

On the Basic Problems of “Four History” Education for College Students

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Abstract

To carry out the “four history” education in colleges and universities, so that students consciously associate their personal ideals with the fate of the country and the nation, is the inevitable path to push forward the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation in the new era. From values, teleology and methodology triple dimensions to clarify why in colleges and universities to carry out the “4 s” education, “four history” what person education to cultivate and how to better carry out the basic problems, such as “4 s” education in colleges and universities to promote the college students “4 s” education high quality development, make college students four firm confidence has important practical significance.

Key words: University; College students; “Four History” education; The basic problem

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General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that history is the best textbook. To flourish and develop cultural undertakings and industries and enhance cultural soft power, we must continue to study Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and strengthen education in the history of the Party, the history of new China, the history of reform and opening

up and the history of socialist development(hereinafter referred to as the “four Histories” education).This is an important measure to combine historical experience, current development and the country’s future. To strengthen the education of the “four Histories” is an important part of the education of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. It is a required course for cultivating ideals and beliefs and cultivating people with firm moral integrity. Education in colleges and universities to carry out the “four history”, is to guide students to back the development course of socialism and the communist party of China led the Chinese people’s revolution, construction, reform the suffering of the brilliant, better grasp now in today’s world and China’s development trend, strengthen the sense of mission, consciously put personal ideals with the future of the nation is closely linked, So as to achieve the second Centenary Goal.

The question of values is the central driving force. Social practice has no meaning if it loses its values. Therefore, the problem of values is the primary premise of carrying out “four history” education in colleges. Secondly, clear education goal is the root of education, and what kind of people should be trained by the “four history” education in colleges and universities is the key problem that needs to be clarified. In addition, the integration should not only stay in the idea, but also find the appropriate path to achieve it. Therefore, methodology is one of the indispensable dimensions for carrying out the “four history” education in colleges and universities. Therefore, under the dual drive of historical trend and realistic need, it is of great theoretical and practical significance to clarify the basic problems of “four history” education in colleges and universities from three dimensions of values, objective theory and methodology.

1. THE VALUE DIMENSION ANSWERS THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT OF “WHY TO CARRY OUT”

In the face of the world from the big change in one hundred and opening “in one hundred, the second goal of” great journey, will study the history of “four” education into ideological and political work practice, which can guide the broad masses of young students basic history of objective knowledge, and to cultivate generations firm road, institutional, theoretical and cultural self-confidence of outstanding young, We will shoulder the mission of national rejuvenation with firm ideals and convictions. Pays special attention to the new era of college students’ “four history” learning education, the party led the people to realize stood up, rich and strong rise of the great historical process logic into the ideological and political education of youth, in the practical work is a matter of a generation of youth value identity, political identity and national identity, the historical mission of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. China is at a critical juncture of the two centenary goals. Only by understanding and bearing history in mind can we better grasp the present and face the future. Strengthening young people’s “four history” study and education can not only guide young people to effectively resist the historical nihilism trend of thought, but also have very important practical significance for promoting the steady progress of the party and the people’s cause and promoting the free and comprehensive development of the young generation.

1.1 The Education of “Four Histories” Is a Powerful Defense to Guide the Youth to Resist Historical Nihilism

Influenced by the complex situation at home and abroad, historical nihilism appears in various forms, especially the wrong understanding of the “four histories”. A few people with ulterior motives and a few bad media use the entertainment form of youth to draw attention, talk about groundless and even subjectively put together the “historical facts” and argument about the history of the Party, the history of new China, the history of reform and opening up and the development history of socialism, acting as a tool of utilitarianism and marketization, greatly harming the healthy development of young people’s body and mind. These errors trend seriously affects the youth to social mainstream value recognition and judgement, weaken the cohesion of socialist ideology and scientific methods for students to master correct understanding history made a tremendous obstacle, it is easy to lost sense of direction in the history of the ramifications are sound, which involved in historical nihilism. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that “the crux of historical nihilism is to fundamentally deny the guiding position of Marxism,

the historical inevitability of China’s move towards socialism, and the leadership of the COMMUNIST Party of China” (Party History Research Office of the CPC Central Committee, 2013). There is little doubt that historical nihilism is with “4 s” history and people’s understanding of the party and the country eager emotions run counter to, no matter in what form, means and practice, we are to have a critical and to identify the main to distort defacing or negate belittle the party leads the people in history to reach their sinister political attempt to this old trick, We should also know that the “four Histories” contain rich historical experience, lessons and warnings, which is the best sobering agent to distinguish the wrong views of historical nihilism (Chen, 2020). This strategy should guide young people to explore the spiritual self-restraint and philosophical truth in the “four histories” from the perspective of reality and practice, so as to strengthen the study of the “four histories” and enhance the ability to resist historical nihilism. Have the courage to expose the false veil of historical nihilism with historical facts and facts, strengthen historical identity, and accept the correct ideological influence and spiritual baptism.

1.2 The Education of “Four Histories” Is a Necessary Part of Advancing the Cause of the Party and People Steadily

General Secretary Xi Jinping earnestly hopes that college graduates across the country will have lofty aspirations, be down-to-earth, brave hardships and obstacles, bravely shoulder the mission of The Times, integrate their personal ideals into the cause of the Party and the country, and make more contributions to the Party, the country, and the people. The “four Histories” comprehensively show the historical track of the formation and development of the Party’s basic theoretical line, principles and policies, and truly record the advanced experience of the Party’s revolution, construction and reform. It contains the historical inevitability of the people’s choice of the CPC, and always reflects the thought of people-centered development. History has proved time and again that at decisive moments concerning the future and destiny of the nation and its people, there are always a group of young people who are deeply aware of the changes in the country’s fortunes, stand at the forefront of The Times, and blow the trumpet to shoulder the major mission of the country and the nation. Our Party has gone through a century of trials and hardships. Times have changed, but the ideals and fighting spirit of Communists have not. The new era calls for new achievements and new responsibilities. According to the report, the 19th congress of socialism with Chinese characteristics into a new era, this is our party new positioning of the country’s historical position, but the change of the social principal contradictions of the new age has not changed our

judgment to our country the socialism historical stage, must be awake to recognize that we in many fields and aspects still faces many difficulties and challenges. There are still many weak links in unbalanced and inadequate development and the complexity of ideological struggles. Thus it can be seen that there is still a long way to go to realize the lofty ideal of communism and the firm ideal and belief is still the strong reliance of our party to continue to move forward. It is an important measure for young people to strengthen their ideals and beliefs, consolidate the ruling position of the Party, and maintain the advanced nature and purity of the Party. Guide the youth to strengthen the study history of “four” education, to make the profound understanding and the understanding of the communist party of China youth can win the hearts and minds, the big test, break through difficult aspect of the historical reasons, in the immediate apprehension party’s mission to realize the party’s advanced nature and purity of his mind, continue to the party organization actively, add fresh blood and motivation for the party’s cause.

1.3 The Education of “Four Histories” Is an Inevitable Requirement to Promote the Free and All-Round Development of the Young Generation

The all-round development of education is one of the main tasks of ideological and political education, and the ideological and political quality is also the essential quality of the young generation. Young people are in the golden period of life to accumulate knowledge and talents, and have the urgent need to realize their all-round development of quality. For the majority of young people, the improvement of ideological and political quality is not achieved overnight, but in the positive interaction of active learning and practice to hold a lifelong attitude of pursuit.”4 s” embodied in the process of formation and development of the party unity led Chinese people to realize the national independence and liberation and development of difficult course, contains a very profound historical theory and ideological and political education resources, for youth a firm political direction, efforts to enrich themselves so as to realize the value of life and so on can have great spiritual motivation and reference. “Four history of” new era of youth to strengthen learning education, will return to history, strengthen the historical and cultural influence, both to firm ideal faith of Marxism, actively involved in the socialist modernization construction in the great journey, with confidence in high attitude, must be the leadership of the communist party of China, Chinese social development achievements, the political nature of eternal dare to struggle, dare to victory. More importantly, we should learn from the hard-won achievements of the Red regime, the new China and socialism with Chinese characteristics the distinctive political character of revolutionary hero models and

advanced models of The Times who dare to struggle and win, so as to promote the all-round development of the younger generation.

2. WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE IS THE INHERENT NECESSITY OF “FOUR HISTORY” EDUCATION UNDER THE DIMENSION OF GOAL THEORY

2.1 Train Young Marxists With Firm Ideals and Beliefs

Young Marxists are the advanced members of the youth group and the builders and practitioners of the advanced culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics. They have a high level of ideals and beliefs, good moral standards and excellent professional quality, and can produce a huge model effect. The Party has always attached great importance to the training of young Marxists, taking the “Young Marxists Training Project” as an important starting point to care for and cultivate young people, and paying attention to the use of a variety of educational practices and resources to strengthen the education of young people’s ideals and beliefs, and improve the party spirit of young people. This is consistent with the educational goal of “four history” learning education to cultivate excellent socialist builders and successors.

On the one hand, young Marxists should be guided to aim high, so that they can draw spiritual calcium from the “four histories”, pursue the source of their ideals, remember that the Republic is red, and encourage them to consciously take heroes as the model. The “four Histories” highlighted the lofty highland of belief of Chinese Communists, and a group of forefathers who firmly believed in Marxism gave their all without hesitation in the harsh material conditions and tests of life and death. These spiritual monuments are the guiding light that inspires generations of young people to keep moving forward in order to firmly believe in Marxist science. Young Marxists should seriously explore the essence and core of Marxist spirit and follow their beliefs all their lives. On the other hand, the “Four Histories” is a history shining with the truth of Marxism, including the whole process of the Chinese people’s choice of Marxism and the continuous root and germination of Marxism in China. It is a fresh theoretical textbook. “Marxist thought and theory are extensive and profound, and are constantly studied and updated. In the new era, Chinese Communists must still study Marx, study and practice Marxism, and draw on scientific wisdom and theoretical strength from it.” (Xi, 2018) Therefore, youth Marxists should consciously armed with achievements of sinicization of Marxist theory and the mind, the Marxist stand, viewpoint and method as a guide for observation and practice of

rational tools, Xi Jinping, in-depth study and research new era the core content of the thought of socialism with Chinese characteristics, time value, practice point, etc., and should avoid dogmatic study, By connecting with the country and society and combining with daily study and life, we strive to understand theories and resonate with each other in down-to-earth way, so that learning the “four Histories” can become a lifelong goal pursuit and self-education practice to strengthen ideals, beliefs and political responsibility.

2.2 Cultivate Young People in the New Era Who Struggle Forward in Practice

Taking the overall situation and advocating the spirit of struggle have always been the eternal theme and melody of the “Four Histories”, which have been cast in the blood of the Party and the people. Practice is an important bridge linking the subjective and objective world, and is the only way for every young person to walk out of the ivory tower of school and into the social classroom. This means that we should open the door of practice to the authoritative scientific theoretical knowledge, and do a good job in reading books with words, but also in social practice without words. As Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, has said, “To transform all knowledge into ability, we must practice. We should integrate knowledge with practice, focus on learning true knowledge and understanding the true meaning through practice, strengthen training and increase our ability.” (Xi, 2016, p.12) The “four Histories” are the sufferings and glory created by generations of young Chinese Communists and working people with their youth, knowledge and blood and sweat, and witness the course of countless Chinese visionary people who dared to take the lead in serving the country. It embodies a very distinct practical character. While promoting the “four history” knowledge to keep “into textbooks, into classrooms and into students’ minds”, the key is to let students understand history knowledge at the same time, stimulate the internalization of heartfelt patriotic feelings, so as to live up to the time and seize the day. Take the initiative to seize the practical opportunity to temper will and exercise skills so as to serve the people and serve the party’s governance as soon as possible.

2.3 Cultivate Patriotic Youth With a Correct View Of History

As General Secretary Xi Jinping once pointed out, “History is the root of reality. The present of any country comes from yesterday. Only by understanding where a country has come from can we understand why it is what it is today, and where it is going and where it is not going in the future.” (Xi, 2014a.) The “four Histories” comprehensively and objectively record the CPC’s arduous journey of carefully examining China’s national conditions, uniting and leading the Chinese people to choose a political path, struggle for the destiny

of the nation, and create a state system. It has proved the objective truth of materialistic view of history in theory development and practice promotion, and has made historic contribution to improve the understanding of the “three laws” with its unique Chinese practice while deeply following the rule of communist Party governing, the rule of socialist construction and the rule of human society development. They have accumulated a great deal of advanced experience and valuable inspiration in governing the country, demonstrating the extraordinary spirit of Chinese Communists and a clear political direction. Therefore, on the basis of the general characteristics of history learning education, young people should teach objective and accurate historical knowledge of the “four histories”, inspire infinite love for the party and the motherland, and form strategic historical thinking and correct historical views. In addition, it should have higher political education requirements than the general history study. The view of history is related to the establishment and development of young people’s world outlook, outlook on life and values, and will directly affect their recognition and support of socialist ideology, especially social system and national governance system. Study history of “four” can draw strength from the Marxist classics, with dialectical objective historical eyes deep study to the communist party of China (why, why line of Marxism, socialism with Chinese characteristics why good internal logic, resulting in a strong confidence for revolution and cultural traditions and political parties deep attachment, consciously resist the bad influence of historical nihilism, Build a solid foundation for safeguarding the youth masses of the Party.

3. METHODOLOGY DIMENSION ANSWER “HOW CAN BETTER DEVELOP” REALIZATION PATH

3.1 Respect the Laws of History and Adhere to the Marxist Methodology

To learn “four history” well, we should adhere to historical materialism.¹ It has comprehensively and systematically analyzed the trends and laws of the development of Chinese society and history, grasped the historical laws and promoted theoretical innovation in the process of understanding the world, and has won many victories. On the one hand, the study of the “four histories” should adhere to historical materialism and take it as a great tool of understanding. To study the “four histories” from the standpoint of historical materialism, we must be able to evaluate history from the standpoint of the masses and analyze the historical laws of socialism with Chinese characteristics by adhering to the basic principles of

¹ *People’s Daily*, 2013-12-05.

materialism. On the other hand, we should view history from an all-round perspective, respect the objective laws of history and guard against historical nihilism. MAO Zedong emphasized that “to study the history of the Party, we should not only study details and parts, nor separate the relationship between the whole and parts, but objectively and comprehensively analyze the whole process of the party’s development and the relationship between various lines, principles and policies.” (Mao, 1993, p.399) We should adhere to historical materialism to accurately understand and grasp the “four histories” and resolutely reject the randomness, emptiness, ridicule and deconstruction of history.

Materialist dialectics is the fundamental method to learn the four histories well. Dialectical view of “four history”, is to use two and Chong Dian Lun unifies the understanding of the method, a comprehensive grasp party 100 years of great history, new China 70 years of glorious history, a correct understanding and grasping the revolutionary party and the ruling party, the party spirit and dialectical unification relations between popular, reveals the relationship between history and the new era, domestic and foreign relations.

3.2 Treat the “Four Histories” Correctly and Establish a Correct View of History

“4 s” education is a complex and systematic project, to stand under the big historical perspective, through combing historical development vein, actively explore the history of the party, the new China, the history of reform and opening up, the mainstream of the development of the socialist essence, the science and history of “four”, to guide the correct view of history to provide a solid guarantee. In this regard, on the one hand, we should clarify the main line of the “four histories” and grasp the historical context. The “four histories” have overlapping and integrating histories, as well as their respective historical stages and characteristics. To study the “four Histories”, we should not only fully grasp the main line of history, but also deeply understand the integration and relevance of history and reality. In the process of learning history, we should pay more attention to the reality, and in the response to the reality, we should constantly turn over history to find the answer to the problem. Therefore, in deepening the study of the “four Histories”, we should make clear of the process of socialist development, the process of party building and the historical process of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, accurately grasp the thoughts and historical evaluation of important historical figures, and learn and benefit from the study. On the other hand, we should respect the internal links between histories and grasp the laws of history. “History, present and future is interlinked. History is the reality of the past, and reality is the history of the future (Xi, 2014b, p.67). The study of history must strive to respect objectivity, not only with empathy, but also with the

height of the present. We should not only be good at discovering the historical progress of past historical figures and events, but also clarify the limitations of The Times compared with the development needs of the later generations. Otherwise, we will become the “historical prisoners” who are unconditioned.

3.3 Rely on Scientific and Technological Media to Stimulate the Power of Historical Resources

In today’s world, the means of information transmission are changing rapidly. Without the support of advanced means of communication, it is difficult for the transmission of ideas to keep pace with The Times and achieve the effect of historicizing people. The massive historical memory as a treasure, “4 s” contains since the founding of the communist party of China, since the founding of new China, and the great historical events since the reform and opening of revolution, construction and reform spirit of certain times that coordinates and culture essence, still with a strong heritage in the new era of carry forward the value. The new era is an era of diversified and technological information dissemination. The majority of young people can obtain information that meets their own needs in the first time. Relying on the Internet, cloud computing, big data and other technological media, the objective needs of contemporary college students can be better met. Actively integrate and make innovative use of environmental media, based on the individual needs of college students and the law of growth, select historical fragments with both ideological height and life temperature, and adopt the form that the masses like to see, enhance the affinity, attraction and influence of historical knowledge. Attention should be paid to the mouthpiece role of mainstream media, and the latest instructions of the CPC Central Committee and local governments on the study and education of the “four Histories” should be timely conveyed to young people through TV stations, newspapers and government websites. While continuously strengthening the educational hardware of “four histories”, we should also support related sharing communication mechanism, so as to give full play to the role of promoting the theme.

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