

# Research Review of College Students in the New Era Enhancing Their Ambition, Confidence, and Backbone as Chinese People

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## ABSTRACT

By exploring the way of transforming the internal "qualities" into the external "forms", from the academic point of view, this paper tries to find out the specific meaning, actual content and form of expression of college students' ambition, backbone and confidence to become Chinese in the new era. And the aim is to provide theoretical support for strengthening the ideological and value guidance of college students in the new era of higher education, consolidate the theoretical foundation for promoting socialist core values, build a new approach to modernizing and refining ideological and political education in the new era, and enhance the scientific and targeted nature of ideological and political education.

**Keywords:** *New era, Ambition, Backbone, Confidence.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out, "It is necessary to enhance the ambition, backbone, and confidence to be Chinese." [1] This discourse puts forward requirements and hopes for Chinese youth in the new era, providing important guidance for colleges and universities to implement the fundamental task of cultivating morality and talents in the new era. How to understand the rich connotation of ambition, backbone and confidence? What are the key factors that affect young people's ambition, backbone and confidence to become Chinese, and how to practice them? With such questions and reflections, scholars have made preliminary explorations and identified certain research progress.

## 2. RESEARCH PROGRESS

### 2.1 *Research on the Theoretical Connotation of Strengthening the Ambition, Backbone and Confidence as Chinese People*

The Chinese people's ambition, backbone and confidence originate from the excellent traditional

Chinese culture, and are sublimated from the great revolutionary practice of the CPC in the past 100 years, with rich theoretical connotation. Previous researchers have achieved certain results from different perspectives, which has great reference significance for accurately understanding the theoretical connotations of ambition, backbone, and confidence. For example, Yang Xiaohui believes that ambition originates from ideals and beliefs, and is the pursuit of aspirations for future development; Backbone is a concentrated representation of personal dignity and a manifestation of integrity and conduct; Confidence means self-confidence and is also a direct manifestation of strength. Shen Zhuanghai believes that the connection between ambition and ideals represents a posture of being vigilant and striving day and night. Backbone is related to willpower and represents a state of unwavering determination and perseverance. Confidence and belief are intertwined, representing a spirited and confident mindset. She Shuanghao believes that ambition is the determination and courage to pursue progress, as well as the spirit to work hard and achieve success. It is a comprehensive manifestation of having ideals, beliefs, and strong willpower; Backbone refers to a strong and unyielding spirit; Confidence is the attitude of an individual towards themselves or the

group and organization they belong to, with the ability and confidence to complete a task and achieve a certain goal. Dai Yuqi believes that ambition is an ideal belief that originates from reality and transcends reality, and is a spirit of perseverance that always moves forward bravely in the face of all difficulties; Backbone is the indomitable spirit of self-improvement and perseverance; Confidence refers to the powerful endogenous driving force that dares to face challenges head-on. Regarding the organic connection between ambition, backbone, and confidence, Dai Yuqi further believes that as spiritual qualities, aspiration, backbone, and confidence are a comprehensive and three-dimensional energy system. Among them, "confidence" is similar to a person's feet, firmly stepping on the ground and always sticking to one's heart; "backbone" is similar to human bones, standing proudly between heaven and earth; "ambition" is similar to a person's mind, with lofty aspirations and a head held high, moving forward even in the face of difficulties. Wu Qiong believes that having ambition means having lofty ideals and firm beliefs; Having backbone means having a firm and unyielding spirit, requiring a strong will and an unyielding attitude; Having confidence means having strong self-confidence, which requires a profound background and excellent skills. To sum up, it can be seen that there are many similarities between the previous understanding of the ambition, backbone and confidence of being a Chinese. Overall, ambition, backbone, and confidence mainly refer to the spiritual state and excellent qualities that young people should possess, which are the core competencies that new generations should possess, and also the determining factors for the establishment of contemporary youth's moral character.

## ***2.2 Research on the Influencing Factors of Strengthening the Ambition, Backbone and Confidence as Chinese People***

Influenced by the new business form of the Internet, the pressure of work and life, the manipulation of social capital and personal values, Chinese youth in the new era are also facing some difficulties in strengthening their ambition, backbone and confidence. For example, Liu Junyan believes that there are at least four practical challenges for Chinese youth in the new era to enhance their ambition, backbone, and confidence. Among them, the challenge of social

"entertainmentization" has led to the prevalence of popular celebrities such as traffic stars and live streaming internet celebrities, deepening the relative deprivation of traditional professional practitioners and hindering the shaping of correct values among the youth group; The challenge of "being lazy before becoming rich" has led to the prevalence of "decadent culture" and "low desires" among some young people, weakening their fighting spirit; The challenge of cultural "capitalization" has led to the manipulation of emerging industries and professions by social capital, deepening the differentiation of the youth group, seizing public attention, and weakening the guidance effect on the values of the youth group; The challenge of value differentiation has led to the phenomenon of "political indifference" and "personal interests first" among young people, which has hindered young people from strengthening their ambition, backbone and confidence to be Chinese. From the perspective of network generalization, Liu Haisheng sorts in detail the cultivation dilemma of guiding young people out to enhance their ambition, backbone and confidence as Chinese people. He pointed out that with the development of information technology, issues such as network broadcast generalization, network ideological trend generalization, network public opinion generalization are eroding young people's ambition, backbone and confidence. Among them, the "mourning culture" and "Buddha-like culture" on the internet corrupt the lofty aspirations of young people; The entertainment and vulgarization of online content undermine the resilience of young people; The fragmentation and stratification of online information corrode the strong skills of young people. The combined effect of the above factors has brought severe challenges and practical tests to the young people in the new era to enhance their ambition, backbone and confidence as Chinese people, which must be paid close attention to by all parties concerned.

## ***2.3 Research on the Practical Path of Strengthening the Ambition, Backbone and Confidence as Chinese people***

Some scholars have conducted preliminary research on the key path and practical principles to enhance the ambition, backbone, and confidence of college students in the new era. For example, Yang Xiaohui believes that youth should be guided through education to establish firm ideals and beliefs, enhance their ambition to be Chinese, cultivate the spirit of patriotic responsibility and

daring to struggle, strengthen the backbone of being a Chinese, cultivate the spirit of hard work and hard work, and enhance the confidence of being a Chinese. Shen Zhuanghai believes that it is necessary to adhere to using Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era to shape the soul and educate people, deeply carry out education on Party history, New China history, reform and opening up history, and socialist development history among young people, deeply carry out education on the world and national conditions among young people, and deeply carry out mission awareness education among young people. Dai Yuqi believes that cultivating the spiritual integrity of young people requires collaborative efforts from three levels: ideology, approach, and mechanism. It guides young people to adhere to the dialectical unity of history and reality, examine cultural differences between local and Western cultures, and promote the integration of personal and personal values, strengthen youth practical education and media literacy education, improve the mechanism of humanistic care and psychological counseling for young people, and establish advanced model demonstration and guidance mechanisms, etc., to help young people truly grow into new generations with ideals, abilities, and responsibilities. Starting from online ideological and political education, Liu Haisheng believes that a network ecological community should be established to create a network environment conducive to cultivating young people's aspirations, backbone, and confidence, promote the integration and co construction of traditional and new media, control the online discourse power that cultivates young people's ambition, backbone, and confidence, and cultivate the aspirations, backbone, and confidence of young people guided by the core socialist values.

### **3. RESEARCH TRENDS**

The predecessors have carried out a lot of interpretations and in-depth and detailed analysis from the aspects of enhancing the rich connotation, cultivation dilemma and practice approach of being Chinese, but there is still room for further excavation and expansion of relevant research.

#### ***3.1 More Focused Research Objects***

From the perspective of research subjects, conducting specialized research on a specific group of young people is an inevitable trend. Previous studies have mostly focused on the young

generation, with little research and analysis conducted from the perspective of the special and important group of college students in the new era; On the other hand, most of the previous studies were carried out from the perspective of education or educators, and few of them looked at the internal mechanism and practice path of strengthening the morale, backbone and confidence of Chinese people from the perspective of college students themselves. Therefore, it has become an inevitable trend to focus research on college students in the new era, and it is necessary to shift the research perspective from educators as the main body of education to college students as the object of education in the new era.

#### ***3.2 More Comprehensive Research Methods***

The shift from macro-research to meso- and micro- research has become a new trend to deeply understand the rich connotation of being a Chinese with ambition, backbone and confidence. Conducting in-depth meso- and micro-level research using principles of education and psychology is of great significance for improving the timeliness of ideological and political education work and enhancing the effectiveness of online ideological and political education. It will inevitably become the next research hotspot. Therefore, it has become the focus and hotspot of current research to focus on the analysis of college students' own characteristics, from the perspective of the era background, inner world, energy tendency, habit formation, etc. of college students in the new era, and to construct a practical approach for college students in the new era to enhance their ambition, backbone, and confidence to be Chinese.

### **4. RESEARCH LOGIC**

General Secretary Xi Jinping's important discourse on enhancing the ambition, backbone, and confidence of being Chinese people, based on a profound understanding of the theme of the times, takes valuing youth as the logical starting point, taking the Party's management of youth as the political stance, cultivating new talents of the times as the value goal, guiding youth growth and development as the practical path, and realizing the Chinese Dream as the logical goal, reflects the high unity of historical logic and practical logic, theoretical logic and practical logic.

#### ***4.1 Strengthening the Historical Logic of Ambition, Backbone and Confidence as Chinese People***

From the perspective of national history, China's excellent traditional culture is a treasure house of ideas to cultivate Chinese people's ambition, backbone and confidence. Strengthening the ambition, backbone and confidence of Chinese people is the internal requirement of China's excellent traditional culture for Chinese people. From the perspective of a hundred years of party history, the CPC has inherited the red gene of Chinese people's ambition, backbone and confidence. Strengthening the ambition, backbone and confidence of being a Chinese is the objective requirement to show the spiritual outlook and excellent quality of college students in the new era. From the perspective of practical tasks, college students should continue to develop their ambition, backbone and confidence as Chinese. In the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, it is an era requirement for Chinese youth to be Chinese with ambition, backbone and confidence.

#### ***4.2 Strengthening the Reality Logic of Ambition, Backbone and Confidence as Chinese People***

It is necessary to use the youth education goals of "having ideals, abilities, and responsibilities" proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping to deepen and enhance the rich connotation of ambition, backbone, and confidence. In the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed the youth education goal of "having ideals, abilities, and responsibilities". The youth education goals of "three haves" and the youth growth characteristics of "three qi" are a dialectical relationship between source and flow, which is a highly condensed and sublimated representation of the physical and mental state, excellent qualities, and spiritual outlook that young people should possess from different perspectives. "Having ideals" is to build a solid ideological foundation for the "ambition" of college students in the new era, "having abilities" is to lay a foundation for their "confidence" in action, and "having responsibilities" is to solidify the "backbone" of college students in the new era. The complete ideological system of "having ideals, abilities, and responsibilities" serves the fundamental task of "fostering virtue", reflecting Xi Jinping's logical rigor in guiding youth education work and

providing rich historical connotations for cultivating the "three qi".

#### ***4.3 Strengthening the Theoretical Logic of Ambition, Backbone and Confidence as Chinese People***

General Secretary Xi Jinping's important speech at the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the May Fourth Movement has provided methodological guidance. General Secretary Xi Jinping has put forward requirements for young people, such as "establishing lofty ideals and loving the great motherland", "taking on the responsibility of the times, courageously striving", and "cultivating strong skills and moral cultivation".[2] These six latest requirements reflect the dialectical relationship between "ambition, backbone, and confidence", providing a fundamental basis for college students in the new era to enhance their ambition, backbone, and confidence as Chinese. For example, the requirement of "setting up lofty ideals and loving the great motherland" requires college students in the new era to enhance their "ambition" to be Chinese; The requirement of "shouldering the responsibility of the times and being brave to struggle" requires that college students in the new era strengthen their "backbone" to be Chinese; The requirement of "cultivating excellent skills and moral cultivation" requires that college students in the new era strengthen their "confidence" in being Chinese. These six requirements highlight the logic thread of "for whom to fight", "how to fight" and "by what to fight", and provide methodological guidance for college students in the new era to enhance their ambition, backbone and confidence to be Chinese.

#### ***4.4 Strengthening the Practical Logic of Ambition, Backbone and Confidence as Chinese People***

"Happiness is all achieved through struggle." [3] Struggle is the basic premise and the only way for college students in the new era to enhance their ambition, backbone and confidence as Chinese. It is necessary to be determined to work hard can lay the foundation for strengthening the Chinese people's morale, work hard to lay the foundation for strengthening the Chinese people's moral integrity, and struggle continuously to lay the foundation for strengthening the Chinese people's confidence. As far as practice is concerned, college students should strengthen their four self-confidence, establish a strong will by strengthening their understanding of

scientific theory, cultivating patriotism, cultivating innovation ability, participating in innovative practice, and participating in national construction. They should show patriotism, serve the country, and strengthen the country by participating in social practice, so as to enhance the "ambition, backbone, and confidence" as Chinese. What runs through it is to cultivate the national spirit with patriotism as the core and the spirit of the times with reform and innovation as the core, practice the core socialist values, and consciously establish loyalty and love for socialist China with Chinese characteristics under the leadership of the CPC.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

To sum up, the research on how to strengthen the ambition, backbone and confidence of Chinese college students in the new era is of great significance. It can provide operable method guidance and path support for college students in the new era to realize their life values and youth ideals, provide action guidelines for the ideological and political work team of colleges and universities to improve the effectiveness of moral cultivation, and provide reference for the education department when implementing the strategy of building a strong country through education and formulating relevant policy documents.

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