

Review and Improvement of Legal Education Against the Background of New Liberal Arts Construction

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ABSTRACT

The proposal of new liberal arts concept is a response to the new era and the development of new technologies. Law, as an important part of the construction of liberal arts, certainly needs to give its own answers against this background. Taking the current Chinese legal education as an example, problems such as lagging disciplinary development, single training mode, and weak theoretical foundation have a long history. Obviously, it can no longer fully cope with the development of the times and technological progress. In this regard, it is necessary to seize the historic opportunity of the construction of the new liberal arts and re-examine the current deficiencies in legal education, so as to respond to the construction of the new liberal arts and promote its own improvement and development.

Keywords: *New liberal arts, New technology, New era, Socialism with Chinese characteristics, Legal education.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the concept of "new liberal arts" was proposed by the American Hiram College in 2017, it has been rapidly accepted by Chinese universities and educational circles. In August 2018, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China issued a document that "higher education should strive to develop new engineering, new medicine, new agriculture, and new liberal arts", and the construction of new liberal arts was officially put on the agenda. Especially at the Conference on the Construction of New Liberal Arts in November 2020, the official release of "New Liberal Arts Construction Declaration" shows that this construction has become the consensus of the industry and will become the main direction for the construction of liberal arts in Chinese colleges and universities in the future, with an ascendant trend. In this context, the construction of the new jurisprudence was naturally put on the agenda. For example, Xu Xianming, member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and vice president of China Law Society, put forward in the article "building a high-quality rule of law team

with both ability and political integrity" published in the "Legal Daily" on May 24, 2019 that the construction of new law mainly includes five aspects: new students, new objectives, new teaching contents, new teaching staff and new talent training mode. Zhang Wenxian, member of the Party group and chairman of the academic committee of the China Law Society, issued a document, pointing out that the 70 years of new China are 70 years of exploring and establishing a new socialist jurisprudence, establishing a socialist law with Chinese characteristics, and building a law system with Chinese characteristics in a new era. The academic system of law should get rid of the disadvantages, such as closed, conservative and uncertain reference system, and strive to build a new academic system of law with the trinity of law, rule of law and jurisprudence. [1] Therefore, against the background of the new era, it calls for the construction of new liberal arts, and law, as a very important discipline among the traditional liberal arts, undoubtedly must really move in the process of the construction of new liberal arts, re-examine its own shortcomings and development

trend, so as to truly build a "new law" to meet the needs of the new era.

2. THE BACKGROUND OF THE NEW LIBERAL ARTS AND ITS ERA SIGNIFICANCE

It is worth noting that the concept of new liberal arts proposed by Hiram College is mainly to respond to the impact of new technology on discipline integration, emphasizing "the integration of new technology into courses such as philosophy, literature and language, so as to provide students with comprehensive interdisciplinary learning." [2] The problems faced and to be solved by the construction of new liberal arts in China have far exceeded this scope. Although there are similarities between Chinese and American Universities on the employment crisis and subject shrinkage of traditional liberal arts, it cannot be ignored that the meaning of new liberal arts in today's Chinese context has actually become richer, and the construction of Chinese new liberal arts cannot be simply regarded as the copy of American "new liberal arts". At the Symposium on Philosophy and Social Sciences held by General Secretary Xi Jinping, he pointed out: "contemporary China is experiencing the most extensive and profound social changes in history, and is also carrying out the most magnificent and unique practical innovation in human history. This unprecedented great practice will provide a strong driving force and broad space for theoretical creation and academic prosperity. This is an era that needs theory and can produce theory. This is an era that needs thought and can produce thought. We can't live up to this era." [3] Therefore, it is necessary to find the construction tone of new liberal arts against the background of contemporary China.

2.1 New Era: Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era

The core of liberal arts and education lies in narration, especially the elaboration, interpretation and guidance of the times. If human beings examine the development of various disciplines of liberal arts in detail, it is undoubtedly found that it not only reflects the background of the times, but also often leads to a new era. In today's China, the biggest background is undoubtedly the grand narrative of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. "The construction of the new liberal arts should first face the earth-shaking changes that have taken place in China since the reform and

opening up, and seek the incremental construction of knowledge in knowledge production, rather than the stock reorganization of knowledge." [4] For the socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, whether it is Chinese characteristic or socialism itself, has a huge space for narration and exploration. Taking Xi Jinping's thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics in a new era as an example, it is undoubtedly the most concentrated and representative expression of this era. In fact, a lot of social governance, national development, system building, foreign relations and national defense and so on are all needed to be addressed and transmitted by liberal arts builders. Therefore, in this sense, the background of the construction of new liberal arts in China must be unique and grand. On the contrary, if the development of Chinese liberal arts does not reflect or even guide the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, it will be meaningless.

2.2 New System: Rule of Law in China with "Conscience Law and Good Governance"

Among his thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in a new period, Comrade Xi Jinping highlighted the rule of law and included it in the "four-pronged comprehensive strategy". This ideological achievement should be said to be the collective wisdom after some exploration since the founding of new China, at the same time, it is also an important institutional guarantee of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new period. On the basis of this thought, the CPC Central Committee put forward the grand goal of building a socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics, building China under the rule of law, building a socialist modern power and realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. In this context, it will inevitably bring about historic changes in the mission of legal research and legal education. "The subject of legal research is the core problem of legal research object and fundamental problem that formed by transforming problems need to be solved in social development into academic problems." [5] In other words, legal industry must respond to this grand goal in terms of research and education, and participate in the construction of new socialist jurisprudence with "conscience law and good governance". And this can be said to be a fundamental positioning of legal education in the construction of new liberal arts.

2.3 *New Science and Technology: Interdisciplinarity Brought About by the Development of New Technology*

In addition to the systematic reflection of traditional liberal arts, the impact of external new technologies on liberal arts should not be ignored. In fact, each development of science and technology not only brings about the innovation of natural science itself, but also the changes on seemingly unrelated humanities, just as the impact of the development of modern science on enlightenment thinkers, the changes of system and culture brought about by the industrial revolution and so on. Especially in the era of information technology, Internet technology has not only penetrated into all aspects of people's life, but even begun to affect human behavior and social life itself. Therefore, in the face of the rapid development of new technology, if the humanities are complacent, they will lack enough practicability and persuasion. The reason why Hiram College put forward the concept of new liberal arts mentioned above is precisely because of the shrinkage and employment crisis brought by new technology and new industry to the traditional liberal arts. It should be said that this situation is more urgent for China and deserves the attention of China's new liberal arts builders. "In times of dramatic change, science and technology are more visible than the humanities. To some extent, this is determined by the characteristics of the discipline. However, based on the position of reflection, humanities should face the world changed by science and technology with a more positive attitude and care about the changing China and world." [6]

2.4 *New Education: Innovation of Training System Under Professional Optimization*

In the "Declaration on the construction of new liberal arts", the following requirements are put forward for the overall goal of new liberal arts: "It is required to promote the innovative development of liberal arts education, build a new pattern for the development of philosophy and social sciences centered on educating people and talents, establish and improve a comprehensive development system integrating students, academia and disciplines, promote the formation of a Chinese school of philosophy and social sciences, create a Chinese culture that glorifies the times and the world, constantly enhance self-confidence, pride and autonomy, and enhance influence and appeal." [7]

On this basis, it puts forward guiding requirements for strengthening value guidance, promoting specialty optimization, consolidating curriculum system, promoting model innovation, building quality culture, etc. It should be said that this idea is a reflection of the above-mentioned era, system and technological development in the field of education. After all, education must not be closed in any form, but is fundamentally oriented to cultivate talents who can adapt to the times. Therefore, no matter for literature, history and philosophy, economics and management, education or art, it is necessary to make the innovation and optimization to match the "newness" of the new liberal arts.

3. RE-EXAMINATION OF CURRENT LEGAL EDUCATION

In fact, the current Chinese law has long faced various difficulties of traditional liberal arts. In particular, the undergraduate major of law has been greatly affected, and has even been ranked as the major with red light for employment for several consecutive years. Isn't it the same as the shrinkage of the major and the employment crisis that Hiram College focused on when it proposed the new liberal arts? This problem is not only discovered by the legal education industry, but has even attracted the attention of national leaders. As early as 2017, General Secretary Xi Jinping conducted an inspection at China University of Political Science and Law, pointing out clearly that there is "unreasonable discipline structure" in China's current legal education, and the legal system and curriculum system are not perfect enough. There is a shortage of newly emerging disciplines urgently needed by the society, the cross integration of law disciplines with other disciplines is not enough, and the knowledge capacity needs to be expanded. The theoretical construction of some disciplines lags behind practice, and practical problems can't be answered and explained. Some textbooks focus on western legal theory, but lack the discrimination and criticism, and the research on the theory of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics is not deep enough." [8] From this point of view, even in the eyes of national leaders, the problems existing in legal education are more obvious. In the author's opinion, these problems are mainly concentrated in the following aspects.

3.1 The Development of Disciplines Lags Behind the Progress of the System, and the Characteristics of the Times Are Insufficient

For a long time, the law of new China has always had a characteristic, that is, the system is ahead of legal research, and legal education and research cannot guide the needs of the system at the macro level. In the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, with the promulgation of "Instructions of the CPC Central Committee on Abolishing the Six Codes of the Kuomintang and Determining the judicial principles of the liberated areas" in 1949, the principle of building "new law" and "new jurisprudence" in new China was laid. Since the founding of People's Republic of China, China made comprehensive study of the legal discipline and education system of the Soviet Union, and embarked on the development road of attaching law to political science. After the reform and opening up, with the negation of the principle of "taking class struggle as the key link", as well as the construction of socialist legal system, market economy legal system and socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics, law has gradually become independent from politics. Especially after the late 1990s, the socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics has gradually formed. After the 18th CPC National Congress, the CPC Central Committee put forward two centenary goals, especially the grand goal of building a socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics, building China under the rule of law, building a modern socialist power and realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and the tasks of teaching, learning and research of law have undergone historic changes, forming a new socialist law with Chinese characteristics in the new period. Looking at the whole development process of law, although it indeed made the adjustment according to the international and domestic situation and the party's major policies, and provided important support for the legalization of national and party's policies, the development of law is consistent with policies and systems, lacking sufficient foresight and guidance. "Compared with the rich and full practice of the rule of law in the new era, the legal theory is void, and is far from forming a legal concept system, theoretical system and method system with strong explanatory power, penetrating power and persuasion." [9] This situation is projected into the legal education, on the one hand, more practical applied talents are trained, lacking the soil and environment for training real master of law. On the

other hand, it also makes people pay too much attention to the utilitarian and practical training mode in legal education, lacking care and research on the basic disciplines and knowledge in law. As a result, "exquisite egoists" have become the main achievements in the training process.

3.2 Putting Emphasis on Professional Training and Having Insufficient Interdisciplinarity

Just as General Secretary Xi said, "there are not enough emerging disciplines urgently needed by the society, and the integration of law discipline with other disciplines is not enough, and the knowledge capacity needs to be expanded". Of course, the main reason for this situation is also due to the unique immunity of the legal industry. Looking at the industrial and scientific and technological revolutions, the impact on the legal profession has always been relatively weak. From the training of lawyers to the selection of judges, the operation of the legal profession system almost continues the previous model. For example, Posner once described the legal profession as "a cartel of legal service providers involving society". In this context, the traditional legal education itself developed step by step along the existing line. For a long time, traditional legal education has not undergone qualitative changes since it was finalized in modern times. However, as mentioned above, the rapid development of new science and technology has become an unavoidable problem in the conception of new legal education. Especially with the emergence of "Internet plus", big data, artificial intelligence and other concepts, the integration of law and these new technologies has even become a national policy guidance. For example, in the "development plan for a new generation of artificial intelligence" issued by the State Council in 2017, it was proposed to "cultivate artificial intelligence + X horizontal compound talents and form a new training mode of artificial intelligence + X compound specialty", including law disciplines. In September 2018, general secretary Xi Jinping put forward the requirements of "promoting the collaborative innovation of industry, university and research, and actively implementing the innovation-driven development strategy, focusing on cultivating innovative, compound and applied talents" at the national education conference [10]. However, in terms of the current situation of legal education, the inertia of the traditional training mode is quite strong, and the interdisciplinary and compound training is still in the exploratory stage

in terms of curriculum construction and teacher reserve.

3.3 Disciplinary System and Discourse Model Are Too Westernized, and the Explanation of Socialist Law with Chinese Characteristics Is Insufficient

Since modern times, starting with the law revision and school running in the late Qing Dynasty, "the eastward transmission of western sciences" has brought Chinese people ideas and systems completely different from traditional legal culture. The western legal system as a whole has also been accepted by Chinese legal circles. Especially after the reform and opening up, with the gradual liberalization of western legal ideas and knowledge system, Chinese legal circles with relatively weak basic knowledge of modern law have slowly formed a "westernized" discourse mode, which is mentioned by General Secretary Xi that "the compilation and implementation of some textbooks focus on western legal theory, lacking the discrimination and criticism, and the research on the theory of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics is not deep enough." The first problem caused by this situation is the absence of national discourse power in the field of legal education, and "the national discourse system is the systematic expression of the ideological system composed of many concepts, theories, beliefs and experiences in its own language, and the influence, dominance and authority formed by the discourse system with its own ideological power and charm is the discourse power." [11] Especially in the fields of legal philosophy and other basic disciplines of law, the absence of this educational model is particularly serious. And this deficiency of discourse power in basic disciplines will greatly affect thinking and narrative mode in the field of education, forming a conscious or unconscious "western institutional theory", and human beings always take the Western model as a judge of the domestic system and even the main or only standard for academics. Secondly, the problem brought about by this model is that it cannot fit the country's reality, and cannot truly express and convey the two major themes of the current Chinese legal system, Chinese characteristics and socialism. "The socialist legal theory with Chinese characteristics is a unique theoretical system in the world legal theoretical system. It is different from the Western legal theory based on various academic schools. Under the guidance of Marxist legal thought, it adhered to the direction of socialist legal

construction with Chinese characteristics and the theoretical thought of taking the development road of socialist legal theory with Chinese characteristics." [12] Therefore, in contemporary Chinese legal education, how to tell the "Chinese story" well and thoroughly is only a question of teaching narrative, but also a question involving the future competition for the country's soft power and discourse power, which can't be ignored. However, it is precisely in this link that the current situation of China's legal education is obviously unsatisfactory. Whether in the setting of disciplines or the framework of the curriculum system, it generally shows the characteristics of more westernization and less localization. Especially in these years of professional training, due to the compression of professional class hours, the specialized courses of Chinese law such as "Chinese Legal History" and "History of Chinese Legal Thoughts" are generally compressed in large numbers. At the same time, most of the contents of "jurisprudence" and other courses come from western legal philosophy, and the contents of China's socialist rule of law often overlap with the contents of ideological and political basic courses, which are ignored and make the lack of socialist law with Chinese characteristics more prominent.

3.4 Putting Emphasis on Professionalism in Talent Training and Having Insufficient Humanistic Quality

The intersection of new liberal arts for talent training tends to focus on liberal arts, science and engineering, on the contrary, the mutual integration between liberal arts is often ignored by people. However, the author believes that the integration and cultivation of humanistic knowledge contained in liberal arts are the common background, that is, the so-called principle of "adhering to educating people with culture and putting emphasis on cultural construction" in the "Declaration on the construction of new liberal arts". In fact, from the essence of higher education, the purpose is to spread knowledge and enlighten the soul from the individual point of view. At the macro level, its ultimate value pursuit is undoubtedly to promote social civilization and progress. As a kind of higher education, the purpose of legal education itself naturally has to be subject to the above purpose, and it also has to "cultivate people with culture and put emphasis on cultural construction", but the tool for transmitting the knowledge is "law". During the whole process of legal education, the educatees can establish some legal values through the study of

legal knowledge, legal skills and legal thinking, and consciously observe and maintain social order, so as to realize and pursue human fairness and justice. As some scholars have said, "the purpose of legal education activities can be attributed to the purpose of the rule of law, that is, to make human behavior and social communication rules infinitely tend to be fair and justicial, to infinitely approach the natural requirements of good humanity, and to constantly increase the happiness index of human beings." [13] However, as a practical discipline, the cultivation of legal talents should be considered first to serve the society. Especially in face of the employment of every law student — the legal examination, it seems that such a cultivation method is beyond reproach from the utilitarian perspective. However, if people look at the recent case of "student of Peking University killing his mother"¹, people will find that higher education does not necessarily bring a perfect personality. On the contrary, professional knowledge and rationality may even help tyranny. This has ringed an alarm for legal education. After all, the perpetrators who master the professional knowledge of law may be more destructive. And legal education can not only take "legitimacy" as the leading requirement of professional ethics, but should give students a comprehensive perspective to shape correct values, cultivate family and country feelings, and care about the fate of the human community through knowledge of history, culture, politics economy and other aspects. However, "under the pressure of employment, in recent years, in the process of transforming from liberal education to vocational education, there have been problems such as utilitarianism and simplification of the goal and mode of legal education. Legal education pays too much attention to the teaching of theoretical knowledge and the improvement of students' skills, ignoring the forging of the character and innovative spirit of law students." [14] In other words, due to the excessive emphasis on their own specialization and professionalism, the current legal education often ignores the teaching of general knowledge and only

cares about the cultivation of professional ability, thus ignoring the transmission of real humanistic spirit and quality.

4. THE RESPONSE AND IMPROVEMENT OF LEGAL EDUCATION TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LIBERAL ARTS

4.1 Conforming to the Development of the Times and Reflecting the Social Reality

The law itself has a strong practicality and times, and the new era also provides abundant practical soil and development opportunities for the research and education of law. Therefore, the new legal education must match the development of society and take the construction of new liberal arts as an opportunity to respond to the needs of the new era. First, the new legal education must match the national development. From the perspective of the institutional practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics in recent years, on the one hand, a large number of institutional achievements have been accumulated and need to be summarized and supported theoretically, on the other hand, they need to be clarified and conducted in the educational process. Therefore, for the legal education in new era of liberal arts, on the one hand, it is required to optimize the subject system, in response to the construction of the rule of law. For example, some scholars claim that "the academic system of law should break the closed, conservative and uncertain reference system, and be committed to building a new academic system of law, rule of law and jurisprudence." [15]. On the other hand, in the output of the curriculum content of the new legal education, it is necessary to increase the reflection on the times and society, emphasize the role and significance of law and system in reality, and let the legal education return to China's domestic practice. In addition, the new legal education must respond to the international reality. With the improvement of comprehensive national strength and the proposition of "community of human destiny", people cannot ignore the response to the international reality in the legal education in the era of new liberal arts. With the vision and ability of contemporary students, they will never be satisfied with being complacent in the system of national law. In this sense, the legal education system in the era of new liberal arts should cultivate talents with

1. In 2015, Wu Xieyu from School of Economics of Peking University killed Xie Tianqin (his mother) and successfully concealed the death for six months. During the period, he forged a letter of resignation by copying his mother's diary, and successfully helped the mother quit job. He personally organized a resignation banquet for his mother and invited his mother's colleagues to attend, making relatives and friends believe that his mother had gone to the United States to accompany Wu. On December 24, 2020, the Fuzhou Intermediate People's Court opened a trial in the case of Wu Xieyu's intentional homicide.

international vision and human feelings. They should not only "cherish the world", but also be able to "travel all over the world".

4.2 Accelerating the Integration of Disciplines and Adapting to the Development of New Technologies

The integration of disciplines under the new liberal arts has been a consensus, and the "stubborn" law is no exception, especially under the impact of new technology, legal education needs to make changes. First of all, considering the current development of "Internet plus", big data, artificial intelligence and other new technologies, legal professionals in the future are likely to take on the role of reviewer or value judge, which means that legal education is impossible to stay out of the situation. Of course, it may be easier to train technicians to know the law than to train legal personnel to master the technology. However, under the existing situation, how to train "legal personnel to master technology" may be the main path of current law training. Therefore, in view of the present training situation of law major, interdisciplinary is the basic configuration of talent training. In addition to cultivating students' textual knowledge, logical ability and legal thinking, it is necessary to pay attention to cultivating their ability of applying new technology to legal activities. One of the issues that must be considered in any Chinese higher education system is the issue of "exit" and "entrance". The so-called "entrance" refers to the target and scale of enrollment, and the so-called "exit" refers to the orientation of talent training and employment. In view of the requirements of the new liberal arts for the integration of disciplines, a question worth thinking is whether the object of legal education should be changed. Taking "entrance" as an example, colleges and universities in China recruit law undergraduate students that graduated from liberal arts majors. However, when it comes to interdisciplinary majors such as artificial intelligence, it will inevitably affect the absorption and cultivation of relevant knowledge to a certain extent due to the lack of scientific knowledge. If people can't master the basic knowledge of algorithms, it is impossible that they want to deeply master the interdisciplinary knowledge of artificial intelligence and law. Of course, with the reform of the national college entrance examination in arts and sciences, and the attention to the interdisciplinary major in the selection of graduate students, the "entrance" problem should be solved to some extent. The

"exit" issue seems to be thorny. As mentioned above, the "exit" of law undergraduate major has been greatly affected, and even has been ranked as the major with red light in employment for several consecutive years. One of the main reasons for this situation is that the current training scale of law students is large, and relatively speaking, the employment is often limited to judicial units, corporate legal affairs, law firms and other limited directions. Then, the further integration of new technology and law may promote the differentiation of training of law major in different universities, which does not exclude some universities from being eliminated in this process. On the other hand, some law students may find new "outlets", such as the development and integration of relevant legal software. Therefore, to clarify the "entrance and exit" of legal education against the background of new technology is not only related to talent training, but also related to the development and survival of law schools and departments. From the current development trend of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, it is not very likely that the academic field will be replaced by robots. After all, it is difficult to imagine the emergence of a "roboticist" both technically and ethically. However, not being replaced does not mean not being impacted. Especially in similar teaching work, the necessary knowledge reserve has become the key node for teachers to output relevant knowledge to students. In this case, most legal educators may have to renew their knowledge reserves and strengthen interdisciplinary research.

4.3 Constructing the Narrative of Law with Chinese Characteristics and Strengthening the Construction of Basic Subject of Law

Legal education itself is inseparable from the social and historical background. Therefore, whether from the perspective of the improvement of comprehensive national strength or the establishment of "four self-confidence", legal education against the background of new liberal arts must need a legal narrative model based on socialism with Chinese characteristics. In addition to changing the pattern of imitating western law, the construction of this narrative model must also strengthen or create some basic disciplines of law based on the two core elements of "Chinese characteristics" and "socialism". In order to do a good job in the new legal education under the model of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the

urgent task is to pay attention to the construction of domestic basic disciplines of legal theory.

First, it is necessary to strengthen the theoretical curriculum of legal philosophy. The construction of the theoretical system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics needs to start with the ontological basic philosophical theories of law, such as the essence of law, the characteristics and functions of law, which are mainly undertaken by the courses of "jurisprudence" in the current legal education system. However, due to the above mentioned utilitarian and professional mode of current legal education, this kind of basic theory courses are not paid attention to, resulting in a lag in discipline research. However, in order to strive for the discourse power in the international arena and find the universality that Chinese law can provide to the world, it is essential to construct the jurisprudence of "socialism with Chinese characteristics", and achieve a certain degree of de-utilitarianism in the system of new legal education, so as to strengthen the basic legal philosophy theory.

Secondly, it is necessary to do a good job in contemporary expression of China's social environment and traditional legal culture. From the perspective of Chinese characteristics or socialism, the development of Chinese law cannot be separated from local resources, which includes in-depth understanding and research on local social environment and traditional legal culture. According to the tradition of domestic legal circles since modern times, it has always been the mainstream of the industry for the so-called introduction of western advanced systems and integration with internationalization. In a sense, it has even formed a blind worship of western legal system and culture. Thus, in the field of legal education, the so-called "separation of powers", "constitutional freedom" and so on have become the mainstream discourse mode. However, with the change of international environment and the enhancement of comprehensive national strength in recent years, it is time to change the mode of blindly learning and imitating western legal system.²Therefore, on the one hand, it is required to pay

more attention to Chinese legal history, legal sociology and other types of courses in the curriculum system. At the same time, it is necessary to consciously strengthen the explanation, guidance, evaluation and assessment of Chinese social practice and cultural tradition in classroom teaching.

4.4 Strengthening the Guidance of legal Value, and Giving Consideration to Both Professional and Humanistic Cultivation

Legal education has never been simple skill training. As Bodenheimer, an American scholar, said: "in addition to the basic training in practical laws and regulations and legal procedures, colleges and universities teaching legal knowledge must also teach students to think about problems and master the complex art of legal argumentation and reasoning like legal workers." [16] Influenced by long-term utilitarian education, people often forget a key point — legal education should first be a kind of humanistic education. As an ancient Chinese saying goes, "it is necessary to guide and cultivate people with the humanistic spirit." In foreign higher education, one basic idea is to teach students to do right things and do things right. In fact, it is a question of teaching students how to behave themselves." [17] Law is not only a public weapon of the state, but also a sharp weapon in the hands of law enforcement. If it is mastered by bad people, the harm will be even greater than that mastered by ordinary people. Therefore, legal educators must have a concept that it is necessary to cultivate qualified people, not mercenary "scoundrel". However, China's legal education is different from the Anglo-American law system. One of its major characteristics is that it starts directly from undergraduate education, which undoubtedly contributes to the implementation of the policy of "taking the undergraduate as the foundation". At the same time, the objects of undergraduate education in China are mainly young university students who have just graduated from high school, and this group of students has a strong plasticity in values and personality cultivation. This is both an opportunity and a challenge. The education process is a transmission process of value, and the educator gives the specific values to educatees. For legal education, it is not only a vocational training process, but also a promotion and transmission

practitioners must make timely changes among great changes that have not been seen in a century.

2. Especially during the period of the COVID-19 epidemic, due to China's fall-rise pattern and various disqualifications of foreign countries, Western discourse and institutional models have been overwhelmed in China. And the theory that "only democracy can prevent the epidemic" of some so-called legal experts and scholars in the process of epidemic prevention is fallacious. It can be said that the above not only reflects some problems existing in the field of legal education, but also reminds people that the majority of legal education

process of the spirit of the rule of law and humanistic care. Therefore, it is required to give consideration to both professional education and humanistic education in the process of legal education in the era of new liberal arts. The author believes that we can start from the following points. First, while paying attention to professional education, it is necessary to cultivate students' sense of mission and responsibility of caring for society and focusing on the future, consciously guide students to think about relevant problems of society, country and the world, so as to form a strong sense of mission, and then consciously cultivate professional ability and scientific spirit to solve problems, and promote the progress of the development of Chinese society and even the world. Secondly, it is required to strengthen the proportion of liberal education courses in law undergraduate courses. Liberal education refers to non-vocational and professional education, which aims to cultivate sound individuals and citizens in a free society. Liberal education in China is developed late, and legal education in China is undergraduate education, so the conditions for the cultivation of students' general literacy are inherently insufficient. Therefore, the existing education content about the cultivation of humanistic quality of law should be strengthened, and it is required to offer more general education courses related to history, culture, economy and so on for students besides professional education. Finally, it is better to reform existing training system, achieving the combination of liberal education and professional education. The competent department of education should make a comprehensive consideration, reform the existing evaluation and management indicators for colleges and universities, so that the undergraduate education evaluation system of law can be set in combination with the actual situation of education, so as to adapt to China's national conditions and actual situation. For example, it is better to appropriately extend the undergraduate education system of law and increase the proportion of class hours of general courses. Students who may enter law enforcement departments, education systems and other departments with high moral quality requirements shall be strengthened in general training and quality assessment. In addition, it can be considered to integrate all the professional courses in the university, so that law students can choose courses of other majors and disciplines according to their career planning and interests.

5. CONCLUSION

In today's world, competition is not only among technology, economy and science, but also among culture, system and rule of law. In the current increasingly fierce competition environment, China is also facing a variety of upgrading and transformation. Therefore, the proposal of new liberal arts can be said to coincide with its requirements. As an important part of the construction of the whole new liberal arts, legal education is no longer limited to its own specialty to justify itself, but must actively face the changes of the times, environmental changes and technological development and other variables. The purposes of education are not only to cultivate lawyers and competent judges, at the same time, it should shoulder the great historical responsibility of carrying out the strategy of "governing the country by law". During the inspection at China University of Political Science and Law, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that "the comprehensive rule of law is a systematic project, and the cultivation of legal talents is an important part." "If we fail to train legal personnel, or we fail to cultivate a large number of legal personnel, it will be impossible for us to comprehensively govern the country according to law." [18] Taking a comprehensive view of Chinese history, it can be said that this period is the most important period for the construction of the rule of law. It's the best times, and also the most challenging times. As practitioners of legal education, it is necessary to fully realize the significance and realistic value of the construction of new liberal arts, re-examine our own development, respond to the needs of The Times, and seize this opportunity to find a way of legal education with Chinese characteristics.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

This paper is independently completed by Teng Hu.

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