learn to judge various ideas and establish correct ideals and beliefs.

2. TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF COMMEMORATING THE VICTORY OF ANTI-JAPANESE WAR AND CHERISHING THE SPIRIT OF MARTYRS TO PROMOTE THE IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

2.1 Carry Out Mission Education to College Students

September 18th Incident, the North China Incident, the Marco Polo Bridge Incident...after each incident occurred, there were always young people rose up in resistance. Whenever there was a time of national crisis, there were young people struggled to seek the truth to save the nation. Only when young people are able to be responsible, the country is able to have a hope. Young people's fighting spirit does not only exist in the wartime. In the peacetime today, this fighting spirit should also not be obsolete, but to be transformed to be the sense of mission of college students.

College students are the hope and future of the country and nation. For this Xi Jinping has calculated such a few figures: The students now studying in colleges are about 20 years old, and in 2020 when a moderately prosperous society has been built, many of them will be less than 30 years old; in the middle of this century when modernization has been basically realized, most of them will be less than 60 years old. That is to say, to achieve the goal of “two one hundred years”, you and thousands of young people will be involved entirely (*Xi Jinping's Talks on Governance*, 2014, p.175). These figures illustrate the importance of students to the realization of Chinese dream, and that the Party and country anchor the hope on the struggles of college students.

We must strengthen mission education to college students while carrying out a series of activities to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the victory of Anti-Japanese war, which should commence from two aspects: Firstly, college students should establish a sense of mission, namely, studying hard and working hard for the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation should be the sacred mission of college students; Secondly, college students should make efforts to improve their own qualities, to comprehensively improve their political quality, psychological quality and professional quality in order to complete the mission, and strive to be the socialist builders and successors possessing political integrity, professional competence and overall development.

2.2 Carry Out Education of Socialist Core Values to College Students

Martyrs' values and the socialist core values which we have vigorously fostered and practiced have a lot in common.

Firstly, the national independence which the martyrs strived after diligently is the prerequisite for nation-building. The martyrs struggled for national independence. The socialist core values at the country level are “prosperity, democracy, civilization and harmony”, and the precondition of nation-building is national independence. The martyrs' contributions laid the foundation for development of the country, then college students have no reason not to struggle to build the country. Secondly, the national independence which the martyrs struggled for is the foundation for social development. The value pursuit of the social dimension of socialist core values is “free, equality, justice, and ruling by law”, where in freedom is the prerequisite. College students need to understand that the martyrs sacrificed for national freedom, and only with the national freedom we can make more efforts to realize “equality, justice and ruling by law”. Thirdly, patriotism highlighted by the martyrs is the core of personal quality. Patriotism is a manifestation of the traditional Chinese virtues, is a concentrated expression of the spirit of the martyrs, and is the primary objective of the personal dimension of socialist core values. Contemporary college

students have a misunderstanding that patriotism is too far away, and since we have no war today, it is enough to meet the requirement of “professionalism, integrity and friendliness”. Patriotism is not a specific term for the wartime, and dedication to the development of the country is also a patriotic manifestation, which is closely linked with national development, social progress and everyone.

When we carry out relevant celebrations to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the victory of Anti-Japanese War, we must combine these activities with the cultivation and practice of socialist core values, and carry out college students' ideological and political education more specifically based on “prosperity”, “freedom” and “patriotism”.

2.3 Carry on Education of Chinese Dream to College Students

Xi Jinping said: “Today, we are discussing the Chinese dream. I believe that to achieve the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation is the greatest dream of Chinese people since the modern times.” (*Selected Important Documents Since*, para.4, 2003, p.84) The heroes and martyrs all struggled to achieve the dream of the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation, especially when Japan launched a full invasion to China and Chinese people suffered the unprecedented bullying, the martyrs made unremitting struggles to defend the dignity of the nation. Revival of Chinese nation has long been the goal that countless people with lofty ideals have fought for in the absence of clear proposal of the concept “Chinese dream”. Xi Jinping pointed out in the May 4th 2013 speech that, “Chinese Dream condenses the tireless efforts of countless people with lofty ideals, bears the common desire of all Chinese people, and shows the bright future of the country's prosperity, national rejuvenation and people's happiness.” (*Ibid.*, p.227) Compared with the three levels of the Chinese dream it can be found that the spirit of martyrs and Chinese dream are internally consistent: from national independence to national prosperity, from national awakening to national revitalization, from people's liberation to people's happiness.

The heroic spirit of Anti-Japanese War and the Chinese dream are internally consistent. We need to strengthen the education of Chinese dream while carrying out a series of activities to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the victory of Anti-Japanese War, especially strengthen the education of Chinese dream to college students. Xi Jinping said,

Chinese Communist Party has always regarded the youth as the future of the motherland, the hope of the nation, always regarded the youth as a fresh force for development of the Party and the people, and always support the youth to realize their ambitions in the great struggle of people. (*Ibid.*, pp.277-278)

The three “always” indicates the trust of the Party and state for the youth. College students are the outstanding

representatives of the group, and should dare to should the responsibility.

Chinese dream is to develop a strong modernized country for which Chinese people have made unremitting struggles since the modern times. In order to realize the dream, the martyrs sacrificed their lives. College students should draw strength from the heroic spirit from this dream, so we should seize the opportunity of the 70th anniversary of the victory of Anti-Japanese War to carry forward the ideological and political education and practice of Chinese dream.

3. SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE COLLEGE STUDENTS' IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION

3.1 Normalization and Node Characteristics of College Students' Ideological and Political Education

Ideological and political education of college students is a normalized work, requiring us to pay full attention and integrate the ideological and political education into daily education and management process of college students. The No.16 document of CPC Central Committee and State Council stressed the need to give full play to the leading role of classroom in ideological and political education of college students, to strive to expand the effective ways of ideological and political education under the new situation, and to give full play to the important role of Party organizations in ideological and political education (*Selected Important Documents Since*, para.4, 2006, pp.181-187). Hu Jintao pointed out at the conference of strengthening and improving the ideological and political education of college students,

Colleges and universities should earnestly take the responsibilities to strengthen and improve ideological and political education, establish and improve the unified leadership of the Party committee to jointly manage the Party, government and people, establish a working mechanism that all faculty and staff are engaged in education and implement education in all aspects and whole process. (Ibid., p.645)

“classroom education, effective way, Party organization,” “all faculty and staff, all aspects, whole process” constitute a normalized ideological and political education system for college students, namely the normalized ideological and political education.

In addition to a normalized ideological and political education, we also need to take advantage of specific times to implement ideological and political education to college students, such as implement Lei Feng Spirit education in March, implement mission education in the Youth Day, implement patriotism education in the National Day, and implement traditional Chinese culture education in traditional festivals, etc.. The state has

established the Anti-Japanese War Memorial Day and Martyrs' Day in national legislation, so we can have much effect if we make good use of the specific times to carry on corresponding ideological and political education, and draw support from the good social atmosphere to enhance the effectiveness of college students' ideological and political education.

3.2 Coherence and Stage of College Students' Ideological and Political Education

The No.16th document clearly defines the main task of strengthening and improving college students' ideological and political education: Take ideal and belief education as the core, carry out education of correct world outlook, correct outlook on life and values; Focus on patriotism, advocate and cultivate national spirit education; Based on fundamental code of ethics, carry out in-depth citizen moral education; Take college students' comprehensive development as the goal, implement in-depth quality education (Ibid., pp.180-181). In order to achieve these goals we must carry out continuous ideological and political education to college students.

Keeping abreast of the times requires us to integrate the latest items into the process of college students' ideological and political education, but this often also brings the problem of “a gust of wind”, namely, a theory has been paid much attention to learning over a period of time, but after some time the learning was weakened, and after a period of time it was even forgotten. Movement of learning Lei Feng, for example, its effectiveness continues to weaken, and there are even claims such as “Lei Feng has not a registered residence, he comes in March and leaves in April” (Chen & Zeng, 2012). This leads to a greatly reduced effectiveness of ideological and political education, and we often have to start all over the education again. Focusing on a specific education at a certain stage is necessary, but we should also maintain continuity in order to achieve the educational goal.

Chinese dream educational activities were implemented extensively after Xi Jinping expounded the theory of Chinese dream and the cultivation and practice of socialist core values also set off a wave of learning boom, but then they fell into a certain “silence” after these concentrated learning and activities, which is not consistent with the coherence of ideological and political education. Ideological and political education of college students which are manifested as the commemoration of the victory of Anti-Japanese War and the memory of heroic spirit cannot become “a gust of wind”. We must integrate these activities into the previous periodic ideological and political education, effectively integrate heroic spirit into the conventional patriotism, collectivism, socialism, correct world outlook, outlook on life and values, in order to better enhance the overall ideological and political education.

3.3 Universality and Pertinence of College Students' Ideological and Political Education

In addition to an overall ideological and political education to college students as a group, we must also carry out specific educational activities to each individual student. From the perspective of ideological and political educational theory, this is demonstrated as collective value and individual value of ideological and political education. Collective value of ideological and political education means that ideological and political education can meet the need of a collective development (Luo & Dong, 2006, p.47). Individual value of ideological and political education refers to the effectiveness to personal quality, and the significance to promote the comprehensive and free development of human being (Ibid., p.50).

The goal of ideological and political education to college students as a whole is: Take belief education as the core, patriotic education as the key, ideological and moral construction as the foundation, and comprehensive development of college students as the goal, emancipate the mind, seek truth from facts, keep pace with the times, adhere to the people-oriented ideology, get close to reality, life and students, make efforts to improve the pertinence, effectiveness and appeal of ideological and political education, and cultivate qualified socialist builders and reliable successors featuring an all-round development in morality, intelligence, physique and art (*Selected Important Documents Since*, para.4, 2006, p.179). Ideological and political education of college students is to guide them to fully develop and become the qualified builders and reliable successors. We should commemorate the Anti-Japanese War and recall the martyrs to implement ideological and political education to college students as a whole. We should start with patriotism, firm belief and the sense of mission of "every man alive has a duty to his country" to effectively implement the commemoration of Anti-Japanese War and the memory of the martyrs. As Xi Jinping pointed out: If we expect a value to be truly useful, we must integrate it into society, and make it perceivable and understandable in practice. We should pay attention to closely connecting the advocacy with people's daily life and make more efforts on practical implementation (Take Fostering and Carrying Forward, para.7, 2014).

Ideological and political education also requires to lay stress on pertinence. In the relevant activities for the 70th anniversary of the victory of Anti-Japanese War, we should pay attention to speaking more history to science and engineering students, make them touched by the inspiring struggles and sacrifices of the heroes; We should hold activities such as speech contest and essay contest to liberal arts students to strengthen the influences of the spirits of the heroes; We should organize stage play, scene play, singing competition, art creation and other forms to art students to strengthen the influences. For all

kinds of bad thoughts, such as the questioning about the revolutionary martyrs, suspicion of Chinese roads or other negative tendencies, we must strengthen knowledge of history and patriotic education to students, guide them to establish a correct ideology; for the thoughts that the heroic spirit has nothing to do with us or the wartime is too distant, we need to strengthen hardship consciousness education and fighting spirit education to students, guide them to connect their own destinies with the future of the country. Ideological and political education of college students should be targeted.

Commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the victory of Anti-Japanese War and the memory of the martyrs are the important handgrips to carry on college students' ideological and political education. We can take them as opportunities to implement targeted and effective ideological and political education to college students, from which we can also explore and refine some effective practices of ideological and political education to college students.

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