

Research on the Path of Youth Ideological and Political Education in Yan'an Period

Zhiqiang Zhang

School of Marxism, Yan'an University, Yan'an, Shaanxi, 716000, China

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Abstract: Youth represents the future and direction of social development. During the Yan'an period, the Communist Party of China attached great importance to the ideological and political education of youth, focused on arming the youth with the Marxist “three outlooks”, leading the youth with the lofty ideals of communism, and using the “combination of the two.” Educate young people, use rectification to learn to transform young people, use propaganda and art to mobilize young people, and use free and comprehensive life pursuits to inspire young people, and then help young people establish a firm and correct political direction and strengthen their political beliefs.

1. Introduction

The Communist Party of China attaches great importance to the ideological and political education of young people, paying attention to and guiding the political beliefs of young people. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out: “Youth’s value orientation determines the value orientation of the entire society in the future... It’s like wearing a button on clothes. If the first button is buttoned incorrectly, the remaining buttons will be buttoned incorrectly. You must buckle it from the beginning.”

During the Yan'an period, the Chinese Communist Party grew from small to large, from weak to strong, which is inseparable from the successful development of the youth movement at that time. The youth movement during the Yan'an period was a highlight in the history of the Chinese youth movement. Mao Zedong spoke highly of this: “Yan'an's youth movement is a model of the national youth movement. The direction of the Yan'an youth movement is the direction of the national youth movement.” During the Yan'an period, the Communist Party of China successfully transformed the thinking of youth, as some scholars pointed out: “People were discovered during the May Fourth Movement, and Yan'an transformed them.”

The reason why the Communist Party of China won the youth during the Yan'an period and launched a vigorous youth movement and widely mobilized young people to participate in the revolution is inseparable from the fact that the Communist Party of China attaches great importance to youth ideological and political education. The party’s youth ideological and political education work during the Yan’an period was very effective. Summarizing the path of the youth ideological and political education during the Yan’an period still has a strong practical significance for the current youth ideological and political education.

2. Arm the Youth with Marxist “Three Outlooks”

During the Yan'an period, the Communist Party of China attached great importance to the education of young people's world outlook, outlook on life and values, and insisted on arming the minds of young people with the “three outlooks” of Marxism.

World outlook is people's basic views and opinions on the world. The intellectual youths of the Yan'an period were mostly born in peasants and petty bourgeoisie. Although they rushed to Yan'an with a patriotic passion, most of their worldview still contained remnants of bourgeois and feudal ideas. The limitations of the world view made them inevitably making mistakes. In view of this, the Chinese Communists insisted on using the Marxist world view to educate young people. Mao Zedong personally taught philosophy to the youths of the Anti-Japanese War in his busy schedule, and wrote famously based on the course lectures. His philosophical works “On Practice” and “On Contradiction”. He also praised Ai Siqu's “Popular Philosophy” as a “popular and valuable” work, and recommended it to the youth in Yan'an. To guide the youth to establish a Marxist materialist world outlook.

During the Yan'an period, the Communist Party of China established relevant schools and organized theoretical research groups in order to carry out extensive studies of Marxist philosophy. The Marxist-Leninist Academy (later reorganized as the Central Research Institute of the Communist Party of China) was established in May 1938, and it trained a group of young talents who mastered the basic knowledge of Marxism-Leninism. In September 1938, 18 philosophers living in Yan'an, including Ai Siqu and He Sijing, led the establishment of the Yan'an New Philosophy Association under the advocacy of the Party Central Committee and Chairman Mao. At the beginning of its establishment, the society began to spread Marxist philosophy as its work. The key point is to organize translations, compile philosophical works and teaching materials, organize young cadres to learn Marxist philosophy, carry out philosophical discussions and exchanges, and guide young people to use Marxist philosophy to solve the practice of the Chinese revolution. A series of fruitful work has tempered the theoretical thinking of young people and trained a group of theoretical research and propaganda cadres.

Due to the limitations of the world outlook, the youths in the Yan'an period, especially the young intellectuals, also had great deviations in their outlook on life and values, and the tendency of individualism existed to a large extent. Many educated young people have a weak outlook on the masses, and even look down upon the masses of the people. They cannot and do not want to go deep among the masses, let alone serve the people. In view of this, Mao Zedong wrote articles and delivered speeches to educate young people on many occasions. In the article “In Memory of Bethune”, he called on “all of us to learn from his selfless spirit.” In his “Serving the People” speech in memory of Comrade Zhang Side, he praised “Comrade Zhang Side died for the benefit of the people, and his death is heavier than Mount Tai.” In the closing speech of the Seventh National Congress of the Communist Party of China, “The Foolish Old Man Moves the Mountain,” it was even more clearly pointed out: “This God is not someone else, but the whole Chinese people.”

“Work style closely linked with the masses” is one of the three excellent styles of the party. At the Seventh National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Mao Zedong systematically summarized it. It was also at this conference that the Communist Party of China finally “wholeheartedly “Serving the people” is determined as the party's purpose and written into the party constitution, which states: “Chinese Communists must have the spirit of serving the Chinese people wholeheartedly”, which marks the complete establishment of the party's fundamental purpose. After that, although the party constitution has been revised many times, the nine words “Serve the people wholeheartedly” as the party's purpose have not changed.

3. Lead the Youth with the Lofty Ideals of Communism

From the perspective of the stages of the Chinese revolution, the Yan'an period was in the period of the new democratic revolution. Due to Japan's large-scale invasion of China, starting from the overall situation of uniting against Japan, the KMT and the Communist Party reached a second cooperation and formed a wide range of cooperation on this basis. The anti-Japanese national united front. In the stage of the democratic revolution, the Chinese Communist Party still adheres to the highest ideals, educating young people to learn Marxism, and guiding young people to establish the lofty ideals of communism.

In July 1939, Liu Shaoqi, then secretary of the Central Plains Bureau of the Communist Party of China, gave a speech on "On the Cultivation of Communists" at the Marxist-Leninist College, the highest institution in Yan'an. The lecturers responded enthusiastically. After Mao Zedong's review, "On the Cultivation of Communists" It was serialized in the "Liberation" weekly and caused a huge sensation in the party. The article pointed out: "We Communists must have the greatest ideals and the greatest goals of struggle." This refers to communism. When Chen Yun gave everyone a report on "How to Become a Communist", he vividly and profoundly interpreted the unremitting pursuit of the Communists, that is, "to fight for communism to the end is to fight to the bottom of the coffin." Mao Zedong clearly pointed out in "On the Coalition Government": "Our future program or maximum program is to advance China into a socialist society and a communist society. This is certain and beyond doubt." It also clearly pointed out that this supreme ideal of the future, infinitely bright and infinitely beautiful, is inseparable from the name of our party and our Marxist outlook on the universe. This is also the mission of our Communists.

When Deng Xiaoping summarized the experience of victory in the War of Resistance against Japan, he said with emotion: "We must always educate our people, especially our young people, to have ideals. Why did we struggle in the past under very difficult circumstances and overcome thousands of difficulties? How dangerous made the revolution triumph? It is because we have ideals, Marxist beliefs, and communist beliefs." As Deng Xiaoping said, in the Yan'an period when material conditions were extremely difficult, it was the ideals and beliefs of communism that supported the spirit of revolutionary youth. The world, for the cause of national independence and the liberation of the people, is willing to give its youth and even life for it.

4. Educate Young People with "Two Combinations"

During the Yan'an period, the educated youth from "Tingzijian" were affected by their family background and personal growth experience. They generally had a tendency to despise practice and despise the workers and peasants. In order to strengthen the political beliefs of the youth revolution, the Chinese Communist Party proceeded from the existing problems. , Calling on the young people who went to Yan'an and other base areas to go to the countryside and factories, to the workers and peasants, to learn from the people humbly, to realize the combination of theory and practice, and to take the road of integrating with the workers and peasants.

The main error of subjectivism lies in the disconnection between theory and practice. Young intellectuals are more likely to make the dogmatic error of over-emphasizing theory and underestimating practice. Mao Zedong encouraged young people to take the road of combining theory and practice and learn in struggle. . In April 1938, Mao Zedong told the students during the Anti-Japanese War: "You come to the Anti-Japanese War to learn. There are three stages and three lessons... But the most important thing is the third lesson, which is to learn in the struggle." In March 1939, Mao Zedong wrote an inscription on the first issue of the "Production Movement Special Issue" of the "Production Herald": "Learning while producing, overcoming difficulties, and the enemy is discouraged." In May 1942, Zhu De gave it to the Anti-Japanese War. The three

treasures of masters and students, namely, a yongtou, a gun, and a pen, on behalf of the Party Central Committee, asked the youth to pick up yongtou to open up wasteland, build caves, and build school buildings; take up guns and lead soldiers to fight to defend the border areas; Pick up a pen to learn Marxism-Leninism and cultural knowledge. Mao Zedong praised the youth in Yan'an for "they are studying revolutionary theories, studying the principles and methods of resisting Japan and saving the country. They are carrying out production campaigns and developing thousands of mu of wasteland." This is the foundation of the youth in Yan'an and other youths, especially the youth in the Kuomintang Control Area. The difference also brings honor to the youth of Yan'an, and promotes the youth of Yan'an to become the "model and direction of the national youth movement."

Mao Zedong also regarded the integration of youth with the masses of workers and peasants as a criterion for judging whether the revolution is or not, and pointed out that "anyone who is willing and practicing the integration of workers and peasants is revolutionary, otherwise it is not revolutionary or counter-revolutionary." He also pointed out the youth movement. The correct direction is: "The young intellectuals and young students of the country must unite with the broad masses of workers and peasants, and become one with them, to form a powerful army." In order to encourage the young intellectuals from the "Tingzijian" to go. He also set an example on the road of integrating with the workers and peasants, sending An Ying, who had just returned from studying in the Soviet Union, to peasants' homes to attend the "Labor University".

Through the combination of education of young people and production and labor, the majority of young people are subjectively urged to complete ideological transformation, establish the concept of serving the people, and consciously embark on the road of integrating with the workers and peasants. Practice has proved that "employees, especially young students in various schools, have exercised their ideology and body with unprecedented labor practices, which proves that transforming nature also transforms human nature." The majority of young students rely on their own strength to ensure that through the development of large-scale production movements. The basic supply and teaching activities were carried out, and the expenditure of the border region government was reduced.

The combination of educating young people and the masses of workers and peasants has promoted the development of literary and artistic creation. The Yan'an Literary and Art Symposium is a good solution to the problem of who the arts should serve. The majority of Luyi teachers and students have moved from "small Luyi" to "big Luyi". "Art", created a batch of outstanding literary and artistic works that reflect production and labor, such as "Production Chorus" and "Brothers and Sisters Open Wasteland".

In general, through the "two-combination" education of young people, the broad masses of young people quickly reformed their thinking among the productive labor and the workers and peasants, eliminated the ideological legacy of petty-bourgeois individualism, and established firm and correct politics. faith.

5. Use Rectification to Learn to Transform Youth

In order to completely transform the thinking of young people and help them to realize the transition from "old self" to "new self" to meet the needs of the revolution, the Communist Party of China lost no time in reforming young people's thinking through political learning campaigns such as rectification, and strengthened their political beliefs. .

Due to the long-term negative influence of "Left" and Right ideologies, the majority of young party members during the Yan'an period "will inevitably drag a petty bourgeois tail into the party long or short." In order to eliminate the roots of the "Left" and Right ideologies and unify the ideology of the whole party, the Communist Party of China organizes youth to carry out political

studies, learning activities, rectification education, etc., and integrates ideological and political education into active ideological struggles, and effectively transforms and unifies them. The thinking of the youth has been created, and a new image of the proletarian revolutionary youth has been created. The famous writer Liu Baiyu was a young man in his 20s when he participated in the rectification movement. In his memoirs, he referred to the experience of participating in the three rectification movements of the Yan'an Central Party School as a turning point in his life. He said: "It is a summary of my participation in the Yan'an Rectification Movement. It is a declaration of my break with my old consciousness. It marks my determination to take a new path of life, and it determines the direction of my revolution in literature." Wu Yuzhang, then president of Yan'an University, said: "This rectification movement is a big movement for us to learn how to 'be humans' and how to 'do things'. It can also be said to be a great movement for human beings to transform themselves." Deng Xiaoping later recalled: "From After the rectification in Yan'an, people in front and rear are really energetic, lively, happy and united."

It is not only the Yan'an rectification movement that has a significant impact on the reform of youth thinking. Every major political activity is the most vivid and practical classroom. The youths in Yan'an are deeply influenced by the revolutionary spirit every day. It is their unique condition for rapid growth in Yan'an.

6. Use Propaganda to Mobilize Youth

In order to extensively carry out youth ideological and political education and expand the influence of political belief education, during the Yan'an period, the Communist Party of China used newspapers, broadcasts, and literary activities to carry out extensive publicity and education to enlighten and mobilize youth to actively participate in revolutionary activities.

Mao Zedong pointed out: "The role and power of newspapers lies in their ability to enable the party's program line, principles, policies, work tasks, and working methods to meet with the masses most quickly and widely." According to incomplete statistics, all kinds of public publications at that time There are more than 30 newspapers and periodicals, including the "Jiefang Daily" (formerly known as "Red China News" and "New China News"), which promotes the party's major policies, and the "Border District Mass Daily" for the general public. There is "Chinese Youth" specifically for young people, and there is even "Xinhua Daily", an organ newspaper published in the Kuomintang Control Area. At the end of 1940, Yan'an Xinhua Radio Station, the predecessor of the Central People's Broadcasting Station, began broadcasting. This was the first radio station founded by the leadership of the Communist Party of China. The establishment of the radio station spread the party's voice to more young people. The Communist Party of China uses this series of propaganda media to publicize the party's policies and policies to the majority of young people, so that more young people understand the domestic and international situation, and improve their political consciousness and personal cultivation.

In addition to the extensive use of the media to carry out youth ideological and political education, the Communist Party of China has also established various literary and artistic groups, extensively carried out literary and artistic propaganda activities, and extensively carried out ideological and political education through the new Yangko opera, poster slogans, woodcut prints and other easy-to-understand forms. In order to meet the needs of young people with different knowledge levels, the appeal of publicity and mobilization has been greatly improved, and the effect of ideological and political education on social youth has been very good. Just as a young man said, Yan'an's recreational activities are "as important as drinking water", which is truly worthy of the name.

7. Inspire Young People with a Free and Comprehensive Life Pursuit

During the Yan'an period, the material life in the border area was undoubtedly extremely scarce, but it attracted a large number of young people to travel far and wide to embark on the “pilgrimage road”. The free and relaxed atmosphere, comprehensive life pursuits, and colorful spiritual life are very important reasons. .

When the Yan'an Communication Office was established, the Party Central Committee formulated the reception principle of “welcome when you come, send you farewell when you go, and welcome again when you come again”. In the summer of 1939, the young talents He Mu and Chen Xuezhao were about to leave Yan'an. Chen Yun, the head of the Organization Department of the Central Committee, said sincerely when they saw them off: “We welcome you when you come to Yan'an. We must leave and not try to stay. We will come back when we come back. Still welcome.” Chen Yunguo did not break his promise, and later warmly welcomed the He Mu couple who returned to Yan'an.

Everywhere in Yan'an is an atmosphere of unity, tension, seriousness, liveliness, democracy, and optimism, which has a edifying effect on the students and has a profound impact on the formation of their outlook on life. It is precisely based on this that Mao Zedong pointed out that “all the materials and equipment in the schools in Yan'an and the border areas are not good, but there is truth here, and freedom is a place to create revolutionary vanguards.”

The atmosphere of freedom and relaxation in the Yan'an period can also be heard from the singing of Yan'an. The singing of Yan'an resounds throughout the city, and the singing expresses a feeling of freedom and liberation. A former young man in Yan'an recalled the singing in Yan'an and said with emotion: “It has been nearly half a century. I have never experienced the appreciation of the beauty of music and the kind of heart-warming mood I felt at that time. I still look forward to it. In today's era of China's revitalization, we will have another Yan'an era that is full of singing.” A young Yan'an who claims to be “tone blind” said that even though he did not understand the mysterious melody of music, he would never forget that the Yan'an era was full of singing. The era is the era full of passion and melody in the soul.

“Yan'an's singing is all over the mountains... on the hills and rivers, singing is everywhere.” For a time, Yan'an City became a “singing city” and a “sea of songs”. The singing reflects a sense of freedom and liberation. Tan Kah Kee, a patriotic overseas Chinese who visited Yan'an, was impressed by the liberal and democratic atmosphere and thriving scene of Yan'an. Yan'an's “Ten Nos” is in sharp contrast with Chongqing, and the result is that “China's hope is in Yanan” in conclusion.

In order to cultivate the all-round development of young talents that the party needs, the Communist Party of China has taken a long-term view and established more than 30 universities and cadre schools of various types in a timely manner. These schools teach all kinds of knowledge based on the practice of revolutionary war, guide students to practice, to the masses of workers and peasants, use the knowledge learned to solve China's practical problems, adhere to teaching consistency, and apply what they have learned. In a short period of time, a large number of young talents with comprehensive and free development have been cultivated in a sharp contrast between “chemical education”.

During the Yan'an period, the Communist Party of China transformed the youth's petty bourgeois and feudalism through its fruitful ideological and political education work for young people, helped young people establish a firm and correct political direction, and cultivated a large number of proletarian revolutionary youth. They consciously go deep into the countryside, insert themselves behind enemy lines, consciously follow the correct path of theory and practice, and unite with the masses of the people, consciously take on the vanguard and bridge of the nation, and quickly grow into the pillars of the party and the country, for national independence and the people Liberation made an indelible contribution.

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