

Impacts of Contemporary Social Ideological Trend on the Formation of College Students' Core Value and Solutions

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Abstract. The contemporary Chinese social ideological trend is characterized by fluidity, reality, activity and comprehensiveness, which reflects interest and demands of certain stratum, class or social group. In an era of information explosion, with various social ideological trends in west countries swarming into China, certain influence has been brought to the formation of college students' core value. As a forward position for the generation and spread of ideology and culture, institutions of higher education should vigorously encourage and example some positive and advanced social ideological trends to uphold socialist system and socialist ideology; as for those wrong ideological trends spread among college students, we must distinguish them and educate students to keep away from them. We must guide contemporary social ideological trends with Marxism to cultivate youth with firm belief in Marxism, lead college education, practice and campus culture construction and eliminate negative impacts of social ideological trends on college students with various social ideological trends guided by socialist core value system and find an effective way help cultivate college students' socialist core value and carry out practice of socialist core value.

Overview of several social ideological trends in contemporary China

Old left-wing ideology

The major expression of the old left-wing ideology is taking class struggle as central task. Its main characteristic is resisting the criticism on Mao Zedong's mistakes in old age and criticism on Cultural Revolution and criticizing the comprehensive restoration of capitalism in China since the reform and opening up. It deems that planned economy is undeniable and considers some problems in China are resulted from reform and opening up.

New left-wing ideology

The obvious difference between the old left-wing ideology and new left-wing ideology lies in that its followers mainly concentrate in universities and colleges and the old left-wing ideology and its followers are some closed minded people in vulnerable groups. The new left-wing ideology is mainly affected by western contemporary new left-wing ideology and proposed that there are serious problems in the polarization between the rich and poor and corruption problems. Some scholars pointed out that the new-left wing ideology is a disease itself instead of a prescription.

Liberalism

The core value of liberalism is personal value and individual rights. In economy, it requires market mechanism and oppose to planned mechanism and advocates personal property right. In politics, it is opposed to both autocracy of an individual or minority and dictatorship of the majority by the name of public will and at the same time, it asks for representative democracy and constitutionalism. As for moral aspect, it requires to guarantee personal value.

Democratic Socialism

Democratic socialism goes against to violence. Targeted by "whether the public is happy", it advocates mixed ownership economy and vigorously promote economy. It advocates the protection of private property rights and upholds private ownership and advocates constitutional democracy in politics.

Nationalism

Nationalism deems that the democracy gradually developed today in China is false and irrational from a long-term cumulative weakness in the past, which is only a shell without flesh and blood. The

nationalism once played a positive role during anti-Japanese war period and served as a flocculant to unify people to withstand invasion; however, nationalism has accelerated China threat theory now, which not only resulted in a strained relation between China and other countries but also may bring negative influence to China.

Neo-Confucianism

Neo-Confucianism advocates replacing Marxism with “Yao, Shun and Yu” and upholds “reflecting oneself three times a day”. It approves of democracy, liberty and human rights and carry out reform from Confucianism and they considers to integrate the Four Fundamental Principles and Marxism into Confucianism. It proposes to save China with Confucianism and advocates policy of benevolence.

Populism

The major characteristic of populism is an extreme populism. Populism concerns more about spreading wealth around and fairness instead of an equal starting point and orientation of the poor. The typical economic proposition of populism is: the poor is right while the rich is wrong. And populism also worship charisma leaders and advocates violence and superiority of morality than law and procedures.

Major characteristics of the impacts of contemporary social ideological trends on formation of college students’ core value

Reoccurrence of colonial cultural trend

Colonialism is a derivative of capitalism. Wherever there is capitalism, there will be colonialism. China was once reduced to a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society after Opium War and during this period, the colonial cultural trend was once prevalent. After the colonial system of capitalism was defeated by Chinese revolution and thus became a history, the colonial system of capitalism fell apart and disappeared from the scene, however, as western developed countries carry out a new colonialism, the colonist culture gains an upper hand and revives, showing the repeatability of colonial culture.

Strong variability of various social ideological trends

Various social ideological trends are formed and spread under certain social and historical conditions, which is characterized by strong variability, namely, changing as social conditions change. It’s mainly reflected by a phenomenon that one social ideological trend will be replaced by another and presents a phenomenon of ebb and flow.

Interpenetration and coexistence of various ideological trends

There are various ideological trends antagonistic to each other waxing and waning in the superstructure of social thought. They interpenetrate and coexist to cast different influences on the formation of contemporary college students’ core value. There are progressive, active and positive social ideological trends including patriotism, reform, ecologism and scientific and technical revolution, etc. as well as backward, negative, conservative and reactionary ideological trends including bourgeois liberalization, ultra-left thought and transhumanism.

Constant transformation of foreign ideological trends into domestic ideological trends

Many social ideological trends in China are transformed by those in western developed countries, such as hedonism, egoism, economic privatization, bourgeois liberation and money worship, etc. and foreign ideological trends and domestic ideological trends may mutually transform. Under an environment of diversification of ideology and culture and economic globalization, the spread of western social ideological trends in China has been faster and reached a larger scope, especially after socialism movement suffered great setback, western social ideological trend cast a greater influence on our socialist core value system.

Process for how contemporary social ideological trends affect the formation of college students' core value

Mental preparatory phase of core value

The value mental preparatory phase is the most basic and lowest stage for the formation of college students' value. It's mainly reflected by spontaneous mental activity related to social ideology but will not substantially affect the formation of college students' core value. At the same time, it's also a stage for practical interests and natural mentality to drive one's behavior and the most primitive mental tendency before the formation of value.

Awareness stage of core value

Awareness of value indicates "cognition and evaluation activities for the value of history, reality and future". This is a stage for college students to begin to realize the existence of social ideological trend and actively approach and believe so social ideological trends. College students at this stage have a relatively dispersed cognition towards social ideological trends, which shows a state of multiple and dispersive blind advocating and manifested by blind worship of social ideological trends.

Identification stage of core value

This stage is characterized by relative stability and rationality. At the stage of value identification, the influence of social ideological trends on college students' core value is mainly manifested by activities such as value cognition, evaluation and selection and taking certain social value and criteria of value as value orientation and identifying one or several social ideological trends through comparison and analysis.

Practice stage of core value

The so-called value practice indicates that after college students carry out rational analysis and comparison, they will combine with their own knowledge structure and social experience to internalize the value they approve to guide their behavior. This stage is mainly manifested by adopting internalizing social ideological trends, which is an advanced stage of social ideological trend's influence on college students' core value.

Impact of contemporary social ideological trends on the formation of college students' core value

Positive influence of contemporary social ideological trends on formation of college students' core value

(1) Promote rational thinking and make them pay more attention to social development and reality. Through rational thinking, college students have correctly understood that many problems can be solved through social reforms and constant development. Secondly, with the rapid economic development, they have paid more and more attention to livelihood issues such as social management during the social and economic development process and paid more concern to realistic problems and had more in-depth thinking. In addition to that, they have raised concern in environmental and ecological problems.

(2) Cultivate college students' spirit of times and spirit of innovation and enrich their modern concept. The contemporary social ideological trends include rich modern elements and thoughts and these correct ideological elements can promote college students to constantly renew their value and adjust their behavior according to social development, characteristics of times and realistic condition to better integrate into social construction.

(3) Improve college students' systematic analysis ability and thinking capacity, broaden their horizon and make them have global strategic vision. The contemporary social ideological trends involve a wide range of content and diversified kinds but most of them contain a global vision and depict a development plan of the society, which can expand college students' thought and improve their ability in analyzing and solving problems and practical ability.

(4) Further promote patriotism and national spirit. With the rise of post-colonialism, nationalism and neo-left thought, etc. in contemporary Chinese society, most college students' national awareness

and patriotism have been stimulated. It strengthens their patriotism and patriotic national spirit and cultivates college students' national sense of honor.

Negative influence of contemporary social ideological trends on formation of college students' core value

(1) Eliminate college students' spirit of patriotism. Some national separatist forces make use of various prominent problems and principle contradictions in national relation to incite national splittism and wantonly spread national secessionism, which greatly affects the integrity of sovereignty and territory of China and erodes contemporary college students' spirit of patriotism.

(2) Desalt contemporary college students' sense of reform and innovation and collectivism. Some college students show self-centered tendency and bland pursuit of self-development and free indulgence without engagement. They adopt individualism and egoism as a guiding thought when they look at the issue and get along with people, thus resulting in disharmonious interpersonal relationship, weak sense of group honor and indifferent relationship with classmates, etc.

(3) Mix up college students' concept towards morality and honor. With the prevalence of hedonism, utilitarianism, nationalism and individualism, it eroded contemporary college students' thought and impacted traditional moral ideas, resulting in expanded material desire in social morality. Blind worship, lack of honesty, pleasure first and fall of civilization have seriously confused college students' concepts towards morality and honor.

Effective solutions to impacts of contemporary social ideological trends on the formation of college students' core value

Guide teaching practice and campus culture construction for college students with socialist core value system

In order to realize this goal, we must put the education advantage of social practice into full play and give play to the strength of ideological and political courses as a main channel to make the best of campus as the main battle position for cultural activities and firstly seize the battle field of teaching, practice and campus culture so as to effectively avoid negative influences of social ideological trends and promote college students to form socialist core value.

Lay emphasis on cultivating young Marxist to spread mainstream ideology in colleges and universities

First of all, the cultivation mode should be optimized. Construct a cultivation mode with a combination of elite cultivation and common cultivation, a combination of new position and traditional position and a combination of staged goal and long-term goal to make college students qualified and reliable successors for socialist construction and make excellent college students receive all-around education in socialist core value. Secondly, it should cover an overall radiation to make college students spreaders of socialist mainstream ideology through cultivation at school and make a relatively fixed and constantly developing troop of young Marxists and constantly improve college students' discriminability and rational judgment on social ideological trends.

Uphold the guiding status of socialist core value system in social ideological trends

We must strengthen the Party's leadership, respect differences and tolerate diversity to reach consensus and be opposed to diversification of guiding ideology and properly deal with the guiding relationship to further consolidate its guiding status. Only in this way can we ensure the Party's leadership, right of speech and initiative in the ideological sphere and better adopt socialist core value system to guide social ideological trends and reach consensus.

To sum up, in the face of impacts caused by social ideological trends on college students' core value, we must make the most of carriers such as college teaching, practice and campus cultural activities and uphold the guidance of Marxism to social ideological trends to permeate socialist core value system into every aspect to form core value and further spread the mainstream ideology of socialist China, thereby to improve contemporary college students' awareness in the formation of core value.

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