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A Study of Vehicles and Methods of Ideological and Political Work of the Communist Party of China in the Great Rear Area During the Anti-Japanese War

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Abstract

In China, the ideological and political work should have a rich and accurate content, but the implementation of the content needs to have the aid of necessary and appropriate vehicles and methods. During the period of the Anti-Japanese War, the ideological and political work of the Communist Party in the great rear area had adapted to the special environment, ensured the effectiveness of the ideological and political work, effectively mobilized the people and maintained the Anti-Japanese National United Front with the aid of various vehicles and flexible methods, and had made the tremendous contribution for the victory of the Anti-Japanese War. The successful experience of applying the vehicles and methods has the important significance of inspiration and reference for our current ideological and political work.

Key words: The Anti-Japanese War; The Communist Party of China; The great rear area; Ideological and political work; Vehicle; Method

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INTRODUCTION

Only with the aid of a certain vehicle or method, we can deliver the content of ideological and political work to the

audiences. Then if they accept the content, the audiences will support the communist party's line, principles and policies so as to achieve the effect of the people following the principles. With the aid of various vehicles and effective methods, the content of the ideological and political work of the Communist Party was able to spread and influence the people in the great rear area during the period of the Anti-Japanese War, so the Communist Party achieved effects of organizing and encouraging the people to actively fight with Japanese invaders.

1. THE MAIN VEHICLES AND METHODS OF THE IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL WORK IN THE GREAT REAR AREA

During the period of the Anti-Japanese War, it was very difficult for the Communist Party having public activities in the Kuomintang controlling areas because of the Kuomintang's dictatorship. In order to effectively carry out the Communist Party's work, the Communist Party secretly established the South Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Chongging on January 16, 1939, and appointed Zhou Enlai as the secretary. The South Bureau was secretly located in the Eight Route Army office building and the South Bureau shared the office building with the Eight Route Army office. The South Bureau was a local organization of the Communist Party. The Kuomintang government was unlikely to allow the South Bureau's existence and public activities in its ruling center. The Eight Route Army office as a local institution of the Kuomintang government's National Revolutionary Army could have its activities publicly. The South Bureau of the CPC Central Committee had to hold activities in the name of the Chongqing Office of the Eight Route Army.

After the establishment of the South Bureau, it had always held high the great banner of the Anti-Japanese

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National United Front, resolutely opposed capitulation, opposed separation and retrogression, strived to maintain the cooperation, won over the middle forces, isolated the diehards, and adhered to the Anti-Japanese War. The South Bureau as the core of leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in the great rear area carried out various kinds of the ideological and political work. It adopted all kinds of effective vehicles and methods, and had obtained a relatively ideal effect.

1.1 Use a Variety of Vehicles

1.1.1 The Form of Writing

As vehicles, Newspapers and magazines were timely and efficient and newspapers' and magazines' printing were simple. In the great rear area, newspapers and magazines had been widely used in the ideological and political work. Along with the formation of the Anti-Japanese National United Front based on the cooperation between the Kuomintang and the communist party, the Communist Party of China had gained a legal status in the country, and had timely issued the Xinhua Daily and The Masses weekly in the Kuomintang controlling areas. Mao Zedong and other party leaders had written important articles published on the Xinhua Daily and The Masses, which played roles of propaganda, encouragement, mobilization and education in the Anti-Japanese National United Front. Through publishing a large number of news, political commentaries, the newspaper and magazine gave publicity to the line, guidelines and policies of the Communist Party, so that the majority of military and civilians in the great rear area could better understand the Communist Party. The newspaper and magazine had played a positive role in the propaganda of the fighting with Japanese invaders and democracy.

1.1.2 The Form of Arts

During the Anti-Japanese War, a large number of literary and art talents gathered in Chongqing, Sichuan Province at the center of the great rear area. The Communist Party used this favorable condition, actively led and carried out anti-Japanese propaganda through the vehicle of arts.

Dramas had been widely used in anti-Japanese propaganda in the great rear area. A large number of outstanding drama works had been played in Chongqing and other places of the great rear area, such as *Defend the Lugou Bridge, The Battle of Lugou Bridge, The Traitors, Long Live China, National General Mobilization, Put down Your Whip* and so on. Inspired by the anti Japanese propaganda activities of the people, scholars had more creative enthusiasm, continuously created excellent plays for the anti Japanese propaganda. At the same time, a large number of anti Japanese propaganda troupes had been established.

Songs also were an important vehicle for the Communist Party carrying out ideological and political work in the great rear area. Under the leadership of the Communist Party, various anti Japanese organizations had organized choirs in the great rear area. The Songhua River, Broadsword March, The Yellow River Cantata, Song of Guerrillas, Song of Yanan and other many anti Japanese songs were widely sung in the great rear area. These songs stirred up the people's hatred for the Japanese invaders, their longing for peace and their enthusiasm for the war of resistance

The poetry also played a big role in the Communist Party carrying out ideological and political work in the great rear area. During the Anti-Japanese War, poets, literary and art workers first realized that poetry should be related to the realistic national war. When the people created poetry, also considered its social responsibility. The social responsibility of poetry became a main standard to measure whether a poem was suitable for living in the special environment (The Chongqing Research and Collaborative Innovation Center, para.6, 2013). Many good poems, which advocated the fighting with Japanese invaders and opposed to surrender and go backwards, were created in the vast land of the great rear area. These poems had encouraged the people's emotion, patriotism and the uniting spirit for the fight.

The murals, comics, wood carvings and other art forms also played an important role in the Communist Party carrying out ideological and political work in the great rear area. These art forms were intuitive so people from every social level could better understand the true meaning of these works. In the great rear area of the Anti-Japanese War, the Communist Party extensively used these art forms in the ideological and political work to produce the anti Japanese propaganda, which created a good atmosphere for the people fighting with the Japanese enemy, greatly stimulated the people's enthusiasm for the Anti-Japanese War in the great rear area and resisted the Kuomintang reactionaries' attempt of splitting the Anti-Japanese United Front.

1.2 The Ambush and Infiltration Methods

During the period of Anti-Japanese War, the Communist Party could not publicly carry out its ideological and political work in the great rear area. However, facing the vicious Japanese invaders, the Communist Party had to do anything to wake up the people in the great rear area. At the same time, the Communist Party still needed to maintain the cooperation of the two parties for the Anti Japanese National United Front because it was the nation's hope. Therefore, the Communist Party could only be latent, and penetrate into as more areas and people as possible. The Communist Party adapted to the situation, kept a low profile, saved its strength in accordance with the policy, "hide elites, ambush in a long period, accumulate strength, bide our time" in the Kuomintang ruling area. According to the instructions of the CPC Central Committee, Zhou Enlai proposed a principle, "to make the five thousand party members become hidden and strong capable cadres, who have contact with the masses and are good at influencing and promoting the people" in a South Bureau meeting by the end of 1941. At the same time, the South Bureau gave the education of the communist faith for the members of the Communist Party, let the party members assimilate into the masses, so made the organization of the party root in the people.

At the time, the South Bureau adopted a work method. which combined overt and covert work and strictly separated the upper level activities and lower activities in the social work, to ensure everyone's safety. The provisions were clear for contact of a person and his organization and not only protected the individual, also protected the organization. If the person was exposed, he must not expose his organization. A party member as a social person and a member of society should communicate with other social people. The South Bureau asked every member to "work with diligence, study with diligence, make friends with diligence", but also had a good grasp of the "degree" and must not be too radical, causing the attention of others. The South Bureau asked its members to have a legitimate work in the community in order to be public and legal existence, and to be a honest, good man, so could get around people, timely access to useful information, and also convey the Communist Party's thoughts about the Anti-Japanese War to the surrounding people to let the masses to unconsciously accept the CCP's thoughts. Even in the special cases, for the needs of the Anti-Japanese War, the Communist Party members could join the KMT of China, even the organization of the Kuomintang's secret agents in order to enter inside the Kuomintang and get more valuable information, so could better sever the Anti Japanese National United Front, the war deployment and so on for the Central Committee of the Communist Party. However, the South Bureau strictly controlled its members to join the organization of the Kuomintang's secret agents and individuals could not join rashly. The individuals must request the party organization's decision and approval for joining the organization of the Kuomintang's secret agents.

In the great rear area, many members of the Communist Party were not afraid of hardships and remained anonymous to hide into all walks of life. They engaged in their daily work, at the same time, did not forget the party's trust. They used their public jobs to cover themselves, timely conveyed the thoughts of the Communist Party to the people to let the people accept the Anti Japanese United Front. So their work gathered the people, saved the power for countering the Kuomintang diehards' dictatorship and surrendering regressive policies and made a tremendous contribution to the final victory in the war of resistance.

1.3 The Method of Moving the People Through Real Sympathy

In the great rear area, the Communist Party had helped organizations and individuals to solve practical difficulties, and had moved the people through real sympathy. It was an effective method to carry out ideological and political work in the period of Anti-Japanese War. In the special environment of the Anti-Japanese War, the society was unrest, the people are destitute, the nation was in crisis, and the people lived in poverty. At the time, every organization or individual all met some difficulties. The Communist Party carried out ideological and political work in the great rear area without forgetting the suffering of the people and separating itself from the actual situation. In the practical situation, the Communist Party helped the people to solve practical difficulties, really cared about the people, so the people were willing to accept the politics and the anti Japanese thoughts of the Communist Party.

How did the Communist Party help organizations to solve problems? For example, China National Popular League (later renamed as the Democratic Revolutionary League of China) was secretly established under the leadership and help of the South Bureau in Chongqing during the period of Anti-Japanese War. Many wellknown left figures of the Kuomintang had participated in the organization. The South Bureau also helped three parties and three political forces to secretly set up the "China Democratic Political League" in Chongqing. The Communist Party of China even funded and helped the league to publish its newspaper in Hong Kong. It was the Communist Party's selfless help that won over the trust of the KMT leftists, the middle forces so the South Bureau built a platform to have more chances to communicate with them. Therefore, the KMT leftists and the middle forces had gradually understood the Communist Party's Anti-Japanese War policy, and it made them slowly move closer to the Communist Party. The Communist party's force and the anti Japanese forces had been gradually increased.

How did the Communist Party help individuals to solve problems? During the Anti-Japanese War, the Communist Party not only considered its development in the great rear area, but also cared about difficulties of individuals. After the Southern Anhui Incident, the progressive intellectuals faced the risk of persecution. Under the leadership of Zhou Enlai, the South Bureau made every attempt protect their safety. During the period, the artist Hong Shen once committed suicide because of feeling despair to the life. The South Bureau timely rescued him and gave financial support to his family. The South Bureau also mourned the death of other scholars and gave financial support to their families. The South Bureau organized social donations for scholars and artists, who insisted on the propaganda of the anti Japanese and were unable to bring home enough food.

Through these actions, the Communist Party established a better relationship with the majority of scholars, at the same, exposed the dark ruling of the Kuomintang and saved the strength for the victory of the Anti-Japanese War

Of course, the Communist Party had done many things to care about the people, and those things mentioned above just were typical examples. The Communist Party always stood with the people, strived to meet the needs of the people, and solved their food, clothing and other living difficulties. It was more important that the Communist Party encouraged the people to carry out democratic movements in the great rear area, and strives for rights of them. At the same time, the Communist Party made an effort to maintain and consolidate the Anti Japanese National United Front based on the cooperation of the Kuomintang and the communist party, keep the internal stability, and give the people a stable living environment. The Communist Party also mobilized the masses, gathered strength for the final victory of Anti-Japanese War, and strived to realize the people's freedom and happiness.

1.4 The Method of the Personality's Influence

During the period of Anti-Japanese War, the environment was complex in the great rear area. The Kuomintang especially blockaded the Communist Party so a lot of people did not know much about the Communist Party and did not understand the nature of the Communist Party and its attitude toward the Anti-Japanese War. In this case, no one would easily believe the Communist Party and the Communist Party was exceptionally hard to carry out ideological and political work in the great rear area. In this situation, the Communist Party was not irritable, and also did not give up, but mobilized the cadres and the party members to actively make friends, and let the friends know the Communist Party members in daily communications and understand the nature of the Communist Party. In Zhou Enlai's How to Be a Good Leader, he clearly put forward that a leader should widely make friends. This was an important and effective working method in the special environment. Zhou Enlai told the leading cadres, "The style of leading the party and the style of leading the masses is different. The style and attitude of leading the masses are to make them not feel that we are leading". Zhou Enlai also asked leading cadres to go among the masses, mix with the masses and make friends with the masses in the life; leading cadres should not despise their own roles and impacts, and leading cadres should be cautious about their work (Ideological and Political Work Bureau, para.2, 2011, p.306).

Zhou Enlai and other leaders of the South Bureau actively communicated with national businessmen, often cared about them and often enthusiastically encouraged them to adhere to the production, so that these businessmen gradually realized that their production

was not for themselves but for the country and the whole nation, was closely relevant with the whole war, and was vitally important for the whole nation. In this way, these businessmen were willing to insist on the production and support the Anti-Japanese War. Furthermore, through the long-standing relationship with the leaders of the Communist Party and the party members, these businessmen had also admired the members' personalities, deepened their understanding of the Communist Party, and slowly accepted the line and political views of the Communist Party. Zhou Enlai and other leaders of the South Bureau actively talked with Gu Gengyu, and he accepted the Communist Party's views on the war of resistance against aggression, upheld peace and opposed the civil war. He said that the Communist Party's views had the far-reaching influence on his later road. This was a manifestation of personality charm of the Communist Party members. The "Match King" Liu Hongsheng who had a Long term contact with Zhou Enlai and other leaders had also admired the party members' personalities. He was from fear, doubts to finally support the Communist Party and did his best to support the Anti-Japanese War. Although, the South Bureau's united front work toward the national businessmen only was sincere to encourage, guide and help these businessmen and used the force of personality, but made the effect of "moisten things silently". The majority of national businessmen not only stuck to the righteous cause of the nation and had financial support to the Anti-Japanese War, but also began to close to the party so the party's united front was expanded (The Party History Research Centre of CPC Central Committee, 2005, p.227).

1.5 Developing the Uniting Function of the Wartime Culture

Although culture is "soft", it has a strong force. Culture as a kind of soft power, plays a special and important role in the international power of competition. More and more countries have paid more attention to culture in today's international competition, and it has become one of the focuses of international competition. The Anti-Japanese War was a full-scale battle between China and Japan, and it was not limited to the military struggle, which only was one of external salient features in the contest. The full-scale battle was also related with economic, cultural and other aspects. In 1942, Mao Zedong pointed out in Yanan Forum on Literature and Art:

In our struggle for the liberation of the people in China, there are various fronts. It can be said to have two fronts, the civil and martial fronts, which are the cultural front and the military front. If we want to defeat the enemy, we should first depend on the army with guns. However, this army alone is not enough and we must also have a cultural force. This is an indispensable army for uniting ourselves and defeating the enemy. (Selected Works of Mao Zedong [Vol.3], 1992, p.847)

During the period of Anti-Japanese War, the Communist Party actively united and won over the majority of the progressive intellectuals. Through cultural movements, the Communist Party had an indomitable struggle with the Kuomintang diehards, exposed the essence and the conspiracy of the Kuomintang's anti the Communist Party, well publicized the party's anti Japanese guidelines and policies, gathered a large number of people who supported the Anti-Japanese War, had a very good use of the important cultural soft power, and made positive and great contributions to China's war against Japanese invaders through the ideological and political work in the great rear area.

During the Anti-Japanese War, the Third Department of the Political Department of the Military Committee of the National Government as the lead agency of the Chinese culture was responsible for the national government's propaganda work. However, as a result of the cooperation between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party, the Third Department was actually a cultural and united front agency of the anti Japanese under the leadership of Zhou Enlai. Through the Third Department, the Communist Party united a large number of cultural groups and a large number of scholars and artists in Chongqing, formed a broad united front of anti Japanese culture, great influenced and promoted the development of national cultural movement of resistance against Japan, so the anti Japanese culture in Chongqing had full and wide representativeness and Chongqing became a veritable culture center in the war (The Party History Research Centre of CPC, para.3, 2005, p.15). The Communist Party took the culture as a method for the unity and struggle. The CPC Central Committee set up a specialized agency, the "Cultural Working Committee" in the South Bureau, to lead cultural work and strengthen the united front work of the cultural sector. The South Bureau resolutely implemented the Party Central Committee's instructions: the development of anti-Japanese cultural movement in Kuomintang's ruling areas "not only is a current war weapon, but also is a weapon for preparing future changes and promoting future changes in our thoughts and cadres", relied on the party members and the progressive forces in the cultural circles, united patriotic intellectuals and launched actively progressive cultural movements of anti Japanese in the Kuomintang controlling areas (Ibid., p.16).

Although the Third Department was forced to disband later, a cultural committee was established. The party members were not discouraged, and they used all available opportunities and adopted legal, diverse ways to carry out rich and colorful cultural activities, greatly promoted the development of the culture of the Anti-Japanese War, united the vast number of cultural figures and promoted the great democratic development of anti Japanese. When the Kuomintang diehards persecuted progressive scholars and artists, the Communist Party struggled to rescue

and protect them, and evacuated a number of scholars and artists to Hong Kong. Then Hong Kong became an important center in the propaganda of the Anti-Japanese War. The Communist Party also established troupes in the great rear area to give a large number of revolutionary performances. The Communist Party guided the cultural community to celebrate birthday activities, which not only refreshed the atmosphere which was oppressive in Chongqing as the center of the great rear area, at the same time, established a better relationship between the cultural circles, enhanced the belief of anti Japanese in the cultural circles and promoted the development of democratic movements during the period of Anti-Japanese War.

During the Anti-Japanese War, the cultural movements in the great rear area increased progressive cultural strength, united every force for anti Japanese and achieved the aim of anti Japanese imperialism.

2. ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL WORK IN THE GREAT REAR AREA

During the Anti-Japanese War, the Communist Party used a variety of vehicles and methods to carry out ideological and political work in the great rear area. It showed the diversity of the vehicles, and wholeness and comprehensive infiltrating property of the methods; the methods of implicit ideological and political work were fully used. Although the special environment of the war is far from the current peaceful environment, the ideological and political work has many similarities beside the environmental factor. The ideological and political work has its own specific rules, and these rules not only exist in the war environment, also plays a role in today's peaceful environment. The practical experience come from the ideological and political work in the great rear area has the important enlightenment significance to our current ideological and political work.

2.1 Understand the Role of Ideological and Political Work Methods

A method of ideological and political work is the bridge and link for the relationship of ideological and political workers and their objects. We must pay more attention to its role and correctly select it, and use flexible methods for ideological and political work.

A method of ideological and political work is a basic means for ideological and political workers giving their influence on their objects, so plays a very important role in the completion of an aim of ideological and political work. First of all, an ideological and political work method is an important means to realize the goal of ideological and political work.

We should not only put forward a task, but also solve the problem of the method for finishing the task. If our task is to cross a river, we can not cross the river without a bridge or ship. Crossing the river is an empty talk if do not solve the problem of the bridge or ship. If not solve the problem of the method, talking about the task is useless. (*Selected Works of Mao Zedong [Vol, 1]*, 1991, p.139)

Mao Zedong used the relationship between crossing a river and a boat or bridge to compare the relationship between a goal and the method. Without a method, reaching the goal is impossible. Without a right method, realizing the goal also is not possible. The selection of method plays a very important role in the ideological and political work. Second, a method of ideological and political work is a link to the relationship of political cadres and their objects. Ideological and political work is educational activities between people, needs both sides to interact with each other, so ideological and political work needs appropriate methods as the ties to achieve the interaction between the teaching and the learning. Third, the methods of ideological and political work directly affect the success of the work. Using a good method may get a good result and using a wrong method may get a result, in which, you not only do not achieve your objective, but get in a worse case.

2.2 Adopt Different Methods for Different Situations

The methods of ideological and political work will affect the work effect. We should make the right choice according to the changes of objective conditions and adopt different methods for different situations to achieve an expectant objective. At present, we should pay special attention to the use of new media in order to improve the timeliness; should also pay attention to the implicit work to improve work efficiency.

2.2.1 The Effective Use of New Vehicles to Improve the Timeliness and Effectiveness of the Ideological and Political Work

In ideological and political work and the relevant research, people attach great importance to the "effectiveness", but a few people mention the "timeliness". In today's society of fast pace, we should choose the "method and vehicle" for the timeliness in ideological and political work. It is an important basis for the realization of "effectiveness".

Timeliness of ideological and political work is that the ideological and political workers timely take corresponding methods to reach the objective of ideological and political work according to the object's thought, political consciousness and other information. Only in a certain period of time, the information has value for making a decision. The information is useless beyond the period of time. In ideological and political work, the workers need to grasp the sign information come from the object and have a decisive and timely treatment, so that promptly eliminate the contradiction and solve the problem. Improving the timeliness of ideological and

political work actually is to improve the pertinence, the efficiency and effectiveness of solving problems.

We need to change the old educational style to use new vehicles for timely education. In the past, influenced and constrained by all sorts of conditions and concepts, we solve a lot of ideological and political problems after the problems occur or occur for a long time. This kind of delayed education tends to affect the timeliness of the ideological and political work. At present, new media emerges in an endless stream, which greatly improves the transmission speed of information and people's interaction speed. At the same time, postponing to solve a problem may also mean that the problem will spread faster and make more wide influence. Longer the time of solving a problem is, the more difficult to solve it. Facing opportunities and challenges brought by new media in ideological and political work, we must take this issue seriously, and actively grasp the opportunities and cope with the challenges. In the process of ideological and political education, we should scientifically use new media, timely solve ideological and political problems, provide instant education, and let problems be nipped in the bud.

2.2.2 Strengthen the Application of the Implicit Method of Ideological and Political Education

The implicit ideological and political work is that the ideological and political workers (full-time or temporary) conduct the ideological and political work through the content of cultural and recreational activities, social practice activities and so on. The people as the objects do not perceive the work but agree and accept the world outlook, outlook on life and values advocated by the content of cultural and recreational activities, social practice activities and so on. It is a good educational method. Because this method is covert and the objects do not easily perceive the work, it can avoid conflict and aversion and is beneficial to achieve the objective of the ideological and political work. During the Anti-Japanese War period, the Communist Party carried out the ideological and political work in the base through a large number of cultural and recreational activities and in the great rear area through widely making friends. The work method, which the Communist Party used in that period, was the implicit method of ideological and political education. The Communist Party had achieved the good actual effects so it demonstrates the effectiveness of the ideological and political work method.

The implicit method of ideological and political work is not a spontaneous education in ideological, political and moral aspects. Bai Xianliang thinks: the implicit method of ideological and political work does not mean that we never give certain education content to the people, does not mean that we advocate the spontaneous formation of the people's political, moral and thought qualities and does not mean that we deny the traditional methods of the ideological and political education, but it stresses that

the education is an art and we should be in pursuit of an indoctrination realm without a teaching trace (Bai, 2013, p.30).

Some bias against the ideological and political work permeates in the society currently. So the implicit method of political and ideological work has more advantages, and it should be paid attention to and widely used.

What is the accomplishment way of an implicit ideological and political work method? According to Bai Xianliang's views, there are multiple forms of existence of implicit ideological and political work in accordance with the different standards. Based on different social practice, there is implicit ideological and political work in the economic life, political life, cultural life and social life. Because of the universality of implicit ideological and political work, it may be in every field at any time. The designers, sponsors and review departments of the economic activities, political activities, cultural activities and other social activities should have high political consciousness, fully take into account the infiltration of an ideological and political content in the design process and combine economic benefits and social benefits into the activities.

We should oppose formalism in the ideological and political work. With the development of the society, we should innovate forms and methods of ideological and political work, make an effort to adapt to changes in the object and social environment. Forms and methods should be in accordance with the content. In the innovation process of form and method, must avoid making the formalism mistake. The task of ideological work is to let the people understand Marxism and the party's correct views, which will guide the practice of the masses. If the form of the work is lively and overwhelming, but the work actually has understanding problems and thought problems which are not solved, it will not have good results and may damage the prestige of Marxism and the ideological work. In this way, it actually just puts a lot of correct truth into a pile of empty talk and the masses will regard it as the lie (Yu, 2013).

Ideological and political work must be carried out effectively, not as a mere formality; otherwise it will damage the party and the government's prestige and image, the establishment of a harmonious society and the great rejuvenation of China.

In short, ideological and political work is a complex activity between the people, and the correct choice of the vehicle and method is crucial to ensure its effectiveness. During the Anti-Japanese War, the ideological and political work of the Communist Party of China in the great rear area set an example in this field for us. We should seriously study and understand the ideological and political work and have a correct application and innovation in the current actual situations.

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