

# Exploring the Realistic Situation and Path of Cultivating New Generation's Correct Conception of History by Ideological and Political Courses in Colleges and Universities

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## ABSTRACT

Cultivating a correct historical perspective among college students is an important aspect of ideological and political education. Cultivating a correct conception of history is beneficial for college students to establish a correct outlook on life, values, worldview, and firm socialist beliefs. It helps to enhance the moral character of college students and cultivate a correct view of history. Leaders should attach importance to it, pay attention to the connection between theory and practice, and consistently educate students with the correct view of history. At the same time, innovation in teaching methods should be emphasized.

**Keywords:** College students, Correct conception of history, Ideological and political education.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Contemporary college students are the builders of the country's future and the inheritors of excellent ideological and cultural heritage. At the same time, they will soon become the parents of a new generation of children and the first teachers of their children. What they learn, think, and think will directly affect their children, and thus affect the long-term development of the country. Therefore, the education of contemporary college students should not only enable them to master professional knowledge, but also shape their ideological concepts from the perspective of moral education. It is not only necessary to make them cultural people who understand technology and knowledge, but also to make them noble people with correct ideological concepts and the ability to distinguish right from wrong. Today, socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, where there are new opportunities for development, as well as new problems, contradictions, and interferences. Currently, negative ideas are impacting university campuses, and non-Marxist historical views such as historical nihilism, elite thinking, and individual heroism are flooding the minds of college students. Therefore, correcting college students' conception

of history, resisting historical nihilism, and abandoning all non-Marxist ideas have become the most urgent task in the ideological education of college students in the new era.

## 2. CORRECT CONCEPTION OF HISTORY

The conception of history, also known as the conception of social history, refers to people's views on social history. There are two opposing conceptions of history in the contemporary world - idealist conception of history and materialist conception of history. The idealist conception of history is based on idealist philosophy, which holds that social consciousness determines social existence, does not recognize the decisive role of material production in social development, and regards human spiritual aspects such as ideas, rationality, or "absolute spirit" and "gods" as the fundamental driving force of historical development, and regards a few heroic figures as creators of human history and determining forces of the historical process. [1] The materialist conception of history, on the other hand, holds that the objective existence of society determines social consciousness, which in turn has a reactive effect

and can actively influence people's behavior. The materialist conception of history holds that the primary source of social development is productivity, and the people are the creators of history and the main force driving the continuous progress of social history. [2] China advocates the Marxist materialist conception of history and believe that only the Marxist conception of history is the correct conception of history.

### **3. THE NECESSITY OF SHAPING COLLEGE STUDENTS' CORRECT CONCEPTION OF HISTORY**

Most college students are young people aged 18 or 19 who have not yet fully matured physically and psychologically, and they have an urgent need to integrate into society after entering university from relatively closed middle schools. However, the diverse and intricate ideas and concepts in society can easily lead them to confusion in their ideals and beliefs, and lose their direction in life. Therefore, it is necessary to provide them with correct and effective ideological education during their school years to help them grow into successors who are loyal to the Party, the country, and the socialist cause in the future. The cultivation of a correct conception of history is a weak and easily disrupted aspect of current ideological education, therefore, this aspect of cultivation is of great significance.

#### ***3.1 Being Beneficial for College Students to Establish a Correct Outlook on Life, Values, and the Worldview***

Due to the fact that conception of history reflects people's basic and overall views on the history of world society, different conception of history will form different worldviews, outlooks on life, and values. Under the domination of different conception of history, people's evaluations of historical figures, phenomena, and events can vary greatly, even to the contrary, and the differences in evaluations directly affect people's concepts of right and wrong, good and evil, and beauty and ugliness. It is in this sense that cultivating a correct conception of history is of great significance for young and inexperienced college students to form a correct outlook on life, values, and the worldview. China is a socialist country. As young students of a socialist country, they shoulder the historical mission of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. They are the successors and pillars of future national construction. To undertake such a

difficult historical mission, young students must accept the materialist conception of history of Marxism and transform their incorrect thinking, which is the best choice. Only by establishing the materialist conception of history of Marxism, establishing a correct worldview, outlook on life, and values, can students mobilize their enthusiasm to study knowledge diligently and be encouraged to dedicate their youth to the construction of China. Only by using Marxist materialist conception of history to evaluate historical figures, phenomena, and events can students objectively and fairly evaluate history, especially the struggle and strive of the Chinese nation in modern times, without being lost in the fog of history and falling into the vortex of historical nihilism.

#### ***3.2 Being Beneficial for Enhancing the Belief of College Students in Pursuing the Socialist Path***

For many years, young college students in China have been taught that "China's socialist path is a historical choice". However, in recent years, due to the trend of "reflecting on history" in society, historical nihilism has emerged, gradually infringing on college students, affecting their understanding of the historical inevitability of China's social path, and even shaking the socialist beliefs of some college students. In the past, there was even a prevailing trend of worshipping foreign things on university campuses.

The main manifestation of historical nihilism is to question or even deny the historical figures, events, and evaluations that have been affirmed in the past, and to promote the historical figures, events, and evaluations that have been denied by China and Chinese people. The main harm of historical nihilism is to negate reality by negating history. Without the support of historical inevitability, China's choice of the socialist path today would lose its premise and foundation. The main manifestation of historical nihilism in reality is the "overturning of cases". For example, some people have turned the overturned cases of feudal rulers such as Li Hongzhang and Yuan Shikai, who have always been denied, into "tragic heroes" who are concerned about the country and the people and are on the verge of success, while mapping Sun Yat-sen's the Revolution of 1911 into an "ethnic tragedy" that should not have occurred, and denying the historical significance of the Revolution of 1911. What is even more serious is that some people beautify Chiang Kai-shek's

reactionary rule over China, justify his corruption and incompetence, and thus deny the necessity of the Chinese revolution and the inevitability of taking the socialist path. [3] The historical nihilism view has already influenced the historical and political concepts of many college students, and even shaken their belief in China's social path. In order to reduce and prevent them from continuing to be poisoned by the trend of historical nihilism, it is necessary to strengthen their education on the correct conception of history.

### ***3.3 Being Beneficial for the Cultivation of Personal Character Among College Students***

There are many factors that affect personal character, and conception of history is one of the most important among them. The influence of conception of history on personal character is mainly manifested in two aspects, the first is the attitude towards the people. The idealistic conception of history emphasizes that history is created by heroic figures, ignoring the great role of the masses. Under this historical view, people will inevitably underestimate labor, discriminate against the working people, and have an arrogant attitude towards ordinary laborers in their daily lives. The materialist conception of history respects labor, respects the working people, recognizes the value of the working people in promoting historical development, and respects their pioneering spirit. The second is the attitude towards learning and work. Due to the idealistic conception of history, which regards historical development as a result of various accidental factors and denies the objective regularity of historical development, it has a strong opportunistic color. College students who hold such a historical perspective are inevitably prone to opportunistic practices in their studies and work, which can lead to a hasty and perfunctory attitude towards learning and work. Such people find it difficult to achieve a magnificent career. People who hold the materialist conception of history believe in the objective laws of the development of things, and believe that the development of things is a gradual process of accumulation, from quantitative change to qualitative change. Reflected in their learning and work, these people often adopt a down-to-earth, step-by-step, and solid learning and work attitude. Therefore, cultivating a correct conception of history among college students is very effective in forming their excellent character of diligent learning, hard work, down-to-earth conduct, and serious work.

## **4. THE CURRENT PROBLEMS IN CULTIVATING CORRECT CONCEPTION OF HISTORY AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS**

The biggest problem currently faced in the education of college students' conception of history is the insufficient effectiveness of education. That is to say, the role of historical education in ideological and political education for college students has not been fully realized. History education is originally a fundamental component of ideological and political education, which directly affects the overall effectiveness of ideological and political education. Only on the basis of a correct conception of history can a realistic and correct ideology be formed. If college students' historical views are incorrect, then the actual content of ideological and political education will lose its foundation and the correct past, and everything in reality will become a problem. In this way, ideological and political education will inevitably fail. The main reasons for the problems in the cultivation of contemporary college students' conception of history are:

### ***4.1 Education on the Conception of History Being Neglected for a Long Time***

Since the reform and opening up, China and CPC have made economic construction a key focus of national work, proposing to take economic construction as the center. This has inevitably formed a standard for measuring social development based on economic benefits, which can measure individual success and even educational achievements. Under this social guidance, school education should adapt to the needs of society, and society needs talents that are conducive to economic construction. Schools should focus on cultivating students based on this. Therefore, moral and political ideas will not be the main measurement indicators. Therefore, the success or failure of a student depends on their academic knowledge and technological skills, rather than their ideological and moral character. Although the state also requires that ideological and political education courses (public courses) must be offered in colleges and universities, this is not something that colleges and universities themselves are willing to offer. In this situation of unwillingness, ideological and political education courses in colleges and universities have become

the "deaf ears" of schools. The attitude of colleges and universities towards ideological and political education is such that historical education, which is attached to ideological and political education, will naturally be less valued. In many colleges and universities, historical education is only included in ideological and political courses, especially in the course of "Mao Zedong Thought and Socialism with Chinese Characteristics". In addition, even if other courses involve historical issues, teachers will not specifically discuss historical issues in their lectures, but only teach based on the course content and provide a general introduction to historical facts. In this situation, the cultivation of correct conception of history among college students will inevitably be affected.

#### ***4.2 The Rigid Educational Approach Making History Education Lose Its Appeal***

The current phenomenon of ideological and political education in colleges and universities, including historical education, being unattractive and unable to arouse the interest of college students is very common. The reason for this is that, firstly, there is a common phenomenon of monotonous forms and excessive emphasis on abstract theoretical knowledge in textbooks in ideological and political education in colleges and universities. The basic experience of ideological and political education tells us that vivid content is often something that students like, remember easily, and are willing to learn. Abstract and monotonous teaching can easily lead students to lose interest and become a situation of studying for credit. This kind of teaching will not have good results. In fact, when it comes to historical education alone, there can be a wealth of materials to enhance the effectiveness of teaching. These materials are not simply textbook content, but living scenery, living characters, and fascinating stories. In Chinese revolutionary history education, the abundance of various revolutionary historical materials is exceptional, whether it is literature, physical landscapes, or revolutionary figures. If these materials can be fully utilized, the education of conception of history can be much more exciting and can arouse students' interest in learning. Unfortunately, due to the limitation of teaching time, these good materials are difficult to apply in actual teaching, which makes revolutionary history education less attractive. Secondly, it is isolated from reality and lacks explanatory power for real-world problems. Today's college students are no

longer those who were indecisive and blindly obedient in the past. They are exposed to much more things than previous college students. When teaching them historical knowledge and conducting historical education, they will unconsciously compare it with the content disseminated by other media, as well as with the relevant people and events that occur in reality. In this case, if the teaching content cannot be close to reality and therefore persuasive, even if students do not refute, it is not easy for them to receive education.

#### ***4.3 Lack of Continuity in Education of Conception of History***

To achieve the desired effect of historical education, it is necessary to focus on it closely and not relax. However, the current historical education lacks efforts in this regard. For a long time, colleges and universities have only pushed historical education to "two courses", which are only offered to college students during a certain period of time. This also means that historical education is only involved in the teaching of the two courses, and when the two courses are completed, historical education also ends. Little do they know that such short-term historical education has a very limited effect on students forming a correct historical perspective. The formation of a conception of history is a long-term process, which is based on college students' understanding of a series of historical events, analysis and recognition of various historical theories and debates in society. However, without proper guidance in these aspects, college students are easily misled by incorrect historical perspectives, and may even overturn the correct conception of history formed in the two classes and accept incorrect ones. In teaching, it has been found that some students have a clear deviation in their understanding of the historical role of party leaders. They have forgotten to receive education in both classes and instead accepted some extreme historical concepts in society. They have reversed the proportion of the achievements and mistakes of leaders, become the mistake priority and then achievement, and even do not recognize their contributions to the country. This is also due to Shandong Technology and Business University's long-term failure to pay sustained attention to the issue of students' conception of history and to guide their conception of history in a sustained manner. Therefore, in order to cultivate students' correct conception of history, teachers cannot rely solely on education in two classes, but also pay attention

to sustained education and interdisciplinary collaborative education.

#### **4.4 Outdated Teaching Methods**

A chalk and a book are the traditional and common "equipment" used by ideological and political education teachers for teaching. Under such equipment, classroom teaching mainly relies on the teacher's "words", and students only need to be able to "listen", one by one, so that the teaching work is completed. The evaluation criteria for good and bad teachers are only based on whether they can speak. Those who can speak are good teachers, while those who are silent are bad teachers. Under such equipment in teaching, students often can only be the audience of the teacher, at most the teacher can ask a question and the student can answer it. It is difficult for teachers and students to interact because the only thing they can share is textbooks, which only have abstract text. Students are not interested, and teachers do not have a platform to display materials that arouse students' interest. Obviously, such teaching does not follow the basic principles of teaching. Firstly, the subjectivity of students has been overlooked. Students are the main body of learning, and teaching is aimed at enabling them to acquire knowledge and improve their ideological level. However, if the status of students as the main body is ignored, their interest in learning will decrease. Without students' efforts and serious learning, teaching will inevitably be ineffective. Secondly, modern education should reflect modernity. Not only should the teaching content reflect modernity, but the facilities that assist teaching should also reflect the promotion of modern technology on teaching. Only in this way can teaching become teaching that adapts to the times and achieve good educational results. It's hard to imagine what kind of good teaching effect a teacher wearing a long robe and jacket, holding a ruler, would have when teaching about the great significance of reform and opening up.

### **5. THE PATH TO CULTIVATING CONTEMPORARY COLLEGE STUDENTS' CORRECT CONCEPTION OF HISTORY**

The formation of a correct historical perspective is not a one-time event, it is a systematic project that requires collaboration from multiple parties to achieve:

#### **5.1 In Terms of Ideology, Teachers Should Fully Recognize the Importance of Cultivating a Correct Conception of History Among College Students**

Teachers are the organizers and leaders of teaching, and their leading role is very important. What teachers particularly emphasize and value is often what students value in their learning. In view of this, whether teachers attach importance to the cultivation of college students' conception of history or not plays a key role. For many years, due to an excessive emphasis on the purity of ideological and political education courses, while neglecting the synergistic effects of other aspects on ideological and political education and the diversity of ideological and political education content, the issue of students' conception of history has not been given enough attention by educators. This has led to students being unable to distinguish right from wrong in historical issues, unclear in identifying the laws of development, and thus affecting the accurate understanding of some political and social issues among college students today, resulting in ideological confusion and even erroneous understanding. Therefore, in order to cultivate the correct conception of history of college students, teachers themselves must first fully recognize the important role of the correct conception of history in shaping the thoughts of college students. Only with this premise can teachers regard cultivating the correct conception of history of college students as a very important teaching content, and also make every effort to create various conditions conducive to cultivating the correct conception of history of college students, and continuously improve their political and historical cultivation, correct their own historical view, and lay a foundation for educating students.

#### **5.2 In Terms of Principle, It Is Necessary to Adhere to the Principle of Integrating Theory with Practice**

The integration of theory with practice is a teaching principle that needs to be emphasized in teaching every course well. In cultivating a correct conception of history among college students, it is necessary to adhere to this principle, as the teaching of conception of history as a concept is relatively abstract and boring. To achieve the integration of theory with practice, on the one hand, teachers should adhere to using a correct conception of history to connect with the current international and

Chinese situation and students' ideological reality during the teaching process, timely clarify some erroneous views and vague understandings in the current society and among students, clear students' minds, guide them to correctly view social development and the overall trend of human historical development, and make students firmly believe that no matter how many twists and turns and difficulties there are in the historical process, history will always follow its laws and continue to move forward. As college students, there is a necessity to have a lofty vision and not be blinded by the chaos and twists in front of people. It is also necessary to firmly believe in the inevitable direction of the development of communism and socialism in history. On the other hand, teachers should use Marxist materialist conception of history to conduct specific scientific analysis of the process of human history, especially the history of the Chinese revolution, because this period of history is not only a direct content of ideological and political education, but also the most influential history in current Chinese society. [4] In the analysis and interpretation of revolutionary history, it is a must to highlight the historical inevitability of the revolutionary process and the historical legitimacy of the revolution, so that students can understand that China's revolution and construction cause is the result of the development of the entire world, and its foundation is the development and progress of the objective world, rather than the whims of some people. This will make college students firmly believe that the future development of China's socialist cause will be better.

### ***5.3 In terms of Operation, It Is Necessary to Consistently Teach the Course with the Correct Conception of History***

Teachers should consistently educate college students on the correct conception of history, and through continuous strengthening of education, promote the formation of a correct conception of history among college students. In ideological and political education courses, there are courses that directly involve historical issues. When teaching these courses, there is a must to adhere to the interpretation of historical materialism, and guide students to use historical materialism to analyze and think about controversial figures, events, and evaluations in society. This will enable college students to view problems from a historical perspective, examine historical figures and events in the specific historical environment of the time, and not unilaterally or rashly affirm or deny them.

In teaching, it is necessary to adhere to the principles of seeking truth from facts, objectivity, and fairness, and pay attention to thoroughly analyzing and explaining some vague, one-sided, and erroneous viewpoints that currently exist in the theoretical, academic, and ideological circles. This will cultivate the ability of college students to consciously apply the correct conception of history to analyze problems and resist erroneous viewpoints in the learning process.

### ***5.4 In Terms of Methodology, It Is Necessary to Innovate Teaching Methods***

The first is to fully leverage the role of college students as the main body, allowing them to personally experience what kind of conception of history is the correct one. The conclusion drawn from self-experience is often the most acceptable conclusion and the most reliable belief. When teaching historical events, teachers can let students play the role of characters in historical events, master the characteristics of these historical figures and the thinking and language habits determined by these characteristics, so as to correctly understand the teaching of Marxist materialist conception of history that "understanding history should consider the specific situation at that time and cannot go beyond the historical environment". The second is to make full use of the Internet, multimedia, libraries, museums, historical sites, sites and cultural relics and other teaching resources to realize the diversity and modernization of teaching methods, stimulate the curiosity and curiosity of college students, actively guide students to explore historical issues through these auxiliary learning tools, encourage them to think about and discuss a historical event, distinguish right from wrong, discover truth, correct their understanding of history, and establish a correct conception of history in constant self-reflection.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

Cultivating a correct conception of history among college students is an important part of ideological and political education in colleges and universities. It directly affects the formation of their worldviews, outlooks on life, and values, and is of great significance for the present and future generations. Of course, cultivating a correct conception of history in education is not a simple and isolated task, but a complex, long-term, and systematic process. People cannot expect to achieve

it overnight. It is necessary to follow the spirit of seeking truth from facts, work together with teachers and students, learn from good experiences in China and foreign countries, and adopt a gradual and orderly approach to achieve the goal of educating students on history. [5]

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