

The Inheritance of the May 4th Spirit and the Shaping of the Socialist Core Values of Youth in the New Era

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ABSTRACT. *The formation of the May 4th spirit referring to the value concept and the ideological spirit system formed in the May 4th movement. It marks the ideological awakening of the Chinese mass. The May 4th spirit has inspired Chinese people for a long time, especially the young people from generation to generation, to drive out invaders and build the motherland. For the contemporary Chinese society, there is a requirement for a system of conceptual values representing socialist core values. It can maintain social unity and gather the strength of people. In terms of content, the May 4th spirit is highly consistent with the socialist core values. In the new era, inheriting and practicing the spirit of the May 4th movement can help young people better establish socialist core values. This will not only help young people in the new era grow up better, but also contribute to the realization of the Chinese Dream.*

KEYWORDS: *May 4th spirit, Inheritance, New era, Youth, Socialist core values, Construction*

1. Introduction

The decision of the CPC Central Committee on deepening the reform of cultural system and promoting the development and prosperity of socialist culture adopted at the Sixth Plenary Session of the 17th CPC Central Committee pointed out that “the socialist core value system is the soul of rejuvenating the country, the essence of advanced socialist culture and the development direction of socialism with Chinese characteristics.” This important conclusion highlights the importance of the socialist core value system and profoundly reveals the critical role of the socialist core value system in cultural construction. The foundation of the construction of the socialist core value system should be enhanced, and form a joint force with the help of all forms and methods to jointly promote the great development and prosperity of socialist culture. The May 4th movement is a major turning point in Chinese history, which contains the spirit of the May 4th Movement and the socialist core value system with a high degree of consistency. Therefore, inheriting and carrying forward

the May 4th spirit is an effective way to promote the construction of the socialist core value system.

2. Inheriting the May 4th Spirit and Building the Socialist Core Values in the New Era Should Go Hand in Hand

In the new era, youth inheriting the May 4th spirit should be guided by socialist core values. As mentioned above, the socialist core values are the expansion and contemporary expression of the May 4th spirit. If the spirit of the May 4th Movement has established the value choice of youth from a macro perspective, the socialist core values will contribute to concretizing, enriching and modernizing the value choice of youth from a micro perspective. The value of Zeitgeist originates in the May 4th spirit which refers to an outstanding embodiment of the spirit of the Chinese nation. Therefore, in order to carry forward the national spirit and the spirit of the times in the new era, it is necessary to inherit the May 4th spirit. In the new era, however, young people should not only focus on the eight words of “patriotism, progress, democracy and science”, but also consider the socialist core values as the guide in the inheritance practice and utilize more abundant and comprehensive values as guidance. As a lasting and deep-seated power of a country and a nation, core values carry the spiritual pursuit of a country and a nation, and embody the standard of right and wrong. It is not only the value goal, but also the practice norm, which can provide young people with dual guidance in thinking and behavior. Nowadays, due to the change of the times, the young people in the new era should face different historical missions and new social challenges. When youth make life choices, they should not only consider personal interests, but also consider the needs of the country and the direction of the times. Therefore, the socialist core values with contemporary characteristics can be used by young people in the process of inheriting the May 4th spirit to provide effective help, in order to ensure it always move in the right direction in the new era, and constantly accumulate spiritual strength and hone skills to realize the Chinese Dream for national renewal [1-2].

The construction of socialist core values should be based on the inheritance of the May 4th spirit by young people in the new era. As the ideal, goal and criterion to guide the production and life of Chinese people, the construction of socialist core values is directly related to the ruling status of the Communist Party of China, the future of the country and the stability of social order. Especially in such a new era of convenient communication and information explosion, youth groups are facing the challenge of comprehensive socialization, while the construction of socialist core values for youth in the new era is urgent. Based on the close relationship between the May 4th spirit and the socialist core values, the construction of the socialist core values in the new era needs to analyze the psychological and behavioral characteristics of the youth in the new era in the practice of inheriting the May 4th spirit, and spreading socialist core values in the way that young people like can strengthen the discourse effect of the socialist core value system and make young people more willing to accept it, so as to realize the transition from theoretical identification and emotional identification to practical action, and the transformation

from theoretical recognition to emotional recognition to practical practice. Student associations and student federations, once playing an important role in the May 4th movement, now often carry out the May 4th spirit propaganda activities online and offline in Colleges and universities, which is actually a reflection of inheriting and carrying forward the May 4th spirit. Therefore, the focus of the dissemination of socialist core values should be on student groups, breaking through the space-time limit by “Online + offline” way, and attracting young people in the new era via the form of micro class, short man, dubbing. For example, Tiktok short video is a music short video community that is popular among netizens, especially young people. It is a timely action to be combined with the dissemination of socialist core values. The most important thing is to clarify the relationship between the values and the May 4th spirit, the role and value of the socialist core values. That way, the young people in the new era can consciously identify the core values in the process of inheriting the May 4th spirit [3-4].

In a word, there is a common goal within the inheritance of the May 4th spirit and the construction of socialist core values. Only when the two closely promote each other and move in the same direction, can the youth in the new era have greater ability and higher awareness to forge ahead for the realization of the Chinese dream.

3. Youth in the New Era Should Be the Pioneer of Pursuing Dreams in Inheriting the May 4th Spirit and Practicing the Socialist Core Values

3.1 Young People Should Always Think about the Way They Come

On the one hand, it is required to recognize the May 4th history with a correct perspective. Reviewing the May 4th history is not to seek glory, nor to avoid the current difficulties, but to review the value selection process of ancestors of contemporary youth through analyzing the history, trace back the powerful energy of the May 4th spirit, and transform it into the courage and strength to continue to move forward in the present and the past. The May 4th movement is a history of pursuing dreams, and also a history should be inherited. When it is handed down to the youth in the new era, as one of sources of connotation the socialist core values with the May 4th spirit become the new values for the youth to follow. On the other hand, young people are required to examine their original intention. From the new revolutionary star during the May 4th to the pillar of the country in the early stage of modernization construction, to the pioneer of the new era of reform and opening up, the role of youth changes in the long river of the times, highlighting the unchanging original intention of “building contributions for the country” of youth. In the new era, young people enjoy unprecedented conditions and policies, but they are also in a “huge network news public opinion field with loud voices, polarized groups, frequent conflicts and easily intensified”. Therefore, young people should always look back on the way they came, think back on original ideas and missions of youth, and always find their original ideas in the process of inheriting the May 4th spirit and practicing the socialist core values [5].

3.2 Young People Should Firmly Pursue Their Dreams

Firstly, young people should grasp the right direction of “pursuing”. It is an important prerequisite for the prosperity of a country to ensure that young people pursue their dreams with correct beliefs. Therefore, in the process of pursuing their dreams, young people is required adhere to the tradition of patriotism, inherit the May 4th patriotic spirit, constantly practice the socialist core values, shape the country as the big one, consider the country as the direction of pursuing their dreams, and become a big country with great heart. The second is to establish the family and country dimension of “dream”. “Saving the country, not forgetting to read, not forgetting to read”, refers to the reflection of the dream seeking youth in the revolutionary period. “The one who obtain the most can also get the least”. Only when the ideal of life is integrated into the cause of the country and the nation, can a cause be finally achieved. “This is a picture of the dream seeking youth in peacetime. No matter when, the dimension of dream is always home and country, big self and small self, especially in the new era. In the new era, young people should integrate their ideal of life into the cause of the country and the nation, in order to cultivate a great heart and a great self. The third is to strengthen the depth of “walking”. In the new era, young people should study theory and practice skills in a down-to-earth manner, strengthen their moral cultivation, lay a solid political foundation, and take diligent study, moral cultivation, clear discrimination and practical practice as the only way to pursue their dreams. This is also an effective way to inherit the May 4th spirit and practice the socialist core values [6].

3.3 Youth Should Forge Ahead to a Long Way

The Youth should be guided by the spirit of the May 4th Movement and core values and continue their historical mission. One hundred years from the May 4th movement to the present, it seems to be a long time in life of people, but it is a short time in the long history. These 100 years contain the prosperity of generations of youth, but occupy a very small part of Chinese development process. Between long and short, more and less, it not only reflects the continuous development of generations of young people, but also shows that there is no end of the journey. Nowadays, even though youth have entered a new era, the unbalanced and inadequate development of Chinese economy, society, culture and ecological environment still exists objectively, and there is still a lot to be done by young people. Taking over the baton of history, the young people in the new era who continue to pursue their dreams should adhere to the May 4th spirit, achieve “patriotism, professionalism, integrity and friendliness”, turn core values into their own practical actions, and constantly add strength to the realization of the Chinese Dream in the process of pursuing progress. In addition, facing the future, young people should take the lead in the national rejuvenation. Mao Zedong once pointed out: “since the May 4th movement, what role have Chinese youth played? It has played a vanguard role, which is recognized by all but the diehards in the country.” The “vanguard” here refers not to the “vanguard” that young people fight for a position and a contribution, but to standing up when the nation is in danger. Today,

facing the historical task to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, the youth in the new era should continue to play the role of pioneer force in the process of pursuing dreams, constantly influence all Chinese people with the power of youth, construct the May 4th spirit and socialist core values as the common values of the whole society, and strive for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation including pioneer force, main force and new force [7].

4. Conclusion

In a word, the basic connotation of the May 4th spirit already contains the main characteristics of the socialist core value system. In the ethical structure of the socialist core value system, There is a clear illustration involving the connotation and extension of the spirit of the May 4th movement, as well as the courage and determination of the pioneers in the period of the May 4th movement. It is the spirit of the May 4th movement that usher in a new era of Chinese social development and also provide inspiration for socialist core value system.

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