

An Exploration on the Cultivation of the Spirit of Struggle Among Contemporary Youth in China

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Abstract: We will enter a new era and embark on a new journey of comprehensively building a modern socialist country. Fostering the spirit of struggle among youth is the need of The Times and an inevitable requirement for realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. This paper starts from The Times value of cultivating the struggle spirit of current youth, makes a profound summary, and deeply analyzes the predicament of cultivating the struggle spirit of youth, and probes into the feasibility and effectiveness of cultivating the struggle spirit of youth.

Keywords: Contemporary youth; The struggle spirit; An exploration on cultivation

The spirit of struggle originates from the fine traditional national spirit of the Chinese nation, and is committed to a new journey of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way. "Youth are the most active and dynamic force in the whole social force. The hope of the country and the future of the nation lies in the youth."^[1] A nation will prosper only when its youth thrive. Cultivating the spirit of struggle of our contemporary youth is the need of The Times. And youth should take realizing the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation as their own duty.

1. The Times Value of Cultivating Youth's Struggle Spirit

1.1 Youth in the new era should seize the opportunity to make achievements

"The youth of China in the new era are born at the right time and have heavy responsibilities on their shoulders. The stage is vast for them to display their talents and the prospects are bright for them to realize their dreams."^[2] At present, China is striving to complete the journey of socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics, which is also a crucial period for realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The young generation is the new force for realizing the great rejuvenation, and should strengthen their ideals and convictions and take over the "baton" of realizing the great rejuvenation. As the General Secretary Xi Jinping earnestly expressed in the report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the vast number of youths are determined to be good youth in the new era who have ideals, dare to take responsibility, can endure hardship, and are willing to work hard.^[3] Today is a new era for the achievements of youth. To achieve common prosperity for all people is a beautiful vision that human society has been striving for, and a good and happy life for all people is a result of hard work. Common prosperity for all people depends on the diligence and wisdom of generations of youth. Youth in the new era should be clear about the direction of struggle, enhance the ability of struggle, and realize the value of life.

1.2 Youths are the most positive and vibrant force in social development

The hope of the country lies in the youth, the future of the nation lies in the youth, and the youth should become the disseminators and builders of the national spirit, and brave pioneers and devotees in the forefront of The Times. After a hundred years of struggle, the Party has led the Chinese people to achieve a great leap from standing up, becoming rich to becoming strong. The reform and opening up have led to a great improvement in the lives of the Chinese people, and a renewed social atmosphere. Despite The historic achievements and changes that have occurred since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, there is unbalanced and insufficient contradictions, such as the unbalanced income of urban and rural residents, the uncoordinated regional development and the unbalanced industrial structure, as well as the problems in education, medical care, social security and other aspects of the social field. In order to accelerate the solution of these problems, we must bring into play the most active and dynamic force of youth in society. As Comrade Mao Zedong said, "Youth are the sun at eight or nine o'clock in the morning. They are the most willing to learn

and the least conservative in their thinking, especially in the socialist era.”^[4]Contemporary youth should consolidate their theoretical foundation in study and enhance their skills in practice so that they can become the backbone of social development in all walks of life.

1.3 A nation will prosper only when its youth thrive

The general secretary Xi Jinping pointed out:“The Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation will eventually become a reality in the relay efforts of generations of youth.”^[5]The results of the 27th China Youth May 4th Medal selection this year have been released.They are all young talents who have made outstanding contributions in various industries.They are role models of the times and role models for youth to learn from.Among them,there is Xiang’en Bai,the first female navigator in China who crossed the Arctic Ocean,and was born in the 1980s;The R&D and design team of the amphibious assault ship at the 708th Research Institute of China Shipbuilding Group,where Rupeng Shao was,who was born in the 2000s,has conquered a series of core key technologies,and filled the gap in the field of large amphibious assault ships in China;There are also“Flame Blue Warriors”who have taken root at the grassroots,participated in thousands of major emergency rescue operations,and written their youth responsibilities with unwavering loyalty;There are also forging workers who work hard to study technology,and have created true“steel tendons and iron bones”for domestically produced large aircraft...They have engraved the footprints of struggle on the journey to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation,integrated youthful struggle into the cause of the Party and the country,and practiced excellent skills with the graceful bearing of encouraging youth.

2. The Dilemma of Cultivating the Spirit of Struggle of Youth

2.1 The complexity of social ideology endangers the mainstream ideology of Marxism

At present,the international and domestic situations are complex and changeable,and various social ideologies are intertwined.Western“constitutional democracy”,neoliberalism and historical nihilism are still waiting for the opportunity to emerge,attempt to challenge the guiding position of Marxist ideology in the field of ideology,attack and deny the leadership of the Party and the political system and development path of our country,and strive to compete for the right of ideological discourse.With China’s efforts to open up to the outside world in all aspects,the contemporary youth,especially college students,will unconsciously accept Western culture while enjoying the fruits of Western civilization,and are easily influenced by Western ideology.There are also phenomena such as profit-seeking,moral anomy and extreme individualism,which are accompanied by the weaknesses and defects of the market economy,which affects the judgment of the right and wrong of youth,as well as the cultivation and practice of socialist core values.

2.2 The uneven online culture confuses the correct value orientation of contemporary youth

With the rapid development of the Internet,the application of modern information technology in daily life is becoming more and more widespread.The emergence of short videos caters to the fast pace of life.For example,Kuaishou,Douyin,Little Red Book,Huoshan video and so on occupy a lot of leisure time of youth.These platforms use big data to analyze people’s preferences and continuously push a variety of videos to win the attention of the public.What is worrying is that the content of these short videos is mixed with good and bad,which seriously affects the formation of youth’s world outlook,values and outlook on life,especially the transmission of some negative energy,such as selling anxiety,violent games,buying luxury goods,illegal online loans,vulgar kitsch,etc.,will also affect the development of youth’s physical and mental health.In addition,the transmission of hedonism,formalism and extravagance poses a threat to the practice of socialist core values.The online cultural space that confuses public opinion will subtly influence the correct values of contemporary youth.

2.3 Youth generally lack practical experience,which makes it difficult to achieve the timeliness of“the unity of knowing and doing”

Contemporary youth generally have higher education,rich knowledge reserve and solid theoretical foundation,but lack the corresponding social practice experience.Some youth have negative and lazy emotions in terms of spiritual culture and ideological consciousness.In recent years,a“pessimistic culture”has been prevalent among youth,that is,“Chilled with no ambitions,lying flat”has become an excuse for some people to escape from practical problems,magnify inertia,and struggle passively.They do nothing about the future and give up pursuing their dreams and goals.This kind of thinking is not conducive to the long-term development of society and the realization of personal value,and seriously restricts them to enter the social practice experience.Therefore,youth should work hard,study hard and be diligent in life,seize the opportunity to participate in social practice and experience,combine theory with practice,and achieve“the unity of knowing and doing”in order to shoulder the great historical mission of the new era.

3. The Path Choice for Cultivating Youth’s Spirit of Struggle

3.1 Inherit the national spirit and carry forward the traditional spirit of struggle

The 5,000-year civilization of the Chinese nation has carried countless heroic deeds of the Chinese people's struggle spirit. In the past, there were inspirational struggle spirits such as "In the Eastern Han Dynasty, a man named Sun Jing who tie one's hair on the house beam and jab one's side with an awl to keep oneself awake--painstaking in one's study; grind away at one's studies"; "In the Western Jin Dynasty, Kun Liu and Ti Zu who rise up upon hearing the crow of a rooster and practice with the sword" and "Yugong Moving Mountains". Today, there are hard struggle spirits such as "Daqing spirit", "Special Zone spirit" and "moon exploration spirit".^[6] As we enter the new era, the problems facing China are unbalanced and inadequate, mainly in the form of inter-regional, urban-rural, economic and ecological problems, income distribution, severe employment situation, and innovation challenges in various fields. To solve these problems, it is not something that can be accomplished overnight. It is also necessary to harness the power of the people, especially youth, to carry forward the spirit of struggle and forge ahead.

3.2 Make good use of red resources and carry forward the revolutionary spirit of Chinese Communists

Red is the most beautiful background of the CPC and the Chinese nation. Red resources are the precious spiritual wealth of the Chinese revolution and the spiritual symbol of countless heroes and martyrs. Looking back at the revolutionary years, we have the revolutionary spirit pedigree of the CPC, such as the "Jinggangshan Spirit", the "Long March Spirit", the "Yan'an Spirit", and the "Xibaipo Spirit", which broke through the enemy's encirclement. Learning red resources and spreading red revolutionary culture is one of the main ways to cultivate the spirit of struggle of youth. Only by making good use of red resources and inheriting red genes can we cultivate new generations with firm ideals, courage to take responsibility, and high aspirations. Contemporary youth can learn from the revolutionary spirit of revolutionary predecessors who are not afraid of difficulties and bravely fight by visiting red revolutionary bases, singing red songs, reciting poems, understanding the deeds of heroic figures, watching movies and historical dramas, and other means.

3.3 Strengthen ideological and political education in colleges and universities and practice core socialist values

Ideological and political education in colleges and universities undertakes the fundamental task of "Nurturing Morality and Fostering Talent". Ideological and political course is the main way to consolidate the guiding position of Marxism in the field of ideology. As a key group of youth, contemporary college students should internalize socialist core values into their spiritual pursuit and externalize into their conscious actions. Youth should put in time and energy in diligent learning, moral cultivation, discernment, and steadfastness. Youth born at the right time should study mainly, and study hard to achieve the ideal of life; Youth should have both ability and political integrity, and start from small things around them to cultivate their noble character; Youth should distinguish right from wrong in order to show their intelligence and learn to think and analyze; Only by being down-to-earth can youth look up at the stars. And Youth should focus on cultivating practical ability and extensively practice socialist core values, which is a necessary way for young students to relay and strive to realize the great Chinese Dream.

4. Conclusion

"Happiness comes from struggle",^[7] Youth are the future of the motherland and the hope of the nation, and youth in the new era should be a generation with ideals, ability and responsibility. Cultivating the spirit of struggle of contemporary youth is an inevitable requirement for promoting the all-round construction of a modern socialist country, and is also an inexhaustible driving force for realizing the great Chinese dream of national rejuvenation.

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