

Xi Jinping's Views on Youth Ideal and Belief Education

Cuimei Du¹ Yonghui Liu²

^{1,2} School of Marxism, Shandong Technology and Business University, Yantai, Shandong 264005, China

ABSTRACT

The education of young people's ideals and beliefs is an important part of youth education. Xi Jinping's views on ideal and belief education have pointed out the direction and path for us. The young generation needs to establish the "great ideal of Communism", the "common ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics" and the great dream through the three paths of rational identification of scientific theories, correct understanding of historical laws and accurate grasp of basic national conditions, so that the young people can take on the great responsibility of national rejuvenation.

Keywords: *Ideal and belief education, Marxism, Chinese Marxism, The great ideal of Communism, Common ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics.*

1. INTRODUCTION

One of Xi Jinping's requirements for youth is that "Chinese youth the new era should establish lofty ideals."¹ Against the background of the rapid development of we-media and the rising of various ideological trends, the young generation inevitably has ideological confusion and hard choices of values and urgently needs correct guidance. Xi Jinping's views on ideal and belief education have pointed out the direction and path for us. What kind of ideals and beliefs do young people need to establish? The long-term goal of the youth is to establish "the great ideal of Communism", the medium-term goal is to establish "the common ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics", and the short-term goal is to establish a great dream. How do young people establish and strengthen their ideals and beliefs? Xi Jinping stressed that "the ideal and belief should be based on the rational identification of scientific theories, the correct understanding of historical laws, and the accurate grasp of the basic national conditions."² This

sentence is about the methodology of how to firm ideals and beliefs.

2. FIRING IDEALS AND BELIEFS THROUGH RATIONAL IDENTIFICATION WITH SCIENTIFIC THEORIES

2.1 Studying Marxism and Establishing the Lofty Ideal of Communism

Young people should learn the personality charm of Marxists to help them find the right direction in life. For example, young Marx established a life plan for the struggle for human happiness at the age of 18, revolutionary mentor Engels sorted out the manuscript of Capital under the condition of illness, old Lenin continued to explore socialist theory under the affliction of illness, and Chen Wangdao, the protagonist of the story of "truth is a little sweet," translated the Communist Manifesto in order to pursue truth. These Marxists have great character, which should be admired and learned by young people, so as to improve their own quality.

Young people also need to learn Marxist theory and learn to use Marxist scientific methodology to understand and analyze social phenomena. Xi Jinping stressed that "communists must regard

1. Xi Jinping, Speech at the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the May Fourth Movement, Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2019, p. 6.

2. Xi Jinping, Xi Jinping on Governing the Country. Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2014, p. 50.

reading Marxist classics and understanding Marxist principles as a habit of life and a spiritual pursuit."³ General Secretary Xi emphasized the integration of Marxism through practice, and then rose to the youth's skill. The more young people identify with Marxism, the more enthusiastic they will be about learning, and the more they will be able to strengthen their ideals and beliefs. Young people should learn to analyze various social phenomena with Marxism and consciously devote themselves to the great practice of human liberation. Young people should learn materialist dialectics and consciously unify personal development, national rejuvenation and national prosperity, so as to lay a solid methodological foundation for firm and lofty ideals.

2.2 Studying Marxism with Chinese Characteristics and Establishing the Common Ideal of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

On the one hand, young people need to arm their minds with Mao Zedong thought. Mao Zedong Thought is the crystallization of the collective wisdom of the Party formed in the period of Chinese revolution and construction. "Under the new situation, Young people must adhere to and make good use of Mao Zedong Thought's living soul, and build the Communist Party of China well."⁴ Entering the new era, the country must continue to push forward the great cause, which requires the young generation must learn Mao Zedong thought, especially the essence of "emancipating the mind and seeking truth from facts". Only in this way can young people deeply understand the historical inevitability of the Chinese people's choice of the socialist road, strengthen their confidence in the victory of communism, and thus become a thorough historical materialist.

On the other hand, young people should strengthen their study of the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and increase their confidence and determination to realize the Chinese dream. It is of great significance and far-reaching influence for young people to systematically study the theory of socialism with

Chinese characteristics. In today's society, there are a small number of harmful ideas that deny Marxism and socialism with Chinese characteristics, which have a negative impact on the growth of young people. Young people must promptly eliminate the root causes and clarify the essence of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Therefore, young people should uphold the spirit of perseverance, earnestly and systematically study the theoretical achievements of Marxism in China, arm themselves with new ideas, and be an excellent successor who is loyal to the Party, firm in faith, conscious and confident.

3. CORRECTLY UNDERSTANDING THE LAWS OF HISTORY AND FINDING THE ROOT OF IDEALS AND BELIEFS

3.1 Correctly Understanding the Ruling Laws of the Communist Party and Establishing the Original Heart of "Firmly Following the Party"

The realization of communism requires the efforts of several generations, more than a dozen generations or even dozens of generations. Only by cultivating groups and generations of promising young people with communist consciousness and firm ideals and beliefs can the glorious cause of the Party continue to be pushed deeper. Therefore, the country must lead young people, rely on young people and win over young people. Only by always maintaining a shared future with the people and following the people's pursuit of a better life can the Communist Party continuously enhance its leadership, cohesion, combat effectiveness and appeal, thereby establishing its prestige in the hearts of young people and gaining their trust. General Secretary Xi pointed out that strong faith is the "ballast stone" of career success. The Communist Party of China should always stand firmly on the people's position, formulate good policies that represent public opinion and win the hearts of the people, and win the favor of the young people by improving the leadership and cohesion of the Party. At the same time, the country must further promote the fight against corruption, strengthen the work style and political construction to improve the party's combat effectiveness and appeal to the youth. Only by allowing young people to truly realize that "the Communist Party is good" and "the Communist Party can" can they fully stimulate their subjective consciousness, establish

3. Xi Jinping, Speech at the Conference Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of Marx's Birth, Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2018, p. 26.

4. Xi Jinping, Speech at the Symposium commemorating the 120th Anniversary of Comrade Mao Zedong's Birth, Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2013, p. 15.

the original intention and confidence of "firmly following the Party", and then strengthen their ideals and beliefs.

3.2 Correctly Understanding the Laws of Socialist Construction and Increasing Confidence in the Development of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

Since reform and opening up, theories and practices such as adhering to the Party's overall leadership, creatively pioneering the theory of socialist market economy, taking common prosperity as the essence of socialism, and promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind have gradually risen to become the Party's accurate understanding of the law of socialist construction. The great achievements of reform and opening up are tangible and great successes that young people can see. Therefore, it is necessary to educate young people to grasp the law of socialist construction, respect and comply with this law, unify their thinking and keep pace, and actively devote themselves to the great cause of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, so as to provide strong spiritual strength for the realization of the Chinese dream.

3.3 Correctly Understanding the Law of the Development of Human Society, and Firmly Resolving to Fight for Communism

It is an original contribution of Marxism to deeply reveal the law of the development of human society. It is the consistent position of Marxism to respect, understand and act in accordance with the laws. Since the day of its birth, the Communist Party of China has paid special attention to the application of rules to carry out work, and pay attention to summing up experience and drawing lessons from countless failures. Through understanding the dialectical movement of the basic contradictions of society, young people should fully grasp the historical law of "two necessities", correctly understand the law of the wavy progress of human society, firmly believe that communism is the inevitable result of historical development, so as to cultivate young people to consciously take the responsibility of The Times to realize the value of life, and use the law of social development to transform the objective world. To sum up, systematic study of historical materialism can help young people accurately grasp the development

process of history and strengthen their determination to fight for communism.

4. CORRECTLY UNDERSTANDING THE BASIC NATIONAL CONDITIONS AND LAYING A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR IDEALS AND BELIEFS

4.1 An Accurate Understanding of the Historical Orientation and the Development Stage of China

From the perspective of historical development, the establishment of ideals and beliefs at three different levels, "Chinese Dream", "common ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics" and "Great ideal of Communism", are all determined by China's basic national conditions and historical orientation.

The "two unchanged" mentioned at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China is the historical position in which China stands, the biggest basic national conditions, and the starting point from which the government formulate all lines, principles and policies. First of all, China is still in the primary stage of socialism. This basic national condition has not changed. Young people must clearly realize this situation and set up the lofty ideal of communism. Secondly, the basic national condition — that China is and will long remain in the primary stage of socialism — has not changed. Young people must be prepared for the long relay struggle and establish a medium-term ideal and belief in the common ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Finally, China is the world's largest developing country's basic national conditions have not changed, which means that the Chinese nation to stand in the forest of nations in the world still need the unremitting efforts of young people. Young people should link their youth ideals with the Chinese Dream and set up the near-term goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Only by recognizing the most basic national conditions of "two unchanged", can young people firmly establish their ideals and beliefs at three different levels in the long term, medium term and short term, and actively participate in the great social movement.

4.2 An Accurate Understanding of Development Goal and Development Strategy of China

Ideals and beliefs come from reality but are higher than reality, and the establishment of ideals and beliefs must be rooted in China's reality to become stronger. Therefore, the government should guide young people to understand China's development strategy accurately. General Secretary Xi pointed out: "Chinese youth are young people with lofty ideals and aspirations!"⁵ The ideals and beliefs of contemporary youth can only draw the greatest concentric circles if they are consistent with the common will of the people. As socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, the young people of today must work together with the people to make full preparations for the realization of the Chinese Dream. The Chinese Dream is the common ideal of all Chinese people, the core development strategy of China at present, and the most important historical task shouldered by contemporary youth. In contemporary China, the Chinese Dream and the socialist development strategy with Chinese characteristics are closely related, and together determine the life aspirations of contemporary young people. Therefore, it is particularly important to extensively carry out education on basic national conditions, development strategies and situation policies. Only by recognizing China's development goals and strategies can young people enhance their confidence in the future and further establish firm ideals and beliefs.

5. CONCLUSION

"Upholding ideals and convictions and upholding the spiritual pursuit of Communists has always been the foundation for Communists."⁶ For young people who are in a critical period of value formation, the beacon of faith and the support of ideals are particularly important. Under the guidance of the General Secretary, the government must do a good job in educating the ideals and beliefs of young people and train outstanding communist successors.

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