

Implications of the “Two Combinations” for the Ideal and Conviction Education of Youth in the New Era

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Abstract: Ideals and beliefs are “spiritual calcium”, and young people are the “most sensitive barometer” marking The Times. Ideals and beliefs education of young people in the new era is related to the hope of the country and the future of the nation. The “two combinations” of the basic principles of Marxism provide strategic thinking, dialectical thinking, theoretical compliance, and action guidelines for the ideal and belief education of young people in the new era. The Communist Party of China and the Chinese Communist Youth League, schools, and families are the pluralistic subjects of ideal and belief education for young people in the new era. This will guide young people in the new era to integrate knowledge and action, practice the common ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and realize the timeliness of young people’s ideals and belief education in the new era.

Keywords: The “two combinations”; New era youth; Ideal faith education

The youth of China are the builders and successors of socialism and are the “most sensitive barometer” of the age. It is a political tradition of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to attach great importance to the education of young people in their ideals and beliefs. In 2022, the Information Office of the State Council published a white paper entitled “Chinese Youth in the New Era,” pointing out that “Ideal guides the direction of life, and belief determines the success of a career”, further emphasizing the importance of correctly educating young people on ideals and beliefs. “, further emphasizing that correct ideals and firm beliefs are the foundation of youth in the new era^[1]. At the conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward the important assertion of adhering to the “two combinations”. The first combination of China’s concrete reality is the objective demand for Marxism in modern China’s revolution and social development, which is the inevitable requirement for the Chineseisation of Marxism. In the second combination, the excellent traditional Chinese culture is the essence of Chinese civilization for thousands of years, which has provided important nutrients for a series of theoretical achievements of the Chineseisation of Marxism. The “two combinations” is a new narrative and a new starting point for the Chineseisation of Marxism in the new era.

1. Importance of Ideal and Conviction Education for Youth in the New Era

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that “the value orientation of the youth determines the value orientation of the whole society in the future.”^[2] In 1900, Mr. Liang Qichao at the age of 27 wrote, “If the youth is strong, the country will be strong, and if the youth is independent, the country will be independent.”^[3] In 1916, at the age of 27, Mr. Li Dazhao published the article “Youth” in the New Youth. In 1921, the Communist Party of China (CPC) was founded by pioneers of revolution with age of 28 on average. Chinese youth in the new era is facing, economic strength, scientific and technological strength, and comprehensive national strength continue to move to a new level, and make new leaps in the domestic development environment, is a century of unprecedented changes, and international relations are becoming increasingly tense global development environment. The former is a new era for Chinese young people to develop their talents and realize their ambitions, while the latter requires young people in the new era to replenish the calcium of their spirit and enhance their “ambition, backbone and spirit”.

2. Reshaping the concept of ideal and belief education for young people in the new era

2.1 Basing Marxist beliefs on rational identification with scientific theories

The important assertion of “two combinations” embodies the creative transformation and innovative development of scientific

theories by the CPC on the road to the Chineseisation of Marxism. The scientific and innovative nature of this theory has an important inspirational value for enhancing the education of the ideals and beliefs of young people in the new era. The establishment of ideals and the cultivation of beliefs are built on the rational recognition of scientific theories, and the education of the ideals and beliefs of the youth in the new era is built based on the cognition, recognition, and identification with the important theoretical achievements of the Chineseisation of Marxism. Only through a deep understanding of the intrinsic fit and scientific nature of the “two combinations” can we truly understand the Chineseisation of Marxism and truly identify with Xi Jinping’s Thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

2.2 Placing the patriotism on correct understanding of the laws of history

The “two combinations” point out that combining the basic principles of Marxism with the objective reality of China and the excellent material and spiritual civilization created by the Chinese people in the course of their long history is a high-level summary of the laws of history, and also fully embodies a correct understanding of the uniqueness of Chinese civilization and a broad absorption of the essence of culture, which is highly instructive in practice. It is highly instructive in practice. To know History is to love the Party and to know history is to love the country. Chinese civilization has an outstanding continuity, and the excellent traditional Chinese culture not only contains the concepts of national sentiment, national righteousness, harmony, and coexistence but also highlights the great historical outlook of grasping the laws of historical development and the “world’s great situation”, which greatly expands the dimension and connotation of the cultivation of patriotism.

2.3 Strengthening the common ideal of socialism based on accurate grasp of the basic conditions of the country

The Chineseisation of Marxism is a combination of the basic principles of Marxism and China’s basic national conditions. The scientific assertion of “two combinations” reveals that education on the ideals and beliefs of young people in the new era should focus on education on the national conditions of the new era. The updating speed of textbooks is generally unable to meet the needs of the timeliness of national conditions education, scientific research papers and monographs usually do not have the comprehensiveness of the description of national conditions and the popularity of national conditions education. A considerable proportion of college students are interested in celebrity gossip far more than the attention of current events, the content of ideological and political lessons can not form the “resonance”. The excellent traditional Chinese culture is full of storytelling, vivid and interesting idealistic education content, through the enhancement of the cultural and political identity of young people, guiding young people to develop the habit of caring about national events.

3. Redefining responsibility subjects and their tasks

3.1 Comprehensive supervision by the party and groups for enhancement of the timeliness

The main body of youth idealistic belief education in the new era is, first and foremost, the Communist Party of China and the Communist Youth League. The results of the practical experience of the new era of comprehensively governing the Party strictly have a content and idea fit for enhancing the effectiveness and timeliness of youth idealistic belief education, and the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation defines the historical mission and the call of the times of the youth. Ideal and conviction education for young people is carried out under the unified leadership of the Party and the supervision of the Party, ensuring that ideal and conviction education is based on the pattern of world development and China’s national conditions, advancing with the times, and being scientific and rigorous. The Chinese Communist Youth League is the reserve army of the CPC, but also a group organization for advanced young people, and is an excellent representative of the audience of youth idealistic belief education. It raises the level of young people’s idealistic beliefs under the new situation of the new era and new circumstances, copes with the impact of non-mainstream social trends on youth idealistic belief education, promotes role models to inspire a productive life, and guides young people to carry forward the excellent traditional Chinese culture.

3.2 Targeted curriculum system by schools for scientificity

Young people, including secondary school students, university students and young people entering and leaving the workplace, receive education in their ideals and beliefs mainly through programs in schools. Therefore, secondary schools colleges, and universities are the core subjects of youth idealistic belief education, and the school’s ideological and political curriculum system is the core carrier of youth idealistic belief education. According to the revelation of “two combinations”, the curriculum system of idealistic belief education in schools should follow the basic law of ideological education, combine the characteristics of the new era and daily life. Education themes such as national conditions, Chinese excellent traditional culture, and the spirit of revolution should

be set up in conjunction with the characteristics of the new era and daily life. Through the school's faculty and teaching and research co-ordination, education on national conditions, traditional culture, and the basic principles of Marxism can be organically integrated into the systematic Civics and Political Science curriculum, thus helping to build a curriculum system for the education of young people's ideals and beliefs in the new era.

3.3 Unity of knowledge and behavior by family guidance for integrating family style building and youth idealistic beliefs education

The ultimate assessment of education in ideals and beliefs lies not in knowledge but in action, but knowledge is easy and action is difficult. Taking patriotic education as an example, the revolutionary spirit was nurtured in the difficult revolutionary war era, which contradicts the comfort of the daily life of young people in the new era, and the lofty nature of the revolutionary spirit conflicts with the practicality of daily life, so this kind of "cleavage" between educational content and real-time is very likely to cause the inconsistency of knowledge and behavior in the education of ideals and beliefs of young people. Therefore, relying only on the leadership of the party and the school education makes it very difficult to achieve the effect of idealism education. "The foundation of the world is at home", family, family education, and family style are important guarantees that the ideal conviction education can ultimately move towards the unity of knowledge and action. The importance of family education and family style is part of the excellent traditional Chinese culture, and ideals and beliefs are learned by ear and passed on from generation to generation in family education.

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