



# Analysis on the Integration of Patriotism Education into the Teaching of Ideological and Political Theory Courses in Colleges and Universities Under the Background of National Anti-epidemic

## Taking the Course Introduction to Maoism and Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics as an Example

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**Abstract.** The great fight against the COVID-19 epidemic has provided fresh and lasting material for the patriotism education of ideological and political theory courses in colleges and universities. Integrating patriotism education into ideological and political courses in colleges and universities under the background of the national anti-epidemic is an inevitable requirement to improve the pertinence and effectiveness of the courses, an important measure to implement the *Outline for the Implementation of Patriotism Education in the New Era*, and a vivid material for cultivating socialist builders and successors. In this process, we should accurately grasp the timing of patriotism education, adhere to the unity of loving the party, patriotism, and socialism, and establish the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind. On the implementation path, we should straighten out the content system of textbooks to identify the right entry point, use modern network technology to create bright point, reinforce practical activities to educate people, and grasp the key point.

**Keywords:** COVID-19 epidemic · Patriotism · Ideological and political theory courses · Introduction to Maoism and Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

## 1 Introduction

COVID-19 epidemic has been a major public health emergency with the fastest transmission speed, the widest range of infection, and the greatest difficulty in prevention and control since the founding of the People's Republic of China [1]. After the outbreak of

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the COVID-19 epidemic, the central committee of the Communist Party of China with comrade Xi Jinping as the core lead the whole party, the whole army, and the people of all ethnic groups to unite as one, and go all out to balance promoting epidemic prevention and control with economic and social development, and achieved remarkable results. Standing at the stage of “scientific, accurate and dynamically zero-clearing” of all-round and comprehensive prevention and control, looking back on the arduous course of national anti-epidemic in the past two years, we increasingly feel the institutional advantages of Socialism with Chinese characteristics and sincere patriotism of the Chinese people. On the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, the central committee of the Communist Party of China and the state council issued *Opinions on Strengthening and Improving Ideological and Political Work in the New Era* and pointed out that we should promote the normalization and institutionalization of ideal and belief education, do well in the ideological and political work of teenagers and reinforce the education of patriotism, collectivism, and socialism [2]. The ideological and political theory course is the battle position for colleges and universities to implement the fundamental task of moral education. Besides, the great struggle of national anti-epidemic provides vivid and lasting materials for ideological and political courses in colleges and universities to carry out patriotism education. Taking the course *Introduction to Maoism and the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics* (hereinafter referred to as *Introduction*) as an example and combined with the latest textbooks in the 2021 edition, this paper discusses the significance, dimension, and path of integrating patriotism education into ideological and political teaching in colleges and universities under the background of national anti-epidemic.

## **2 Significance of Integrating Patriotism Education into Ideological and Political Teaching in Colleges and Universities Under the Background of National Anti-epidemic**

### **2.1 Necessary Requirement of Improving the Pertinence and Effectiveness of Ideological and Political Courses**

General secretary Xi Jinping pointed out, “no matter how the combination boxing is played, it will eventually fall on the task of making the ideological and political courses more friendly, infectious, targeted and effective.” [3] This requirement defines the focus and foothold of ideological and political teaching reform. For a period of time, the ideological and political course has played a slightly “awkward” role in the curriculum of colleges and universities. Some students misunderstand the ideological and political course, and they do not pay much attention to it or even detest it. One of the major internal reasons is that ideological and political courses are not vivid enough. It may be preaching and scripted, and the pertinence and effectiveness need to be enhanced. Each of us has experienced the COVID-19 epidemic. If the ideological and political course can organically connect the great practice of major epidemic prevention and control with the knowledge system of teaching materials, and closely connect the touching deeds and problems and lessons in practice with the ideological construction and cognitive confusion of college students, it can enable the majority of students to understand theoretical

knowledge through vivid materials and specific cases and strengthen political cultivation in personal experience and real life, so as to effectively improve the pertinence and effectiveness of ideological and political courses.

## **2.2 An Important Measure to Implement the Outline for the Implementation of Patriotism Education in the New Era**

Patriotism is the core of the ethos of the Chinese. It is of great and far-reaching significance to strengthen patriotism education in the new era. *Outline for the Implementation of Patriotism Education in the New Era* issued by the central committee of the Communist Party of China and the state council is a programmatic document guiding patriotism education in the new era, which clearly pointed out that “the ideological and political theory course is the main position of patriotism education”, and we should open the ideological and political theory course with confidence” [4]. Teenagers are in the “jointing and booting stage” of life, which is a critical period for the formation of world outlook, values and outlook on life. At this time, “precise drip irrigation” and “careful care” are even more needed. National anti-epidemic is a “big lesson” of patriotism education, and we should further integrate the education into ideological and political classes in colleges and universities under this background. By clarifying the strategy of fighting against the “epidemic” and correctly interpreting the decision deployment of the central committee of the Communist Party of China to fight against the “epidemic”, explaining the advantages of the system and fully analyzing the institutional advantages highlighted by the results of fighting against the “epidemic”, lecturing thoroughly the bad influences from western countries and deeply exposing the bad effects caused by the hypocrisy and double standards, we can make students fully understand patriotism, and guiding them to cultivate patriotism, build a strong ambition and practice serving the country.

## **2.3 Vivid Materials for Training Socialist Builders and Successors**

The fundamental task of China’s education is to train socialist builders and successors [5]. In the severe national anti-epidemic, countless socialist builders step forward bravely and lead the way, from tenacious and dutiful party cadres to medical personnel who are in white clothes and go retrograde, from the people’s army who move at the command and are brave to take on heavy responsibilities to scientific research workers who storm strongholds in defiance of difficulties and strive for innovations, from community workers who are regardless of wind or rain and stick to the front line to the majority of teachers and students who “suspend classes but continue studying”, people from different walks of life and different fronts are all of one mind to forge a great spirit to fight the against the epidemic, and this is the inheritance and development of patriotism in the new era [6]. Carrying forward spirit to fight against the epidemic in ideological and political classes in colleges and universities vigorously can infect and influence young students directly and powerfully and let them accept the spiritual baptism, feel the touch of the soul, build a solid foundation of faith, strengthen the mission commitment, consciously keep up with those around us who are fighting for epidemic prevention and control, and constantly consolidate the correct values, moral qualities, theoretical cultivation, and

thinking methods, and resolutely take over the baton of the predecessors and grow into a newcomer of the era who bravely shoulders the great task of national rejuvenation.

### **3 Several Dimensions that Should Be Grasped in Integrating Patriotism Education into Ideological and Political Courses in Colleges and Universities Under the Background of National Anti-epidemic**

#### **3.1 Accurately Grasp the Timing of Patriotism Education**

General secretary Xi Jinping pointed out: “To do well in the ideological and political work of colleges and universities, we must change according to events, advance according to the times, and renew according to the situations” [7]. Teachers of ideological and political courses must have a highly sensitive sense of current affairs and politics, be good at grasping fleeting social hotspots, be proficient in exploring the links between books and reality, and dare to face the disputes and contradictions confronted by students. Over the past two years, the real environment of national anti-epidemic has provided a broad space for the development of patriotism education, which is good for us to grasp the timeliness of current political education and integrate theory with practice, thus making it be welcomed by students. Firstly, the experience of the whole people is a basis, which can touch emotional sympathy. COVID-19 has affected all aspects of Chinese people’s lives. The prevention and control of the epidemic once became the “top priority” of the people all over the country. So far, it has appeared in many places. The experience of the whole people makes the original boring and stereotyped theoretical knowledge jump out of the book, reaches emotional resonance with the majority of students and makes patriotism education more convincing. Secondly, the attention of the whole people is a bridge, which can inspire spiritual solidarity. COVID-19 affects the hearts of hundreds of millions of people. Everyone cheers for compatriots in the epidemic areas and cares about the progress of the fight against the “epidemic”. The attention of the whole people reflects the great love in the world that “when disaster struck, help came from all sides”, demonstrates the lofty spirit of the Chinese people to unite as one and help each other, and makes patriotism education more appealing. Finally, the action of the whole people is a key, which can make us unite as one. The outbreak of the epidemic occurred during the Spring Festival of 2020. The broad masses of the people responded to the government’s call, wore masks, isolated themselves at home, avoided visiting relatives and friends and gathering together, and spent an unusual Spring Festival; Under the background of epidemic prevention and control, the broad masses of the people are not careless, tired of war, or relaxed, and actively consolidate the hard-won results in prevention and control. The actions of the whole people have gathered a strong force to fight against the epidemic, formed a positive social atmosphere, and made patriotism education more influential.

#### **3.2 Adhere to the Unity of Loving the Party, Patriotism, and Socialism**

The People’s Republic of China is a socialist country led by the Communist Party of China. In contemporary China, the essence of patriotism is to adhere to a high degree of

unity of loving the party, patriotism, and socialism [8]. The history of over 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China has fully proved that only the Communist Party can save and develop China, and only socialism can lead the national rejuvenation. The great practice of the fight against the epidemic has once again proved that the Communist Party of China has strong leadership and is the most reliable backbone of the Chinese people; Socialism with Chinese characteristics has significant institutional advantages and is the fundamental guarantee to resist risks and challenges. Firstly, the party's leadership is the greatest advantage in winning the war of prevention and control. From the central committee of the Communist Party of China to the grass-roots party organizations, countless members of the Communist Party of China have given full play to their vanguard and exemplary roles, doing the most tiring work and undertaking the most dangerous work, so that the party flag is flying high on the front line of prevention and control of the epidemic and "serving the people wholeheartedly" makes the Communist Party of China win the support of the people. Secondly, the institutional advantage of Socialism with Chinese characteristics is an important magic weapon to win the war of prevention and control of the epidemic. All localities and departments perform their respective duties, coordinate and cooperate with each other, act quickly and fight bravely. China's speed, China's strength, and China's wisdom have amazed the world time and time again. "Concentrating on doing great things" is the best expression of the advantages of the socialist system. Therefore, loving the party, patriotism, and socialism are highly unified in internal logic and inseparable in ideological and political education.

### **3.3 Firmly Establish the Concept of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind**

It is neither overbearing nor excessively humble to emphasize patriotism. With the acceleration of globalization, countries in the world are increasingly forming a "community" of mutual influence and connection, China's future and destiny are closely linked with the future and destiny of the world. "Chinese are patriotic, at the same time, we also have an international vision and mind" [9]. After the outbreak of the epidemic, while receiving assistance from some countries, China took the lead in taking action to prevent and control the epidemic, which has won valuable time for the world with China's speed, built a solid defense line for the world with China's strength and provided useful experience for the world with China's wisdom. Under the background of a community with a shared future for mankind, China and other countries in the world have helped each other to overcome difficulties, and China has carried out the most intensive and extensive emergency humanitarian aid since the founding of the People's Republic of China [10], which has won high praise and wide acclaim from the international community. "We are not alone on a Great Way and the whole world is one family", to adhere to and carry forward patriotism in the new era, we need to be based on nation, face the world, and be equipped with both national identity and global awareness. Firstly, we should educate teenagers to resolutely safeguard the core interests of our country. It is not only our duty but also our responsibility to resolutely safeguard China's sovereignty, security and development interests in the changing international situation. Secondly, we should guide teenagers to cultivate patriotism with a global vision. Only by advocating openness and

multilateralism and paying attention to the destiny of mankind can we better safeguard and develop China's interests from a higher and longer-term perspective.

## **4 Implementation Path of Integrating Patriotism Education into Ideological and Political Courses in Colleges and Universities Under the Background of National Anti-Epidemic**

### **4.1 Straighten Out the Content System of Textbooks and Identify the Right Entry Point**

To integrate patriotism education into ideological and political courses in colleges and universities under the background of national anti-epidemic, we should identify a “bridge” between theoretical knowledge of teaching materials and real life, namely to identify the right entry point. Taking the course *Introduction* as an example, the principal line of which is “Marxism with Chinese characteristics”. The founding of Maoism is the first historic leap of the Marxism with Chinese characteristics; the formation of the theoretical system of Socialism with Chinese characteristics as well as the founding of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era have achieved a new leap of Marxism with Chinese characteristics [11]. These theoretical achievements that come down in one continuous line and advance with time and Marxism-Leninism are the guiding thought that the Communist Party of China has adhered to for a long time and the common thought foundation for the struggle of all ethnic groups in China.

For example, the education of loving the party can be integrated into the lesson of the main contents of Chap. 1 “Maoism and its historical status” “Living soul of Maoism” in the course *Introduction*, and Chap. 6 “Important thought of ‘three represents’”. Combined with “letting the party flag fly high on the front line of prevention and control of the epidemic”, the teaching profoundly explains that the Communist Party of China is the most steadfast advocator and practitioner of patriotism spirit, and the education of loving the party should be enhanced. In the lesson of Chap. 3 “Socialist transformation theory” “Significance of establishing the basic system of socialism” and Chap. 10 “‘Five in one’ general layout” “Ensures the well-being of the people and improves their lives in development”, combined with “China’s speed, China’s strength and China’s wisdom”, the teaching profoundly explains institutional advantages of socialism and guides students to further strengthen “four matters of confidence” (confidence in the socialist path, theory, system, and culture). In the lesson of Chap. 13 “Major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics” “Promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind”, combined with “China’s global pledge to fight against the epidemic”, the teaching profoundly explains the concept of a community with shared future for mankind, which lays a foundation for cultivating socialist successors with great country responsibilities and a global vision. These entry points will vividly show the theoretical knowledge in the teaching materials, allowing students to feel patriotic enthusiasm in real life.

### **4.2 Use Modern Network Technology and Create Bright Spots**

To integrate patriotism education into ideological and political courses in colleges and universities under the background of national anti-epidemic, it is necessary to make full

use of modern network technology, continuously expand teaching resources, innovate teaching methods, and promote patriotism into the head and heart in a form that students like, that is, creating a bright spot. Taking the course *Introduction* as an example, if teaching resources are only limited to textbooks and teaching methods are only limited to classroom teaching, it will inevitably lead to a boring and single learning process, which is not conducive to students' in-depth understanding and mastery of the process of "Marxism with Chinese characteristics". Nowadays, "post-90s" and "post-00s" college students are called "Internet natives", and the Internet is profoundly affecting their lives and thinking. This is a new development opportunity for ideological and political education. Because modern network technology means a change to the traditional teaching mode, and the teaching method that conforms to the trend of the Internet is also more popular among students.

For example, online teaching breaks through the limitations of time and space, allowing the course *Introduction* to be conducted anytime, anywhere under the background requirement of "suspend classes but continue studying" at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. Whether it is live teaching or like interaction, whether it is audio and video communication or network resource navigation, the Internet makes everyone feel that the limitation of time and space does not affect the learning effect, and even narrows the distance between teachers and students than traditional classrooms. Therefore, many colleges and universities still retain the "online + offline" teaching mode after teachers and students return to school, and further summarize the experience and deepen promotion. In addition, rich network resources can improve the vividness and interest in teaching and further stimulate students' interest in learning. Videos such as *Mao Zedong—A Charismatic Leader* and *The Age of Awakening* can be interspersed in the teaching course of Maoism, or guide students to enter the official website of people's daily online "the Memorial Hall to Chairman Mao" after class. Students can get a glimpse of a generation of the great men by watching videos and online tours. In addition, the special page of Xinhuanet "Learning in progress" can be opened during the teaching course *Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era* through columns such as "Learning institute", "Study review", and "First observation". With the help of rich media such as comments, illustrations, and micro-videos, students can comprehensively and accurately grasp contemporary "Marxism with Chinese Characteristics". These bright spots will greatly stimulate students' national pride and responsibility mission, and improve the emotional identity of the course *Introduction*.

### 4.3 Strengthen Practical Activities to Educate People and Grasp Key Points

To integrate patriotism education into ideological and political courses in colleges and universities under the background of national anti-epidemic, it is necessary to organize and carry out extensive practical activities, link the "small ideological and political classrooms" with the "social classes", and guide the majority of students to transform patriotism into actions of serving the country, that is, grasping the key points. Taking the course *Introduction* as an example, the criteria for testing students' learning outcomes are not limited to test scores or mastery of theoretical knowledge, but more importantly, whether students can contribute to national development through practical

actions. Therefore, we should focus on introducing practical activities to make the course *Introduction* live, practical, and strong in the teaching process.

For example, the course *Introduction* can be invited in to introduce advanced typical characters. In addition to people with outstanding achievements like Nanshan Zhong and Dingyu Zhang, advanced typical characters can also be ordinary doctors who fight against diseases, university researchers who are devoted to academics, young volunteers who stick to the front line of the community, etc. They realize themselves and make extraordinary in ordinary positions, and maybe one of us. People and things around us are often more infectious and persuasive. We should actively invite them to enter the campus, the classroom, and the podium, play an advanced demonstration and leading role, motivate and inspire people with examples. In addition, the course *Introduction* can also go out, enter the society and the practice. On the one hand, combined with the relevant chapters of the course *Introduction*, students can enter some revolutionary memorials or patriotism education bases through practical courses, thus feeling the hardships and greatness of the Chinese revolution. On the other hand, students can be guided to participate in volunteer service and social practice under the condition of self-protection. For example, they can return to their hometown to devote themselves to epidemic prevention and control, go to the countryside to help rural revitalization during the vacation, and give full play to their professional advantages to carry out research, free diagnosis, online teaching, etc. Practical actions are the key. These key points fully respect the dominant position of students in education, help to apply what they have learned, integrate knowledge and action, and improve the educational effectiveness of the course *Introduction*.

## 5 Conclusion

The influence of the COVID-19 epidemic on ideological and political education in colleges and universities is lasting and profound. Under the background of national anti-epidemic, we must deeply understand the rich connotation and practical requirements of patriotism, integrate them into the teaching process from multiple dimensions and levels, improve teaching methods and help students establish the correct world outlook, values, and outlook on life, which has laid a solid foundation for them to grow into a newcomer of the era who bravely shoulders the great task of national rejuvenation.

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