

# The Theoretical Logic of Youth Patriotism Education Modernization

Cuimei Du<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of Marxism, Shandong Technology and Business University, Yantai, Shandong 264005, China

## ABSTRACT

Watering flowers requires watering the roots, and cultivating people requires cultivating their hearts and minds. The youth stage is the "jointing and booting stage" of life, and it is a crucial stage for the formation of world view, outlook on life, and values. To educate young people to love the great motherland and cultivate their patriotism, it is necessary to sow the seeds of patriotism in their hearts through a spring-like education, so that they can firmly take root and bear fruit; It is necessary to combine knowledge, emotions, intentions, and actions, cultivate a strong sense of patriotism and determination among young people towards the country and the nation, enable them to learn the principles of patriotism, cultivate a sense of patriotism, and hone their aspirations and practical actions to serve the country.

**Keywords:** Youth, Patriotism, Chinese Dream.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

At the 2018 National Education Conference, Xi Jinping explicitly stated that cultivating socialist builders and successors must focus on cultivating patriotism, firmly rooting the spirit of patriotism in the hearts of students, conducting in-depth, lasting, and vivid patriotic propaganda and education among young people, using the ideology of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era to forge the soul and educate people, cultivating patriotism, honing the will and character of patriotism, and finally implementing it into patriotic actions. The recently issued "Implementation Outline for Patriotic Education in the New Era" further clarifies the implementation path for promoting the spirit of patriotism from six aspects: overall requirements, main content, educational focus, practical carrier, atmosphere creation, and organizational leadership, which provides a clear path and institutional guarantee for continuing to do a good job in patriotic education under the conditions of the new era.

## 2. CONTEMPORARY YOUTH SHOULD USE A CORRECT HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE TO CLARIFY THE CONTEMPORARY CONNOTATION OF PATRIOTISM

Loving the great motherland is a glorious tradition of the Chinese nation, a spiritual pillar for the Chinese nation to carry forward the past and open up the future, and a source of strength for the Chinese nation to unite and thrive. Patriotism is a historical category with different connotations at different stages and historical periods of social development. In ancient China, patriotism was always linked to the goal of maintaining a unified country. Since the establishment of the first unified country in the Qin Dynasty, the benevolent and ambitious people of all dynasties have regarded the maintenance of a unified country as their mission. Fan Zhongyan's "to worry before the common people worries; to enjoy only after the people can enjoy", Lu You "On the day when the Song army recaptured the lost territories in the Central Plains, don't forget to tell me when you hold your family sacrifice!", Wen Tianxiang "Who has been able to live forever since ancient times? I want to leave a patriotic heart to reflect in the annals of history.", Gu Yanwu "Everyone is responsible for the rise and

fall of the world.", Lin Zexu "It is difficult to succeed in major events in the world and in a country without making mistakes, and even high-ranking officials are not born with them.", all of which are true portrayals of sacrificing themselves to maintain national unity. Since modern times, patriotism has been linked to the goal of "saving the nation and ensuring its survival". A modern Chinese history is a history of continuous patriotic struggles. After the First Opium War, countless righteous people and patriots conducted various explorations to save the nation from peril. The Taiping Rebellion, the Westernization Movement, the Reform Movement of 1898, the Revolution of 1911 and other struggles failed one after another. Under the leadership of the CPC, the Chinese people finally found the right path to save the nation from subjugation and survive, overthrew the "three mountains" that were pressing on them, and established New China. For this day, the Chinese nation has fought tirelessly for over 100 years. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, patriotism was linked to the historical task of building a new socialist China. The spirit of Dazhai, Daqing, and model workers have become concrete manifestations of patriotism during the socialist period. The strong patriotic enthusiasm has inspired the Chinese people to actively participate in the socialist revolution and construction, quickly establishing a complete national economic system and laying a solid foundation for modernization of China. Since the reform and opening up, patriotism, love for the Party, and love for socialism have converged into the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, providing tremendous impetus for the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, and patriotism is mainly manifested in the struggle for the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, which remains the greatest spiritual driving force for uniting and inspiring all Chinese people.

### **3. CONTEMPORARY YOUTH SHOULD ADHERE TO THE CORRECT NATIONAL OUTLOOK AND PROMOTE THE CORE OF NATIONAL SPIRIT**

Patriotism is the spiritual bond that unites the children of all ethnic groups in the Chinese nation. Mr. Sun Yat-sen said that the greatest thing in being a person is to know how to love their country. A person who does not love their country, or even

deceives or betrays their motherland, is very shameful in their own country and in the world, and has no place to stand. Xi Jinping pointed out that, "it is necessary to vigorously promote the national spirit centered on patriotism and the spirit of the times centered on reform and innovation." [1] Patriotism is deeply rooted in the hearts of the Chinese nation, maintaining the unity and solidarity of all ethnic groups on the land of China, and it is the spiritual gene of the Chinese nation. For over 5,000 years, the reason why the Chinese nation has been able to maintain strong vitality, thrive, and pass on the torch from generation to generation is closely related to the profound and lasting patriotic tradition of the Chinese nation. In the history of China, patriotism has often been a banner that mobilizes and inspires people of all ethnic groups to unite and strive, and is a common spiritual pillar for people of all ethnic groups. It has played a significant role in maintaining national unity and ethnic solidarity, resisting foreign aggression, and promoting social progress. Patriotism is like a spiritual pillar, maintaining the unity and solidarity of the Chinese nation, inspiring generation after generation of Chinese people to tirelessly strive for national prosperity, national rejuvenation, and people's happiness.

Contemporary youth should build a strong ideological defense line and consciously become actors and defenders of national security and ethnic unity and progress. To promote the spirit of patriotism, it is a must to uphold the unity of the motherland and ethnic solidarity. In the new era, to promote the spirit of patriotism, there is a necessity to take safeguarding national unity and ethnic solidarity as an important focus and foothold. Contemporary patriotism is manifested in the recognition of the great motherland, the Chinese nation, the Chinese culture, the CPC, and socialism with Chinese characteristics. Contemporary youth should adhere to national equality, respect national differences, advocate national unity, oppose national oppression, national discrimination, and national division, resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests, take a clear stand against the words and deeds of splitting the country and undermining national unity, and strengthen the walls of national unity, national unity, and social stability. They should promote "all ethnic groups to embrace each other tightly like pomegranate seeds". [2] Maintaining ethnic unity and solidarity is a fine tradition of the Chinese nation, and ethnic unity and solidarity are the mainstream and basic trend of the historical

development of the Chinese nation. The baton of national unity is in the hands of contemporary youth. Contemporary youth should have a clear understanding that safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and achieving complete reunification of the motherland is the trend, the righteousness, and the will of the people. At the same time, they should deeply recognize that the Western hostile forces' attempts to contain China's development will not stop. They should always maintain a sense of crisis, consciously fight against words and deeds that split the motherland, and cherish national unity like they love their own eyes. They should maintain the political situation of the great unity of all ethnic groups in the country, achieve long-term stability of the country, and provide a good political environment and international atmosphere for realizing the Chinese Dream of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

#### **4. CONTEMPORARY YOUTH SHOULD ADHERE TO A CORRECT VIEW OF CHINA AND MAINTAIN A HIGH DEGREE OF UNITY IN THE LOVE FOR THE COUNTRY, THE PARTY, AND SOCIALISM**

The essence of patriotism is to adhere to the high unity in the love for the country, the Party, and socialism. New China is a socialist country under the leadership of the CPC. The destiny of the motherland is inseparable from that of the Party and socialism. Only by adhering to the unity in the love for the country, the Party, and socialism can patriotism be vivid and real, which is the most important manifestation of contemporary Chinese patriotism. Patriotism is a rational and conscious understanding of the relationship between individuals and the state. The state is never abstract, but concrete, it just appears in different forms in different historical periods. Therefore, the patriotism today is to love the new socialist China and the new China under the leadership of the CPC. As General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out, "The fate of the motherland is inseparable from the fate of the Party and socialism. Only by adhering to the unity of patriotism, love for the Party, and love for socialism can patriotism be vivid and real, which is the most important manifestation of contemporary Chinese patriotism."

On the one hand, patriotism and love for socialism are inseparable. Chinese history and reality have shown people that "without the

Communist Party, there would be no New China" and "only socialism can save China, and only socialism with Chinese characteristics can develop China". The path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the only way to achieve the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. This path is not easy to come by. It has been developed through the great practice of reform and opening up for more than 40 years, the continuous exploration of the founding of the People's Republic of China for more than 70 years, the profound summary of the development process of the Chinese nation for more than 170 years in modern times, and the inheritance of the long civilization of the Chinese nation for more than 5,000 years. It has profound historical origins and extensive practical foundations.

On the other hand, patriotism and love for the party are equally inseparable. The CPC is the most determined promoter and practitioner of patriotism. Since the founding of the Party, the CPC has united and led the people of all ethnic groups in the great practice of revolution, construction and reform, which has written a brilliant chapter in the patriotic spirit of the Chinese nation. The Chinese national spirit centered on patriotism has educated and inspired several generations of Communist Party members to strive for national independence, people's liberation, and the prosperity and strength of the motherland, shedding blood, sacrificing themselves, working hard, and selflessly dedicating themselves, thus completely changing the future of the country and the destiny of the nation. These spirits have become the common spiritual wealth of the Chinese nation. The leadership of the CPC is the most essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the greatest advantage of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. To uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics, the most fundamental thing is to adhere to the leadership of the CPC. To promote the spirit of patriotism in the new era, it is a must to fully recognize that adhering to the leadership of the Party and following the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the fundamental guarantee and necessary path to achieve national prosperity and strength. In contemporary China, only the CPC is qualified and able to shoulder the historical task of leading the people to realize the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

## **5. CONTEMPORARY YOUTH SHOULD ADHERE TO A CORRECT CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE AND BECOME INHERITORS AND PROMOTERS OF EXCELLENT TRADITIONAL CHINESE CULTURE**

To love one's own country, one should not only love the land under their feet, but also love the culture of this country. Recognizing and loving culture is a deeper level of love for this country. Xi Jinping pointed out that, "cultural confidence is a more fundamental, profound, and enduring force." [3] Young people should establish cultural consciousness and become inheritors and promoters of China's excellent traditional culture. Only by not forgetting the original can people better move towards the future. Chinese traditional culture has a long and profound history, and is the "root" and "soul" of the Chinese nation. Inheriting and promoting excellent traditional Chinese culture is an important mission for contemporary young college students. It is necessary to adhere to the right path, promote the great road, understand the long history and splendid culture of the Chinese nation, draw nourishment and wisdom from history, consciously continue cultural genes, and enhance national self-esteem, confidence, and pride. People should firmly oppose cultural nihilism, consciously resist erroneous words and actions that damage national honor and negate excellent traditional Chinese culture, establish and adhere to a correct cultural outlook, and continuously enhance the sense of belonging, identity, dignity, and honor of the Chinese nation.

To promote the spirit of patriotism, it is a necessity to respect and inherit the history and culture of the Chinese nation. Understanding and accepting the long history and profound culture of China is an important condition for cultivating and developing people's patriotic emotions. Excellent traditional Chinese culture is the spiritual lifeline of the Chinese nation. There will be a must to strive to draw nutrition and wisdom from the excellent traditional culture formed and accumulated by the Chinese nation from generation to generation, continue the cultural genes, extract the essence of ideas, and show the spiritual charm. There will also be a must to activate the vitality of China's excellent traditional culture with the spirit of the times, promote the creative transformation and innovative development of China's excellent traditional culture, unify the inheritance and

promotion of China's excellent traditional culture with the cultivation and practice of socialist core values, guide the people to establish and uphold correct historical, ethnic, national, and cultural views, and continuously enhance the sense of belonging, identity, dignity, and honor of the Chinese nation.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

In summary, only by understanding the affairs of the country can one comprehend the principles of patriotism. Only with deep knowledge can one truly love. Youth should understand the beautiful mountains and rivers, long history, splendid culture, and humanistic customs of the motherland, understand the profound suffering that the Chinese nation has carried since modern times, continuously deepen their understanding of the motherland and the nation, understand the connotation and requirements of contemporary patriotism, grasp the essence of patriotism in the new era from a theoretical perspective, know what true patriotism is, what country they love, why they love their country, and how to practice patriotism, etc., and strive to elevate emotional understanding to rational patriotic cognition.

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