



Rich Connotations and the Value of the Spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” in a New Era

Sha Feng¹, Xue Gong², and Minghao Du³(✉)

¹ Mianyang Normal University, Mianyang 621006, Sichuan, China

² “Two Bombs and One Satellite” Cadre College, Mianyang 621006, Sichuan, China

³ The Southwest University of Finance and Economics, Mianyang 621006, Sichuan, China

35600587@qq.com

Abstract. As the first spirit formed after the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” epitomizes the Chinese spirit, as well as the precious spiritual wealth and power of the Party and the people. Against the backdrop of the new era, this paper starts with the historical formation and rich connotation of the spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite”, focuses on the spiritual character and essence of the spirit, and closely combines with the requirements of the times to dig deeply into its value in the new times, and gives full play to its role of the guidance in the new era.

Keywords: the spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” · rich connotations · the value in the times

1 Introduction

In the 1950s and 1960, in the face of nuclear deterrence by nuclear powers, the CPC Central Committee adopted a firm strategic policy and developed “Two Bombs and One Satellite”, namely atomic bomb, hydrogen bomb, and man-made earth satellite to safeguard the world peace and national security, which has opened up new prospects for China’s “Two Bombs and One Satellite” cause and laid a solid foundation for China’s national defense security system. The success in developing the bomb and satellite has created a strong nuclear shield for China to resist foreign humiliation and also reflects the great spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite”—patriotism, dedication, hard work, and the courage to scale new heights in science and technology [1]. General Secretary Xi Jinping said that the spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” is a precious spiritual wealth, which must be passed down from generation to generation and turned into unlimited creativity for material things [2].

2 Historical Development of the Spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite”

The spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” was formed in the middle of the last century, which embodies the strong spirit of patriotism, diligence, and making innovations in science and technology.

2.1 “Two Bombs and One Satellite” Prompted by Urgent Situations of National Defense

New China, which had just been founded in 1949, was facing great danger before gaining a firm foothold, as the United States continued to threaten China with the use of nuclear weapons on various occasions. When the Korean War broke out in 1950, Truman, then President of the United States, deployed the Seventh Fleet of the United States in the Taiwan Strait and arranged atomic bombs on aircraft carriers to try to attack China. In 1953, when the Allies were defeated in Korea, President Eisenhower ordered nuclear missiles to Okinawa, Japan, to bring China to its knees. In 1964, the United States issued a top-secret report entitled *The Bases for Direct Action Against Chinese Communist Nuclear Facilities* in an attempt to attack China's nuclear base which was about to develop its first atomic bomb.

In the face of the nuclear threats, blackmail, and monopoly of Western powers, Mao Zedong, from the strategic perspective of protecting national security and maintaining world peace, once pointed out: It is possible to develop atomic bombs, hydrogen bombs, and intercontinental missiles in ten years [3]. On June 21, 1958, the Communist Party of China made a strategic decision to develop atomic bombs, missiles, and artificial earth satellites, thus beginning the research and development of nuclear weapons.

2.2 “Two Bombs and One Satellite” Driven by Demands for National Economic Development

Before 1972, the economy of New China was backward, as there was no industrial base, with weak scientific and technological capacity, which could be described as “poor and backward, everything needed to be done”. Huge China “can't make cars, planes, tanks or tractors”. Such a densely populated country, with such a vast territory, ranked embarrassingly in terms of industrial output value in the world, just as Shenyang, Taiyuan, Chongqing, and other munitions factories at that time could only produce rifles, machine guns, and other light weapons, but could not manufacture mortars, let alone automated equipment; they produced not more than 10,000 tons of ammunition per year. At that time, the annual production capacity of ammunition in the United States, Germany, and the former Soviet Union exceeded 2 million tons, a difference of 200 times. Each of the three soldiers in the US Army possesses a car, each of the 10 soldiers in the Soviet Army has a car, while each of the 500 soldiers in China has a car.

2.3 “Two Bombs and One Satellite” from the Image and Dignity of a Great Power

From the beginning, involvement in nuclear weapons and space programs has been a political game between great powers. When the United States wielded the “nuclear stick” at China, China realized that without nuclear weapons, it would not have a say among the world powers. Because of the “Two Bombs and One Satellite”, China has truly stood up in science and technology, greatly enhancing its international status and national defense and military strategic capabilities. No nuclear power has ever threatened China with atomic bombs at every turn. Since then, China has gradually embarked on the road of independent innovation in science and technology.

3 Rich Connotations of the Spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite”

General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that the reason why the Communist Party of China can endure for a hundred years and lead the Chinese people to achieve great achievements in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics is that the Party China has nurtured various spirits in various periods, which are the driving force and source of the continuous victory of in the Party’s cause. In addition, China’s breakthroughs in nuclear weapons not only mean a powerful new weapon but also represents a far-reaching cultural power.

3.1 Spirit of Loving the Motherland and Selfless Dedication

Loving the motherland is what drives a powerful country. Patriotism is the gene of the Chinese nation, the core of the national spirit, and an important source of strength for all great achievements in all times. Selfless dedication drives the national spirit and the result of correct value judgment and choice of interests, benefits, and relationships. The spirit of loving the motherland and selfless dedication reflects the strong feelings of the scientists and participants of the “Two Bombs and One Satellite” to serve the country.

In the Archives and Reference Room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there is an open letter jointly signed by Zhu Guangya and 51 scholars studying in the United States, which inspires a large number of scientists to return home to participate in the construction. From Qian Xuesen, Cheng Kaijia, and Deng Jiaxian to Peng Huanwu, their love, and attachment to their motherland have been part of their blood. Deng Xiaoping once pointed out: The Chinese people must remember them at that time, under such difficult conditions, they developed two bombs and one satellite, and other high technologies [4].

3.2 Spirit of Self-reliance and Hard Work

Self-reliance is the foundation of a strong country, embodying the precious spirit of relying on one’s strength to survive, develop and persevere even under harsh conditions, which is undoubtedly an important part of the excellent traditional Chinese culture. The hard work is the core, as it not only mirrors the traditional virtues of the Chinese nation, but also embodies the fine style of the unremitting struggle of the Communist Party of China, and the practical guidance of the Party to unite and guide people to actively carry out labor and entrepreneurship activities. In the case of “Two Bombs and One Satellite”, a vast number of scientific and technological workers have overcome one difficulty after another with perseverance and determination, achieving victory after victory, and interpreting the core meaning and connotation of hard work in the spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” with facts.

3.3 The Spirit of Great Coordination and Courage to Scale New Heights

Great coordination safeguards a powerful country, demonstrating the superiority of the socialist system and the unique advantage of the success in developing “two bombs and

one satellite”. Some scholars have pointed out that the necessary power resources for the operation of China’s big science are the unique experience of its development [5].

The people are the creators of history. The cause of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” is a great collective cause, and its success exemplifies close coordination. Xi Jinping has pointed out that no matter what difficulties and challenges the Chinese people encounter, as long as the people participate, there will be no difficulties that can not be overcome and no obstacles that can not be conquered [6].

4 Value of the Spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” in New Times

New tasks and new responsibilities are needed in a new era. When New China was faced with the nuclear threat, the Chinese people, who had experienced many vicissitudes of life, responded to the call of the Party and the County, with a sense of urgency, depended on themselves, and worked hard under difficult conditions to develop two bombs and one satellite and make them a brilliant victory. The spirit of “two bombs and one satellite”, an important part of the great national spirit of the Chinese nation and its people in the new era, has already become the precious spiritual wealth of the Party and the people. Therefore, the spirit of “two bombs and one satellite” needs to be further promoted in the new era.

4.1 Promote the Spiritual Wealth of Independent Innovation in Science and Technology

The Fifth Plenary Session of the Nineteenth Central Committee of the Communist Party of China pointed out that it is important to formulate a plan of action to strengthen the country through science and technology, improve the new national system under the conditions of a socialist market economy, solve major scientific and technological problems, and improve the overall efficiency of the innovation chain. This reflects the Party’s grasp and strategic deployment of realizing innovation-driven development, building a well-off society in an all-around way, and enhancing new strengths, that is, speeding up the building of a powerful country in science and technology. After the founding of the People’s Republic of China, in the face of the nuclear threat and blackmail of the world’s major powers, the Party Central Committee has led the country and mobilized national resources, and cooperated with all units to independently and successfully develop “Two Bombs and One Satellite”, enhancing national strength, safeguarding national security and building the international image.

Today, the world is at a historical juncture of a new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation. General Secretary Xi Jinping said, “It is important to strengthen basic research and take the initiative in forward-looking and strategic fields [7]. In May 2018, President Xi said at the meeting of academicians of the two academies that the Chinese people have ushered in a new round of technological and industrial revolution, a historical turning point in the transformation of China’s development model. How to make it happen? General Secretary Xi Jinping has stressed that one of the advantages of China’s socialist system is that it can concentrate its efforts

on major affairs. In the past, the development of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” was an example, and the promotion of innovation and breakthroughs should also be like this. “Science is a revolutionary force that plays a driving role in history” [8].

4.2 The Spiritual Source of Safeguarding National Security and Interests

National security is the premise of national prosperity, while national interests are the basis of a greater country and people. Xi Jinping has pointed out that to do a good job in national security is to adhere to the overall concept of national security [9]. Without the foundation of national security and the environment of social stability, any beautiful blueprint is a castle in the air, and no one will accomplish anything [10]. The spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” is the spiritual source of safeguarding national security and interests.

The Chinese people must never forget the sincere dedication of entrepreneurs, the determination of the Communist Party of China to make atomic bombs even when they had few on hand, and the strong cohesion and creativity of the Chinese nation in the face of danger. Therefore, the Chinese people must remember that era and create a new one, since a great cause is not easy to be done by the ancestors. Today’s younger generation must shoulder such responsibilities and mission of safeguarding national security and interests on the road to the rise as a great power.

4.3 Spiritual Motivation to Realize the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation

The spirit of “two bombs and one satellite” is what enables the Chinese people to solve the difficulties in the process of construction and development and realize the Chinese dream. Whether in the era of revolutionary struggle, socialist construction or the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, patriotism and the spirit of reform and innovation in China have been passed down from generation to generation. Since the founding of New China, China has made remarkable achievements in many fields, such as economic development, improvement of people’s livelihood, scientific and technological progress, cultural innovation, and institutional innovation, thus winning greater trust and confidence from the international community. The spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” will be the spiritual source for the Chinese people to achieve this goal and push forward the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. In the new era, it is important to inherit and carry forward the spirit of “two bombs and one satellite”, integrate patriotism and dedication into the cause of national rejuvenation, and embark on a more brilliant road.

5 Conclusion

The spirit of “two bombs and one satellite” reflects rich and profound ideological and cultural connotations such as patriotism, collectivism, socialism, dedication, ideals, and beliefs. It is the precious spiritual wealth of the Chinese nation, embodying the national spirit with patriotism and the spirit of the times with reform and innovation as the core in the new era and acting as a vivid textbook for cultivating the sound outlook on world,

life, and values of young people in the new era. It is of great historical and practical significance to deeply analyze the connotations of the spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” in a new era and explore its rich educational value for cultivating new people of the times who consciously take on the great responsibility of national rejuvenation.

Acknowledgments. Sichuan Social Science Characteristic Project—Integrating the Spirit of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” into the Teaching Research of Ideological and Political Theory Course in Colleges and Universities (SC22SZ009); Comprehensive Reform Project of Mianyang Normal University—Pilot Reform of Education Function of Red Culture in Colleges and Universities (ZHGG201902).

References

1. Jiang Z. M., Speech at the Meeting of Scientific and Technological Experts Commending Outstanding Contributions to the Development of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” [N], People’s Daily, September 18, 1999.
2. Xinhua News Agency, Xi Jinping Visits Famous Scientists [N], People’s Daily, 2011-11-26 (1).
3. Collected Works of Mao Zedong on Military Affairs (Volume 6) [M]. Beijing: Military Science Press, Central Literature Publishing House, 1993:394.
4. Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping (Volume 3) [M], Beijing: People’s Publishing House, 1993:378.
5. Wang S. L., Strategic Decision and Historical Experience of “Two Bombs and One Satellite” [J], Research on the History of the Communist Party of China, 2001 (4): 55-59.
6. Literature Research Center of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Xi Jinping’s Excerpts on Comprehensively Deepening Reform [G], Beijing: Central Literature Publishing House, 2014.
7. Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, Xi Jinping Questions and Answers on the Study of Socialist Thoughts with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era [M]. Beijing: Xuexi Publishing House, People’s Publishing House. 2021.2.
8. Selected Works of Marx and Engels (Volume 3) [M], Beijing: People’s Publishing House, 1995: 456.
9. Party History and Literature Research Institute of the CPC Central Committee, Xi Jinping’s Excerpts on the Overall National Security Concept [M], Beijing: Central Literature Publishing House, August 2018.
10. International Strategic Research Institute of the Central Party School (National School of Administration), Safeguarding National Security is the Fundamental Interest of the People, Learning Times, June 1, 2020.

Open Access This chapter is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits any noncommercial use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license and indicate if changes were made.

The images or other third party material in this chapter are included in the chapter's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the chapter's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder.

