

An Exploration of the Path to Integrating the Yan'an Spirit of the New Era into the Education of Party History

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Abstract

Yan'an is the holy land of the Chinese revolution and the cradle of New China. The Yan'an Spirit formed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China during the thirteen years in Yan'an is the Party's precious spiritual wealth. In the context of the new era, the deep integration and development of Party history education with the Yan'an Spirit is an important manifestation of implementing the fundamental task of fostering virtue and nurturing talent for Party members, cadres and people of all ethnic groups across the country. It is also a realistic choice and an important path for developing the red spirit, strengthening theoretical innovation and advancing the Sinicization of Marxism. In the context of the new era, integrating the Yan'an Spirit into Party history education will not only help to enhance the sense of historical mission and responsibility of Party members, but also improve their recognition and understanding of Party history. The Yan'an Spirit will play an important role in Party history education in the new era and provide a powerful spiritual impetus for the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Keywords

Party history education; Yan'an Spirit; Practice path; Ideological and political education

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1. Introduction

In the century-long glorious history of the Communist Party of China, the Yan'an spirit, as a unique historical and cultural symbol, carries the Party's original aspiration and mission. The Yan'an Spirit, with its firm ideals and beliefs, the spirit of hard work and struggle, the style of close ties with the people and the attitude of seeking truth from facts, has become a powerful driving force that inspires generations of Communists to move forward. In the context of the new era, integrating the Yan'an Spirit

into Party history education is not only an inheritance and promotion of history, but also an active promotion of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. In the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, to persistently educate the vast number of Party members and cadres with the Yan'an Spirit, it is necessary to deeply explore the contemporary value of the Yan'an Spirit to nourish the original aspiration, refine the soul, and provide a powerful spiritual impetus^[1] for the decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous

society in all respects, for the great victory of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, and for the realization of the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

2. The scientific connotation of the “Yan ‘an Spirit”

2.1. Upholding the right political direction: The cornerstone of revolutionary ideals and confidence in the path

The political direction is the foundation of a party's survival and the lifeblood of its development, and directly determines the rise and fall of its cause and the course of its history. During the Yan 'an period, the Communist Party of China, in a complex situation interwoven with national peril and class contradictions, always placed the political direction at the forefront of revolutionary practice. The ideological connotation of "firm and correct political direction" contained in the Yan 'an Spirit enlighten us that strengthening the Party building in schools in the new era means unswervingly upholding the Party's overall leadership, implementing the Party's educational policy, and firmly grasping the socialist direction of running schools. This is because the correct political direction is the lighthouse on the Party's path forward and the general basis and fundamental guideline for our Party to formulate political lines, principles and policies. Only when the political direction is correct can we ensure the correct direction of our education, and our education can produce socialist builders and successors^[2] who are well-rounded in morality, intelligence, physical fitness, aesthetics and labor.

The Chinese People's Anti-Japanese Military and Political University, as an institution for training cadres, systematically expounded the historical inevitability of the Chinese revolution by increasing the proportion of political theory courses. There can be many different political directions. You should learn a correct political direction, but having only this correct political direction is not enough. If you lose it after three or five years, wouldn't that be in vain? So, after having the right political direction, be firm, that is to say, have a firm and correct political direction^[3]. "Here" firm and correct political direction" means establishing revolutionary

ideals and firm political beliefs.

Historical practice shows that firm political direction constitutes the core trait of the Yan 'an Spirit. This trait is manifested not only in the adherence to communist beliefs, but also in the scientific understanding and practice of the path of the Chinese revolution, which ensures that the Communist Party of China always holds the right direction at major historical junct and demonstrates the unique political determination and strategic foresight of a Marxist party.

2.2. The ideological line of seeking truth from facts: The Chinese practice of Marxist methodology

Seeking truth from facts, as the fundamental viewpoint of Marxism, is the fundamental requirement for Chinese Communists to understand and transform the world, and it is the basic way of thinking, working and leading of our Party. In the Yan 'an Rectification Movement, seeking truth from facts was established as the ideological line^[4]. The ideological line established during the Yan 'an Rectification Movement completed the localization of the theory of Marxist methodology and formed the Chinese practice of Marxist methodology.

2.2.1. An ideological revolution to break down dogmatism

The dogmatic tendencies that existed within the Communist Party of China in the 1930s were mainly manifested in the mechanical application of Marxist theory and the direct transplantation of Soviet experience. In 1942, the Yan 'an Rectification Movement took the rectification of the three winds as its core task: reshaping the way of cognition through critical subjectivism, eliminating sectionalism and strengthening organizational discipline, reforming the Party eight-part style and establishing a new literary style system. The movement required Party members and cadres to go deep into grassroots practice, and the Central Research Institute organized rural investigation teams to complete empirical studies such as the "Investigation of Yangjiagou in Mizhi County". This de-authorizing cognitive model reconfiguration pushed the entire party to complete the paradigm shift from dogmatic thinking to empirical research, ultimately establishing the principle of integrating theory with practice.

2.2.2. The practical character of integrating knowledge with action

The principle of seeking truth from facts was concretized as a guiding principle for political practice and military strategy during the Yan 'an period. In the field of regime building, the Communist Party of China implemented the "three-three system" regime model and established a joint governance structure with united front functions. The system, which not only fulfills the Party's leading core role but also integrates the political forces of the various anti-Japanese classes, has received positive comments from democratic figure Li Dingming for its institutional innovation. In the field of military practice, a guerrilla tactical system was innovated based on the characteristics of Japanese combat, and the operational principles of "retreat when the enemy advances, disrupt when the enemy is stationed, attack when the enemy is exhausted, pursue when the enemy readvances" were formulated, elevating guerrilla warfare to a tactical system at the strategic level and forming a typical campaign implementation model.

The ideological line of seeking truth from facts continues to demonstrate its theoretical guiding value in contemporary political practice. From the practical test principle established in the discussion on the criterion of truth in 1978 to the formation of the "problem-oriented" governance model in the new era constitutes the modern evolution path of this theoretical paradigm. Historical experience shows that adhering to the principle of national condition-based methodology and continuously promoting the integration of Marxist theory with Chinese practice is the fundamental way to maintain the initiative of historical practice.

2.3. The fundamental purpose of serving the people wholeheartedly: the value core of party ethics

General Secretary Xi pointed out, "The country is the people and the people are the country. To fight the country and to defend it is to defend the hearts of the people."^[5] The core criterion for judging the nature of a political party lies in the people it serves and the strength it relies on. During the Yan 'an period, the Communist Party of China established the core value criterion of "serving the people wholeheartedly" and constructed a differentiated

party value positioning, thereby forming a broad social foundation.

2.3.1. Essential stipulations of the people's position

Marxist party theory emphasizes the non-special interest attribute of proletarian parties, noting that their historical mission is naturally consistent with the fundamental interests of the people. The Communist Party of China immediately established the dual political commitment of "the happiness of the people and the rejuvenation of the nation", and this political attribute was embodied in the Yan 'an period as the practical paradigm of "putting the interests of the people first". During the Yan 'an period, the Communist Party of China practiced its governing purpose through three policy systems: in the economic field, it implemented the policy of safeguarding land rights and interests and redistributing the means of agricultural production; In the field of health care, a universal medical system was established, significantly improving public health conditions in the border areas; In the field of culture and education, a network of workers' and peasants' education was established to enhance the cultural literacy of the people through the combination of professional colleges and literacy education. Third-party observers' records show that this policy practice has created a deep mutual trust relationship between the political party and the people and built a unique model of social mobilization.

2.3.2. Institutional safeguards of democratic practice

During the Yan 'an period, the Communist Party of China achieved the practical transformation of its governing purposes through institutional innovation. In terms of democratic political construction, an election mechanism adapted to rural society was established, and culturally adaptive voting methods were adopted to ensure the effectiveness of grassroots political participation. In response to the issue of the efficiency of the operation of the regime, the policy suggestions of democratic people are absorbed through the deliberation mechanism of the council, and the bureaucratic reform of administrative institutions is implemented to form a streamlined and efficient governance system. This institutional practice approach reflects both the local innovation of democratic principles and the substantial improvement of governance

effectiveness, providing a practical model for the institutionalization of the party's purpose.

Serving the people wholeheartedly is the main content of the Yan 'an spirit and the fundamental purpose of the Communist Party of China. It reveals from another aspect the specific requirements of the great founding spirit of loyalty to the Party and dedication to the people, highlights the practical nature of the spirit's connotation, and completes the transformation^[6] from the theoretical to the practical.

3. The necessity of integrating the “Yan ‘an Spirit” into Party history education in the new era

3.1. The contemporary value of the Yan 'an Spirit in the New Era

The Yan 'an Spirit, which is characterized by a firm and correct political direction, an ideological line of emancipating the mind and seeking truth from facts, a fundamental purpose of serving the people wholeheartedly, and an entrepreneurial spirit of self-reliance and hard work, is a precious spiritual wealth of the Party and must be passed down^[7] from generation to generation. This theory is not only a systematic summary of the practical experience of the New Democratic Revolution period, but also an important theoretical achievement in the process of Sinicization of Marxism, and constitutes a fundamental resource for the study of contemporary Party building theory.

3.1.1. Cultivate correct values and oppose historical nihilism

Historical nihilism is one of the important problems that exist in the new era society. In the face of this erroneous trend of thought, it is of practical significance to carry forward and promote the Yan 'an spirit. The firm belief, the style of seeking truth from facts, the purpose of serving the people and the tradition of hard work formed during the Yan 'an period are not only the spiritual pillars of revolutionary victory, but also provide vivid resources for contemporary values education. Under the value guidance of the new era: We should use the Yan 'an spirit to carry the true historical memory of the common struggle of the Party and the people to consolidate the ideological

foundation; Call on people across the country to adopt novel ways to integrate the spirit into life and practice education to enhance value recognition; Innovative use of modern technology to make history education more vivid and consolidate historical cognition effectively breaks the fragmented narrative of historical nihilism.

At present, a growing number of patriotic education bases across the country are undergoing digital upgrades, and more teenagers are learning the Yan 'an spirit through school systems. This all-round, three-dimensional inheritance system is helping people build a clear historical understanding and consciously resist wrong ideas. The Yan 'an Spirit has significant value implications for strengthening the Party spirit education of college students in the new era. It helps college students to strengthen the ideals and beliefs of Communists, cultivate deep patriotic feelings, establish the purpose of serving the people, and carry forward the fine style^[7] of hard work and struggle.

3.1.2. Strengthen political identity and enhance ideals and beliefs

The spiritual guidance of historical experience is an important starting point: the wisdom of political construction formed during the Yan 'an period provides an important reference for the cultivation of contemporary political identity. The idea of "learning - reflection - practice" demonstrated during the rectification movement combined theoretical learning with practical work, effectively resolving ideological differences. This tradition is reflected in the new era as Party members and cadres identify their own problems by comparing themselves with the standards of conduct of revolutionary predecessors; Party organizations at the grassroots level have established a mechanism of "public evaluation - rectification feedback" to make political construction more operational.

There are three practical paths for the new era. Innovation in educational methods: Immersive teaching programs can be developed, such as simulating the "three-three system" democratic consultation and experiencing mass production labor. At the same time, digital learning platforms can be established to integrate resources such as documents and images from the Yan 'an period and organize Party members and cadres to practice and train on the front line of rural revitalization. System

and mechanism improvement: Incorporate elements of the Yan 'an spirit into the cadre assessment system, set indicators such as "effectiveness in serving the people" and "ability to overcome difficulties", establish a closed-loop management mechanism of "problem collection - rectification and implementation - effect evaluation", and finally improve the system of Party members and cadres connecting with the people, and promote practices such as "public sentiment diary" and "undertaking of practical matters"; Enhanced dissemination effectiveness: New media such as short videos and live broadcasts can be used to disseminate typical deeds, and "spiritual inheritance corners" can be built in communities and schools to showcase contemporary practice cases. It should be noted that artistic works should be created to demonstrate the contemporary value of spiritual inheritance. By building a complete system of "education and guidance - institutional guarantee - practice and refinement", the Yan 'an spirit continues to exert its contemporary value and provides lasting impetus for strengthening the ideals and beliefs of Party members and cadres and consolidating the Party's governance foundation. This model of succession proves that the fine revolutionary tradition is not only a historical and spiritual wealth, but also a real force for the development of the cause.

3.1.3. Pass on the red genes and strengthen cultural confidence

Red is the base color of the Chinese revolution, and genes mean continuity and inheritance. The red gene is the inheritance of the revolutionary spirit of the Communist Party of China, the spiritual core of the Chinese Communists, and the spiritual bond of the Chinese nation. The Yan 'an Spirit, as an important component of the red gene, embodies core traits such as firm belief, seeking truth from facts, serving the people and self-reliance. It has a guiding role across time and space and is an important spiritual source for inheriting the red gene and enhancing cultural confidence in the new era. Optimizing the environment for the inheritance of the red gene, guiding young people of the new era to inherit the red gene, and continuously stimulating the faith power of the youth group will not only help the youth group to have a deeper understanding of the history of the Party and the country and to strengthen their ideals and beliefs, but also

help improve the moral quality of the youth group and cultivate their cultural confidence^[8].

3.2. The rationality of integrating the Yan 'an Spirit into Party history education in the new era

3.2.1. Relevance of content

Since its birth, the Yan 'an Spirit has received great attention from experts and scholars. As a major representative of the Chinese revolutionary spirit, there are abundant research results on Party history education centered on the Yan 'an Spirit, covering multiple dimensions^[9] such as its formation and development, scientific connotation, contemporary value, and contemporary inheritance.

The relevance of the content lies in the deep alignment with the historical context: The Yan 'an period (1935-1948), as an important stage in the development of the Party, its historical practice and spiritual creation themselves are the core content of Party history education. The Yan 'an Rectification Movement systematically summarized historical experience and established the ideological line of seeking truth from facts; The formulation of the Program for the Administration of the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region reflects the exploration of democratic regime construction. These specific historical facts constitute vivid materials for Party history education.

A high degree of unity between Party history education and its spiritual content at the spiritual level. The core elements of the Yan 'an Spirit are in perfect alignment with the goals of Party history education. Politically, the principles established during the Yan 'an period echo the importance of Party leadership emphasized in Party history education. In terms of the ideological line, the tradition of seeking truth from facts formed by the rectification movement runs through the Party's century-long ideological construction process; In terms of the fundamental purpose, the deeds of the Communist Party members of this period who "serve the people" vividly interpret the original aspiration and mission of the Party; In terms of the entrepreneurial spirit, the practice of reclamation in Nanmudan, which embodies the spirit of hard work and perseverance, is a microcosm of the Party's efforts to overcome difficulties at different times.

This high degree of alignment not only ensures the authenticity and vividness of Party history education, but also provides a systematic carrier for the inheritance of the Yan 'an spirit, forming an education system that supports each other.

3.2.2. Consistency of goals

Party history education and the Yan 'an Spirit are highly consistent in their fundamental goals, both dedicated to carrying forward the red genes and rallying the strength to strive. This is reflected in three aspects: First, remember the historical experience and pass on the spiritual wealth. During the Yan 'an period, the Party, through systematic study of its history, unified the thoughts of the entire Party and laid the foundation for the victory of the revolution. Therefore, in the new era, to carry forward the Yan 'an spirit, it is important to guide Party members and cadres to draw strength from the "Yan 'an Spirit", the "Rectification Movement", and the "Nanmudwan Experience", and to hold fast to their original aspirations and missions; Secondly, deepen the understanding of the laws and strengthen the ideals and beliefs. Both of these, by explaining the logic of the Party's development - why it can, why it does, why it is good - can establish the ideological line of seeking truth from facts in the Yan 'an rectification movement, verify the success of Sinicization of Marxism, and demonstrate the powerful advantages of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era in current Party history education through showcasing achievements such as poverty alleviation and scientific and technological innovation; Finally, it unites practical forces, promotes national rejuvenation, and transforms historical experience into practical driving force. The Great production movement during the Yan 'an period inspired the fighting spirit of the military and the people. Party members and cadres in the new era led the masses to overcome difficulties, continue the tradition of striving, and jointly inspire the power to forge ahead.

This consistency of purpose makes the Yan 'an spirit a vivid vehicle for Party history education, and the two support each other and jointly serve the great cause of national rejuvenation.

4. The realization path of integrating the Yan 'an Spirit into Party History Education in the New Era

4.1. Enrich the methods of Party history education

Traditional Party history education often relies on a single method such as classroom instruction and textbook study. To better integrate into the Yan 'an spirit, innovative methods are needed to enhance the appeal of education, and innovative teaching models can be adopted:

Experiential teaching: Organize students to visit revolutionary sites in Yan 'an for on-site learning. At the site of the Seventh National Congress of the Communist Party of China in Yangjialing, observe the simple arrangement of the revolutionary residences of the leaders, touch the texture of the loess on the cave walls, and directly experience the hardworking style. At the Nanmudwan Reclamation Experience Base, participate in agricultural labor such as planting millet and restoring terraced fields, and personally practice and understand the spirit of self-reliance.

Case-based teaching: Select typical historical cases for in-depth analysis. For example, when explaining the Great Production Movement, you can explore it by explaining the process by which the 359th Brigade of the Eighth Route Army transformed the barren Nanmudan into "Jiangnan of northern Shaanxi", and analyzing physical evidence such as land reclamation tools and production data.

Situational teaching: Using technical means to recreate historical scenes, "entering" the 1942 Yan 'an Symposium on Literature and Art through VR devices to listen to the real recordings of leaders' speeches, or using AR technology to scan historical photos to trigger dynamic images to display the labor scenes of the Great Production Movement, enhancing the immersion of teaching.

4.2. Strengthen the combination of theory and practice to achieve multi-angle education

To integrate the Yan 'an spirit into Party history education, it is necessary to focus on the combination of theoretical study and practical action to form an all-round education system. The foundation can be laid through in-depth theoretical study. Regarding curriculum design, special

courses on "The Yan 'an Spirit and Party History" can be offered in colleges and universities, systematically explaining its formation background, core connotation and contemporary value. Academic discussions can also be used to promote exchanges. By inviting Party history experts to interpret the ideological construction experience of the rectification movement, organizing students to analyze the original text of the "Policy Program for the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region" to explore the logic of democratic regime construction, and at the same time strengthening research and expansion, guiding students to write papers around topics such as "the Nanniwan Spirit and Rural Revitalization", and sorting out the connection points between historical experience and practical application; In order to better integrate theory with practice, it is necessary to focus not only on the accumulation of theoretical knowledge but also on the transformation of practical actions, organize students to go to remote areas to carry out teaching support activities through means such as volunteer services, and set up "red story classes" for left-behind children; Through the accumulation of theoretical knowledge and the refinement of practice, ultimately achieve multi-dimensional integrated education, enhance political identity, and in terms of cultural inheritance, the stage play "Ode to Yan 'an" can be staged in art courses, and red culture can be disseminated in the form of northern Shaanxi folk songs.

4.3. Use the Internet to facilitate the study of the history of the Party

With the rapid development of information technology, a

series of new media such as online media have become an integral part of People's Daily lives and an important carrier for information transmission, knowledge imparting and cultural dissemination, providing new ways and platforms^[10] for the promotion of the Yan 'an spirit. Internet technology has injected new vitality into Party history education. Integrating the Yan 'an Spirit through online means can expand the coverage of education and enhance the learning effect.

5. Conclusion

In the historical process of the new era, integrating the Yan 'an spirit into Party history education is not only an inheritance of revolutionary traditions, but also a profound enlightenment for contemporary Party members and the general public. The firm belief, hard work and the spirit of serving the people embodied in the Yan 'an Spirit are the spiritual pillars for us to deal with the complex and changing international and domestic environment and to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Through diverse forms of education and modern technological means, the Yan 'an Spirit will be more deeply rooted in people's hearts and inspire us to forge ahead on the new journey of the new era. Only through continuous learning and inheritance can we better grasp the pulse of history, strengthen our ideals and beliefs, and unite a powerful force to promote social progress. Let the Yan 'an spirit shine with new luster in the Party history education of the new era and provide an inexhaustible source of power for realizing the Chinese Dream.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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