

The Influence of Liberal Education in Colonial College of North America on American Higher Education

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ABSTRACT. Colonial college was born in the wilds of North America, and though it grew slowly, its impact was significant and far-reaching. The elite group cultivated by the college has an important influence on the formation of the American nation, the shaping of the American national character and the development of the higher education system. Above all, colonial colleges were not only established, but also connected to more than two thousand years of European higher education tradition, enabling the rational elements of human civilization to take root and thrive on the North American continent.

KEYWORDS: Colonial college of British North America, American higher education, Influence

1. Introduction

The influence of colonial college on American higher education is mainly shown as follows: First, it prepared a group of elite talents for the establishment of the political system after the independence of the United States and the founding of the United States, thus providing a stable social foundation and institutional guarantee for the development of higher education in the United States; Followed by the institute for a long time for classical liberal education spirit inheritance and stick to, laid the general education of higher education in the United States freedom of the colonial colleges to lead the university development education concept, for young people mental ability training and rational consciousness cultivation as the purpose of college education, established the western culture as the core of general education foundation; Again, is the Puritan colonies college to achieve its pure religious culture responsibility to pay for the higher education a rational and practical patterns of behavior, and with the evolution of the society, the focus on vocational skills and scientific knowledge to practical needs under the guidance of thought, development of practical education and middle and later periods of the colonial other colonies college institute of the development of science and education, to the United States

after the founding of idea and practice of higher education to serve the society has played a guiding role.

2. Colonial college produced a number of outstanding talents for the independence of the United States

Colonial college made great positive contributions to the rational ideology and behavior pattern of the American revolutionary war generation and laid a foundation for the establishment of the political system of the country after the founding of the United States. The federal system provides a good social environment for the long-term stable development of the United States, thus providing a stable social foundation and institutional guarantee for the development of higher education in the United States.

Among the talents cultivated at colonial college, a group of elite talents became the founding father of the United States after the establishment of federalism, five of the first six presidents of the United States were educated at colonial college, among which President John Adams graduated from Harvard College. Presidents Thomas Jefferson and Monroe graduated from the college of William and Mary; President James Madison graduated from the college of New Jersey. Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison, the three authors of the federal collection of the most important documents of the American political system, are graduates of colonial college. Alexander Hamilton is the designer of the American financial and industrial system and the first generation of diplomats in the United States; John Jay is the chief judge of the Federal Court and graduated from King's College. Thomas Jefferson, who entered William Mary College at the age of 16 and received bachelor's degree at the age of 18, believes that college education has had a lifelong impact on him, not only with scientific knowledge, but also from a systematic view of the world as a whole. This shows not only the importance of the early colleges, but also that the country was founded by a well-educated elite, thus demonstrating the great effect of classical education in colonial colleges on the cultivation of talents.

During the colonial period, higher education produced outstanding talents who became the architects of the national system after the founding of the United States, which led the core of the independence movement. The main body of these system designers is the graduates of colonial colleges. They drafted and signed the Declaration of Independence of the United States, promoting the transition of the political system of the United States from the confederation system to the federal system, and making the United States a unified United States. This political system has brought stability and prosperity to the United States. Thus, it provides a stable social basis and institutional guarantee for the development of higher education in the United States.

3. The influence of general education on American higher education

3.1 It has laid a foundation for general education in American higher education

Colonial college is the beginning of American higher education and the source of rational education in American universities, which opens up the way for American general education. What we now call liberal education, also known as liberal education or refined education, was formed on the basis of liberal education. Liberal Arts Education is a kind of education with the purpose of vocational education, focusing on the education of classical humanities, while general education caters to the development trend of society. On the basis of adhering to the basic connotation of free education, it abandons the grade and pure classical tendency of Liberal Arts Education, and brings all kinds of practical knowledge into the formal curriculum of universities. Whether it is the Yale report of 1828, or the schools of permanence education such as Robert Maynard Hutchins, they are the persistence and practice of liberal education. According to the report of the American higher Education Council, a society that lacks common experience and common knowledge is a society without cultural roots.

The important task of higher education today is to provide a unified general education for American youth. Early post-war America published Harvard University committee of general education and higher education in the United States in a free society committee of American higher education in a democratic society two reports, both emphasized the importance of general education in Harvard committee said in a report as a higher education, must carry on the general education to students, provide common knowledge system for the social members, without the basis of this common, society would fall apart. General education is urgently needed to guide the young generation of the United States to make contributions to the future of the country. Since the founding of American colonial college, a main line of education aimed at cultivating individual rational consciousness and training individual rational thinking ability has been running through the history of American universities.

3.2 Liberal education is mainly to train responsible citizens of society

The educational goal of colonial college is to produce Christian citizens and leaders who serve the community. In order to achieve this goal successfully, the college is based on ancient classics and theological courses, with the bible and theological teachings as the core content, and trains young people to form true religious beliefs and moral codes. Through the cultivation of Christian ethics, the college emphasizes the cultivation of students' mental ability and personality. General education is an education with classical education as the core. Through learning, the brain and thinking are trained and rational, so that higher truth can be understood. The classical language, the classical human subject, the mathematics and the philosophy are more beneficial to the rational training and the rational development, become the compulsory course of the colony college. The

establishment of the logical course is mainly to train the students to master the method of analyzing the problem, to form the correct way of thinking, and to make the students understand, judge and reason. The opening of the philosophy class is beneficial to the students to develop a more broad mind and to know the depth of the world; to open an eloquent course to bring the students' knowledge and thinking to the rational; the ethics, the politics is the subject of the social relations, the emphasis on the cultivation of the students' non-mandatory observance of the social norms, And forming a default civil society relationship. Therefore, the college provides a comprehensive, integrated and comprehensive curriculum system, so that the younger generation can construct a comprehensive knowledge view through the education of the college, and obtain the true sense of truth. No matter what the college's graduates do in the future, or in the secular sphere, social work in the public can be well-suited.

In general, the college education in the colonial period traces back to the free education in ancient Greece in essence, and the specific mode of educational practice can be regarded as the transplant of European humanism, which is the inheritance and adherence to the spirit of classical free education. At the same time, with the change and development of The Times, liberal education began to be challenged, and gradually moved towards modern general education in the process of sticking to and adjusting. The primary goal of the university is not to provide students with a means of earning a living, but to cultivate responsible social citizens, adhere to their own educational goals and maintain an independent humanistic spirit is the foundation of the university. The colony led the development of universities with the concept of free education. The purpose of university education was to train young people's intellectual (mental) abilities and rational consciousness, and to provide a general basis for the creation of professionals with Western culture as the core.

3.3 Liberal education provides students with a broad and profound knowledge base

If students want to have general education talents, they must have a broad and deep knowledge base. If you want to have general education, you must have a broad and deep knowledge base. According to the Yale report, the purpose of universities is to provide students with a broad general education foundation. It not about creating experts in a particular field, it's about developing generalists in the leadership group. What students get from universities is not the supply of piecemeal knowledge or the sale of professional skills. But the stimulation of the mind and broaden the horizon and insight, which is to students spend a lot of effort and a considerable price. The object of teaching is to lay the foundation for excellence in education, which must be broad, deep, and solid, in contrast to the partial or superficial teaching of other universities, which results in loose material pleasures, and instant laissez-faire. Influenced by European universities, the Colonial Classical Academy drew the essence of Western classical liberal education, and laid a deep cultural foundation for its later localized general education. This enabled American

general education to have a clear thinking about modern rationality. To cope with the confusion of American higher education in the trend of modernization and secularization. Originating in Europe and taking shape in the United States, the role of general education in talent training has been recognized worldwide and has been accepted and recognized by more and more higher education researchers and practitioners. In the field of higher education, general education has been attached great importance to by many world-class universities because of its role as the basis of university talent training and the driving force of university education reform. The exploration and implementation of general education has become a global trend.

4. The influence of liberal education in colonial colleges on American practical universities

4.1 The practical application of Puritan theological values in education

"Don't bury knowledge in the graves of our ancestors in the church and in the Commonwealth, God will help our efforts." The purpose of reiterating this point is to underline the academic concerns of the first settlers in New England. Please note, however, that this eager and eager learning is not considered an end in itself. Instead, it is seen as a means or a tool to clarify God's approach to man, thereby enabling certain conditions to eternal salvation. In other words, for the Puritans, we should thank them for their early establishment of the practical role of education in American history and the subordination of scholarship for academic purposes. The establishment of the Colonial College was a recognition and grasp of the importance of higher education by Puritans, combined with their devotion to religious beliefs, and put them into practice as a rational behavior model. Harvard College expresses the Puritans desire for a new world, and their confidence and determination to build "a city upon a hill". Many people are surprised that Massachusetts Bay leaders are so committed to building an institution of higher learning so early.

In 1630, Governor John Winthrop came to New England with his Puritan compatriots. In just a few years, a university occupied a high place on the public agenda. Puritans wanted both church and general education, and these goals dominated colonial higher education. The Puritans' initial focus on Harvard may have been a learned church, but this frontier society has an extraordinary respect for learning itself. In the early colonial period, the practicality of the colleges in religion became significant. It was enough to see the first settlers of New England's awareness of scholarship and the importance attached to this eager learning as a means or an instrument to clarify god's eternal salvation for man.

In the primary stage of the colonies, practical motives such as social, religious and economic reinforce each other. For the puritans, they established the practical role of education in American history and the important place given to learning. In Puritan theology, the bible is the source of knowledge, and if they want to make sure that as the leaders of the church and state has enough ability to the high level of intellectual and spiritual leader, so must study emphasized the important role of

emphasize the education of the importance of the interpreter, clergy as to god's from admiration for knowledge, and a strong desire for a better life, rely on our redemption, university education is the essential means to achieve this goal. The emphasis on pragmatism of education, is absolutely the Puritan ancestors of intense attention to academic prompted them to emphasize the practical value of education, just like today's scientists urged support for pure research, apply it as a necessary condition for the advancement of science as so, the role of rational was showing up to make the university academic significance and salvation of logical thinking become clearly visible. This rational and practical mode of thinking is the gene shaping the American national culture and psychology, which is rooted in the blood of the growing American nation. The construction of its practical thinking model has not only influenced the practical thinking of American citizens to be applied in real life, but also deeply influenced the recognition of the practical importance of higher education and positive intervention of the federal government and people of the states after the founding of the United States.

4.2 The influence of the opening of science courses in colonial college on practical higher education in the United States

In the middle and late 18th century, the opening of practical courses represented by Philadelphia College represented the budding of pragmatic ideas that combined the actual needs of colleges and society, and played a positive role in laying the foundation for practical higher education after the founding of the People's Republic of China. Because the colonial period was still an agricultural society, the manifestation of the combination of teaching and society is to train "useful" talents. Franklin as a founder of the college in Philadelphia, that any self-proclaimed useful things must by the demand of the society at that time to test only the society actual needs of institutions of higher learning, teaching and scientific research can be closely associated with social actual need, this kind of thought for the practical theory basis is provided for higher education.

The United States has strong economic, scientific, technological and national defense forces in the world. These energies are directly related to its strong higher education. The practical thought of higher education originates from the practice of the first generation of colonists in the colonial period. Under the guidance of paying attention to professional skills of scientific knowledge and thinking oriented to practical needs, the development of pragmatic education in colonial colleges and the development of science education in other colleges in the middle and later period of the colonies played a guiding role in the concept and practice of higher education serving the society after the founding of the United States. From the early 19th century in the service of local economic development needs of state university, founded in the 19th century later period emphatically exert the social service function of land grant college founded the Wisconsin idea of forming the beginning of the 20th century the rise of junior college movement, and later evolved into dedicated to training talents for the local community and the community college of knowledge service, until after the second world war stresses play a university with

the rise of the diversification of giant university, all of this shows since colonial college courses in practical, pay attention to the practical tradition of higher education has been through all the history evolution of higher education in the United States. In addition, the federal government plays the most important external role in promoting the formation and development of practical higher education in the United States. The U.S. government coordinates policy support to influence higher education through education legislation and financial support. Practical higher education thoughts and practices are gradually formed and improved.

5. Conclusion

For more than a century and a half, it has stuck to a unified academic tradition, fulfilling its mission of cultivating clerics and generations of political elites committed to the common good. The emphasis on learning, piety and erudition, and the emphasis on civic virtue rather than personal interest in the development of the college system and the goal of the college, from the establishment of the colonies in the early seventeenth century to the outbreak of the war of independence in the late eighteenth century, and beyond, remained unchanged, without qualitative change. The historical importance of the humble colonial college as an academic prototype, imitated by almost every liberal arts college that emerged in the 19th century, is incalculable. In retrospect, in strict accordance with the college's own terms and declared that the judging standard, defender of the colonial colleges may be far more enthusiastic than those recognized as effective, but the strongest critics than those who claim that more successful as a matter of fact, it lasted a century and a half since recognized academic tradition, this traditional based on unified fixed free system on the basis of the study. It earnestly fulfilled its mission: to train a learned and pious clergyman; It did actively pursue the declared goal of producing generations of political leaders committed to the common good. Colonial college as an institutional type, therefore, emphasized both scholarship and piety and erudition, and civic virtue rather than private interest. College adhere to the basic principles and objectives, there is no real change from the early 17th century in Virginia and Massachusetts colony established, by the late 18th century the outbreak of the war of independence, and later in addition, although it has many shortcomings and deficiencies, due to the rough colony college is almost all of the later in the 19th century liberal arts college to imitate the prototype, it as a kind of historical importance of academic prototype is difficult to estimate.

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