



The Triple Dimension of the Chinese Communist Party's Promotion and Practice of Patriotism

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Abstract. Patriotism is the core of the Chinese national spirit. The Communist Party of China is the most determined promoter and practitioner of patriotism, creating the highest type of patriotism in Chinese history. The CPC's promotion and practice of patriotism over the past hundred years since its founding can be analyzed in the triple dimensions of action, theory, and culture. From the action dimension, the Party has united and led the Chinese people in their unremitting struggle to save, revitalize, enrich, and strengthen the country and achieved great practical results. From the theoretical dimension, the Party has always adhered to promoting and developing the spirit of patriotism under the guidance of scientific Marxist theories. From the cultural dimension, the Party has actively inherited and developed fine traditional Chinese culture and promoted the national spirit with patriotism as the core.

Keywords: Communist Party of China · patriotism · triple dimensions

1 Introduction

Patriotism is the core of the Chinese national spirit, but also the spiritual bond and motivation that unites and encourages generations of Chinese people to strive for the prosperity and strength of the country. From its birth, the Communist Party of China has held high the great banner of patriotism. It is the most determined promoter and practitioner of patriotism who creates the highest type of patriotism in Chinese history. Explaining the Party's promotion and practice of patriotism from the triple dimensions of action, theory, and culture can demonstrate the outstanding patriotism of the Communist Party of China and has significant theoretical and practical value in encouraging all people to work hard for the realization of the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation under the leadership of the Party.

2 Action Dimension: The Centennial Action Interpretation of the Communist Party of China's Patriotic Spirit

Love is not only a kind of emotion in the heart, but also need to pay a practical action. Fighting for the country's prosperity and people's happiness is the most vivid embodiment of the spirit of patriotism of the CPC. For over a hundred years, the Communist

Party of China has united and led people of all nationalities to carry out the great practice of patriotism in revolution, construction, and reform. In long years of struggle, Chinese Communists made strenuous efforts and paid tremendous sacrifices. It is fair to say that the patriotism passed down from generation to generation in the Chinese nation has been carried forward and sublimated by the Chinese Communists, the patriotism of the Communists has reached the highest level in the history of the Chinese nation [1].

2.1 Undertaking the Mission of National Salvation

Since the Opium War in 1840, feudal China was gradually turned into a semi-colonial and semi-feudal country, with frequent wars and broken mountains and rivers. The most urgent expectation of the people is to save the nation from peril and to bring the people out of suffering. Before the birth of the Communist Party of China, various proposals for national salvation failed. In July 1921, the CPC was formally established and took up the historical mission of saving the nation, becoming the backbone of the national liberation struggle and carrying out the 28-year-long new democratic revolution.

In the course of 28 years of revolution, the Party has always put the national interests first and made the people's liberation the goal of its struggle, without any special interests. The Chinese Communists, represented by Mao Zedong, combined the basic principles of Marxism with the practice of the Chinese revolution and explored a revolutionary path of "to encircle the city with the country and to seize power by armed force". They led people of all nationalities to fight bloody battles under extremely difficult conditions and to overthrow the "three mountains" of imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic capitalism that were pressing on the Chinese people. The founding of New China in 1949 marked the victory of China's new democratic revolution, completely changed the social nature of the semi-colonial and semi-feudal society of old China, completely ended the chaotic situation of the old China, abolished the unequal treaties and all privileges of the imperialist powers in China. The Chinese people stood up from then on. The Communist Party of China, with its tenacious struggle, freed China from the danger of national extinction and created the fundamental social conditions for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

2.2 Exploring the Way to National Revitalization

Comrade Mao Zedong once proudly said: "We are not only good at destroying an old world, we will also be good at building a new one" [2]. When the CPC changes from a revolutionary party to a ruling party, how to build a new country is a new task for it. Indeed, it is a very difficult and complicated task to carry out construction in a new and poor country. The CPC "crossed the river by feeling the stones" and overcame many difficulties to open up a broad road for the construction of the new China.

At the beginning of the founding of the country, the new China faced difficult conditions for survival and development, and the new regime faced many threats. On the one hand, in terms of economic development, the long-term war resulted in a very weak economic foundation and low productivity, so the country was in desperate need of healing the wounds of the war and restoring the national economy. On the other hand, regarding the political environment, Imperialism and the remnants of reactionary forces

of the Kuomintang were still waiting for an opportunity to undermine the new regime and isolated and provoked our country in political, economic, and military aspects. The Chinese Communist Party united and led the people to calmly analyze the situation and grasp the principal contradictions and finally accomplished several significant events: first, it achieved the great victory of the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea, which won a peaceful environment for national construction; second, it opened the way for China's industrialization and initially formed an independent and relatively complete industrial system and national economic system; third, it established the socialist system that realized the most extensive and profound social changes in Chinese society since modern times. On the whole, during this period, the Communist Party of China led the nation in striving to build a better homeland, and the country's economic strength, scientific and technological strength, and national defense strength were significantly enhanced. The fundamental political premise and institutional foundation for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation were laid.

2.3 Advancing the Road to National Prosperity

Comrade Deng Xiaoping once affectionately said, "We should all love our country and help to develop it" [3]. In 1978, China entered a new period of reform, opening up, and modernization and the Communist Party of China began a new journey of struggle.

During this historical period, The CPC has deepened its understanding of the laws of China's socialist construction, proposed to "Go our own way and build socialism with Chinese characteristics" and overcame the risks and challenges from all sides to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics. The Party has established the basic line for the primary stage of socialism, formulated the "three-step" development strategy, realized the historic transformation from a highly centralized planned economic system to a dynamic socialist market economic system, and from closed and semi closed to all-round opening, established and improved the basic economic system and distribution system for the primary stage of socialism, implementing the basic strategy of governing the country according to law, and promoted the new great project of the Party building. From 1978 to 2012, more than 30 years since the implementation of reform and opening up, China has made remarkable development achievements, from being relatively backward in productivity to becoming the second largest economy in the world. People's living standards have gone from insufficient food and clothing to generally well-off. Since then, China has made great strides to catch up with the times. The Chinese nation has made a great leap from standing up to becoming rich. Achievements in this period provided an institutional guarantee full of new vitality and material conditions for rapid development to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

2.4 Pursuing the Goal of a Strong Nation

The 18th National Congress of the CPC proclaimed, "After long-term efforts, socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, which is the new historical orientation of China's development." Under the leadership of the Party, we are closer to and more capable of achieving the goal of national rejuvenation than at any other time in history. The Communist Party of China has led the Chinese people in their continuous struggle

and created great achievements in building socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era.

The Communist Party of China has been exploring new ideas, new strategies, and new measures for the governance of the country. It ensured coordinated implementation of the five-sphere integrated plan and the four-pronged comprehensive strategy (The five-sphere integrated plan refers to economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological civilization construction; The four-pronged comprehensive strategy refers to making comprehensive moves to finish building a modern socialist country in an all-round way, deepen reform, advance the law-based governance of China, and strengthen Party self-governance.) In terms of economic construction, it has vigorously promoted supply-side structural reform, transformed high-speed economic growth to high-quality development, accelerated the implementation of the innovation-driven development strategy, and rapidly developed science and technology, such as lunar exploration, diving technique, satellite positioning, and 5G technology, which have attracted the world's attention. In 2022, China's GDP exceeded 120 trillion yuan, its per capita GDP reached 85,698 yuan, and its contribution to the world economy exceeded 30% for many years. In terms of political construction, it adheres to the path of political development of socialism with Chinese characteristics, develops socialist democracy, comprehensively implements the rule of law, strengthens the great new project of Party building, achieves an overwhelming victory in the fight against corruption, and has a sound political ecology. It upholds and improves the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernizes the national governance system and capacity. In terms of cultural construction, it adheres to the Chinese cultural stance and attaches importance to inheriting excellent traditional culture. The cultural industry is booming, cultural influence is increasing, and the cultural confidence of the Chinese people is growing. In terms of social construction, we have achieved victory in poverty eradication, finished building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, creating a miracle in the history of poverty reduction in the world. The Party is committed to ensuring and improving people's livelihood through development. Over the past 10 years, an average of 13 million new jobs were created annually in urban areas, the number of middle-income people exceeded 400 million, basic medical insurance covered more than 1.3 billion people, Basic old-age insurance covered 1.04 billion people, and the average life expectancy in China rose to 78.2 years... In terms of ecological civilization construction, the Party is committed to building a "beautiful China" and introduces the strictest environmental protection law in history. The natural environment in which people live has improved, the sky is bluer and the water is greener than before. Today, the Communist Party of China is marching toward the Chinese dream with unremitting struggle. There is a better system guarantee, a more solid material foundation, and more active spiritual strength to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

3 Theoretical Dimension: Adherence to the Marxist Theory of the Communist Party of China's Patriotic Spirit

Marxism is the fundamental guiding ideology for building the Party and the country. So by nature, the patriotism of the CPC is Marxist and socialist patriotism. The CPC insists on taking the scientific theory of Marxism as its guide to promote and develop the spirit of patriotism.

3.1 Upholding the Combination of Patriotism and Internationalism

Internationalism, mentioned in this paper, refers to advocating and supporting broader economic and political cooperation among nations for the common good. Its salient point is that political activities should consider the condition of human beings around the world rather than focusing on the interests of a particular country. The Chinese Communist Party's patriotism, which is not solely focused on its national interests, has a profound Marxist theoretical basis. Marxism regards the liberation of mankind as its own duty, and inherently opposes harming other countries for the sake of one country's interests. That is to say, the patriotism of the CPC is not great-power chauvinism but patriotism combined with internationalism. China will not oppress or invade other countries for its own development but advocates equality, cooperation, and a win-win situation among nations.

Mao Zedong once pointed out that "There is the 'patriotism' of the Japanese invaders and Hitler, and there is our patriotism. Communists must stand firm against the so-called patriotism of the Japanese invaders and Hitler." The War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931–1945) led by the Chinese Communist Party was an important component of the World Anti-Fascist War, while the Chinese battlefield was the main Eastern battlefield of the World Anti-Fascist War. Objectively speaking, the CPC made great sacrifices for the cause of national liberation and human peace. After founding New China, Premier Zhou Enlai put forward the "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence" in diplomacy: mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. To this day, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence remain our basic guidelines in the conduct of foreign affairs. In his practice of leading China's reform, opening up, and modernization, Deng Xiaoping adhered to the unity of patriotism and internationalism as the guiding principle and moral code of Marxism in dealing with domestic and international affairs [4]. Since socialism with Chinese characteristics entered a new era, in the face of China's tremendous achievements through long-term development, some people in other countries put forward the "China threat theory," falling into the "Thucydides trap." They even portrayed China as a terrible "Mephisto," which seems to ingest the world's soul one day. However, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that the Chinese nation does not have the gene of aggression and world hegemony in its blood. The Chinese people do not accept the logic of "if a country is strong, it will be hegemonic", we are willing to live and develop harmoniously with all peoples of the world, as well as to seek, protect and share peace with all other countries together. In October 2015, General Secretary Xi Jinping said at the commemorative conference on the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against

Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War that “No matter how developed it becomes, China will never seek hegemony, never pursue expansion, and will never impose on other peoples the tragic experiences it has experienced. The Chinese people will persist in friendly relations with people from all over the world.”

3.2 Adhering to the Unity of Developing China and Contributing to the World

Marxism points out the universal connectedness and eternal development of things and reveals that human society is a universally connected organic whole. In today's world, different countries are increasingly influencing each other, this means that no country can develop alone from the world, human beings must help each other, support each other, and advance hand in hand. Although there are still two camps of capitalist and socialist countries in the world, the ideological differences do not make the CPC's patriotism closed and narrow-minded. The patriotism of the CPC has always been based on the Chinese nation and oriented to the world at the same time. While striving to make China prosperous and the people happy, the party also works in solidarity and cooperation with other countries to solve common problems faced by mankind and jointly promote the development and progress of human society.

Entering a new era, we show the world that the Chinese dream is not only the dream of the Chinese people in pursuit of happiness but also closely linked to people's dreams worldwide. In the process of realizing the Chinese Dream, China will work with all countries in the world to promote the better realization of the dreams of all people. Entering a new era, China follows the trend of globalization, advocates building a community with a shared future for mankind, and will always uphold and contribute to world peace and development. Entering a new era, China will continue to be open. It will continue actively cooperating with other countries in various aspects such as economy, culture, and science, contributing to constructing a better home for humanity. Entering a new era, China has shown its utmost sincerity and efforts, playing an active role in combating terrorism, climate protection and eco-environment governance. Indeed, China cannot develop in isolation from the world and the world needs China for prosperity. As General Secretary Xi Jinping said, “The Communist Party of China is a party that strives for the happiness of the Chinese people and the cause of human progress” [5].

4 Cultural Dimension: The Cultural Succession of the Communist Party of China's Patriotic Spirit

The Chinese nation has a 5,000-year history of civilization. The long history and splendid culture are the precious spiritual wealth of all the Chinese people. Among them, patriotism is a spiritual thread running through the development of the Chinese nation, a colorful chapter of the fine traditional Chinese culture, and a great spiritual force that encourages the people of the Chinese nation to unite and struggle. Respecting and inheriting the history and culture of the Chinese nation as well as inheriting and developing the patriotic tradition are essential components and important embodiment of the CPC's efforts to promote and practice the spirit of patriotism.

4.1 Respecting and Inheriting the History and Culture of the Chinese Nation

Understanding and accepting the motherland's long history and profound culture is an important condition for cultivating and developing patriotic feelings [6]. Cultural identity is a necessary prerequisite and an essential aspect of national identity, as well as a meaningful way to enhance national pride and self-confidence.

“From its founding day, the Communist Party of China has been both a faithful inheritor and promoter of fine traditional Chinese culture and an active advocate and developer of China's advanced culture” [7]. Mao Zedong pointed out, “Today's China is a development of historical China; we are Marxist historicists, and we should never cut off history. From Confucius to Sun Yat-sen, we should give a summary and inherit this precious heritage” [8]. Comrade Deng Xiaoping proposed “five stresses, four points of beauty and three loves”—norms advocated in the movement to build socialist ethics in China in the 1980's. (The five stresses refer to stress on civility, courtesy, sanitation, orderliness and morality. The four points of beauty refer to beauty of soul, speech, behavior and environment. The three loves refer to love of motherland, socialism and the Communist Party of China.) to promote the fine traditional Chinese culture. It played a crucial role in cultivating the moral quality and patriotic spirit of citizens, especially in cultivating the good moral character of the youth. Comrade Jiang Zemin pointed out that “we must actively inherit and carry forward the excellent cultural traditions of the Chinese nation, the revolutionary cultural traditions formed by the Party and the people since the May 4th Movement of 1919, and all the advanced civilizational achievements created by human society” [9]. Comrade Hu Jintao pointed out that “culture is the lifeblood of a nation, is the spiritual home of the people” [10]. He emphasized that the fine traditional Chinese culture should adapt to contemporary society, harmonize with modern civilization, maintain the national character, and reflect the times. General Secretary Xi Jinping attaches great importance to the respect and succession of Chinese culture and traditional. He emphasizes that “A nation must know who it is, where it comes from and where it is going” [11]. He also points out that “no matter which country, if it does not cherish its ideology and culture, and loses its ideology and culture as its soul, it cannot stand up” [12]. “Only when the culture is flourishing can the country prosper, only when the culture is strong can the nation be strong” [13] “Without a high degree of cultural confidence, without the prosperity of culture, there is no great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation” [13]. It can be seen that he highlights history and culture's important position and role in the great cause of national rejuvenation. Nowadays, combined with the characteristics of The Times and the needs of national development, the Party carries out creative transformation and innovative development of culture, constantly enhancing the vitality, attraction and appeal of the fine Chinese culture, so as to strengthen the national centripetal force and cohesion, cement the psychological and spiritual foundation of people's love for the motherland, and provide inexhaustible impetus for the unity and struggle of the Chinese people.

4.2 Promoting and Developing the National Spirit with Patriotism as the Core

As General Secretary Xi Jinping said, “Patriotism has been flowing in the blood of the Chinese nation since ancient times and cannot be removed, broken or extinguished” [14].

Since its establishment, the Communist Party of China has been committed to carrying forward the spirit of patriotism as the core of the national spirit and encouraging Chinese people to pursue their beautiful dreams.

In the course of more than a century of revolution, construction and reform, the Communist Party of China has enriched the connotation of patriotism with its firm patriotic belief and vivid patriotic practice. During the revolutionary war years, the CPC led the people fight hard and forged the great spirit of the Party Building, the spirit of the Red Boat, the spirit of Jinggangshan, the spirit of the Long March, the spirit of Yan'an, the spirit of Xibaipo, etc. During the period of socialist construction, the Party led the people to struggle hard and forged the spirit of Daqing, the spirit of Hongqiqu, the spirit of Two Bombs and One Star, the spirit of "Moving to Western Regions", the spirit of Iron Man, the spirit of Lei Feng, the spirit of Jiao Yulu, etc. In the new period of Reform and Opening Up, the Party led the people to forge ahead and forged the spirit of Reform and Opening Up, the spirit of Xiaogang, the spirit of the Special Zone, the spirit of Flood Fighting, and the spirit of Earthquake Relief, etc. In the new era, the Party led the people to continue the struggle and forged the great spirit of combating the COVID-19 epidemic, the spirit of Poverty Alleviation and the spirit of the Silk Road, etc. All of those spirits are based on patriotism. In addition, the Communist Party of China has, for the first time, clearly put forward that patriotism is the core of the national spirit, which established the important position of patriotism in the national spirit; The Communist Party of China also established "Patriotism" as the primary requirement of the individual citizens in the core socialist values. In 2018, the CPC initiated a campaign to promote a "patriotic striving spirit" among the country's intellectuals, which encouraged intellectuals to maintain a patriotic spirit in their practical work. In 2019, Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council issued the Outline for the Implementation of Patriotic Education in the New Era, which guide patriotic education around the goal of achieving the Chinese dream, set up a clear orientation and promoted a strong atmosphere for the whole society to carry forward the spirit of patriotism.

5 Conclusion

For over a hundred years, the Communist Party of China has proven itself to be the most advanced, thorough, and outstanding patriot through its struggle for the country, adherence to Marxist Theory and succession of Chinese culture and tradition. The essence of patriotism in the new era is to uphold a high degree of the unity of loving the country, the Party and socialism. All in all, only under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and through the joint efforts of all Chinese people can the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation finally become a beautiful reality!

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