

Patriotism: From May 4th Spirit to Socialist Core Values

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Abstract:

The May 4th Movement formed the spirit of patriotism, progress, democracy and science. It can be seen that the primary content of the May 4th spirit is patriotism. During the May 4th Movement, the specific direction of patriotism was “saving the country”, that is, saving the Chinese nation in danger. Currently, the value requirements of socialist core values at the citizen level are patriotism, dedication, integrity and friendliness. It can be seen that patriotism is also the primary content of the value requirements of socialist core values at the citizen level. In current China, the specific content of patriotism is to “strengthen the country”, that is, actively boost the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics and make China grow into a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, harmonious and beautiful modern socialist country with much power. From the May 4th spirit to the socialist core values, the specific content of patriotism has realized the evolution from “saving the country” to “strengthening the country”. In the new era, in order to carry forward the May 4th spirit right along and earnestly practice the core socialist values, it is necessary to first carry forward the spirit of patriotism, actively devote ourselves to the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and make unremitting efforts to build China into a prosperous, democratic, civilized, harmonious and beautiful modern socialist country with much power.

Keywords: *Patriotism, May 4th Spirit, The Core Values of Chinese Socialism, Saving the country”, “Strengthening country”*

I. INTRODUCTION

2019 marked the 100th anniversary of the May 4th Movement. The movement above made a fundamental and important contribution to the spread of Marxism in China, the establishment of the core administrative department of China and China’s new democratic revolution, and left a heavy mark in China’s modern history. In addition, the May 4th Movement formed the spirit of patriotism, progress, democracy and science.[1] It can be seen that the primary content of the May 4th spirit is patriotism. In the new era, the best way to commemorate the May 4th Movement is to carry forward the May 4th spirit right along, especially the patriotic spirit in it. Patriotism is also the primary content of the value requirements of socialist core values at the citizen level. Therefore, patriotism is a constant theme that runs through the

May 4th spirit and the core socialist values.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This paper mainly used the methods of comparative study and historical study to explore the specific connotation of patriotism in the May 4th spirit and socialist core values, so as to see that patriotism is a common theme running through the two above,[2] and that the specific connotation of patriotism is also historic and contemporary. Specifically, from the May 4th spirit to the socialist core values, the specific content or meaning of patriotism has experienced the transformation from “saving the country” to “strengthening the country”.

Taking patriotism as the starting point to grasp from the May 4th spirit to the socialist core values will help people more deeply understand the patriotism, more effectively carry forward the times value of the May 4th spirit as well as the socialist core values, so as to condense all the wisdom and strength of the people in the whole country to promote the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics.[3]

2.1 “Saving the Country”: the Specific Content of Patriotism in the Spirit of the May 4th Movement

The fuse of the May 4th Movement was the failure of China’s diplomacy at the Paris Peace Conference.[4] Specifically, as the victorious group, the Allies transferred Germany’s rights and interests in Shandong to Japan, rather than returning it to China. The news of China’s diplomatic failure above reached Beijing, which led to the fractiousness of the people. The anxiety about the danger of the Chinese nation caused by the failure to recover the country’s territorial sovereignty and the anti resistance of the Chinese nation exploited and oppressed by imperialist countries for decades since the Opium War reached a climax and was imminent. On May 4, 1919, a parade of patriotic students from Peking University and other universities in Beijing took to the streets, shouting the slogans of “returning our territory” and “fighting for national rights abroad and punishing national thieves at home”. As a result, the May 4th Movement broke out. The May 4th Movement made indelible contributions in China’s modern history and formed the May 4th spirit of patriotism, progress, democracy and science.[5] In fact, from the slogan of the May 4th Movement, we can see the distinctive patriotic nature and strong patriotic spirit of the movement. The specific content of patriotism in the spirit of the movement above is mainly refers to “saving the country”, that is, to recover the country’s territorial sovereignty and save the Chinese nation in danger. [6] Inspired by the spirit of the movement above, people with lofty ideals at that time made great efforts to explore the scientific theory and road to save the Chinese nation, so as to introduce the scientific theory of Marxism into China, and combined it with China’s workers’ movement in the social and historical development process, so as to establish the core administrative department of China, Then, under the leadership of the department above, China began the new nationalist revolution, and finally won the revolutionary victory and established the People’s Republic of China, thus making the Chinese nation get independence and liberation, that is, saving the Chinese nation and realizing the goal of “saving the country”. In short, combined with the Chinese social and historical background, movement process and China’s historical development process after the May 4th Movement, “saving the country” is the specific

content of patriotism in the May 4th spirit.

2.2 “Strengthening the Country”: the Specific Content of Patriotism in the Socialist Core Values

The value requirements of socialist core values at the citizen level are patriotism, dedication, integrity and friendliness.[7] It can be seen that patriotism is also the primary content of the value requirements at the citizen level above.[8] In the new era, in order to carry forward the patriotic spirit right along, it is necessary to focus on China’s specific and actual national conditions, the actual development situation of the economy and society as well as the actual needs of practice of the society. Since the reform and opening up, after 40 years of unremitting struggle and arduous efforts, China’s remarkable economic and social achievements have attracted unprecedented attention worldwide. Compared with the preliminary stage of reform and opening up, the overall economic, scientific and technological strength and comprehensive national strength of China have improved significantly and made a qualitative leap compared with the poverty and backwardness in the preliminary stage of reform and opening up, the broad masses of the people as well as the Chinese nation have undergone qualitative and leapfrog changes, which can be said to be reborn. Especially in the five years since the 18th Congress, China’s achievements in economic development has been particularly gratifying. China’s GDP has increased to 80 trillion yuan, ranking in the second place worldwide, and making more than 30% contribution to economic growth of the whole world. The economic structure has got continuous optimization, and some new industries, for instance, digital economy are developing vigorously. “One Belt and One Road”, the Coordinated Development of Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region as well as the Yangtze River Economic Zone has been developing significantly. The innovation driven development strategy has vigorously been implemented, and major scientific and technological achievements, for instance, Tiangong, Jiaolong as well as Tianyan has come out one after another. The new open economic system has been gradually improved, and foreign trade, foreign investment and foreign exchange reserves has steadily been in the front rank of the whole world.[9] Based on the remarkable development of the economy above, people’s life has also been improving. In the five years since the 18th Congress, more than 60 million poor people have extricated themselves from poverty steadily, and the incidence of poverty has decreased to less than 4%.[9] In addition, since the reform and opening up, China’s international status has also been improved unprecedentedly. the Chinese nation has firmly been standing in the eastern area of the world with a new posture.[9] China’s path, wisdom and plan have also produced more and more influence in the world. Great power diplomacy with Chinese characteristics has also been comprehensively promoted, forming an diplomatic layout which has been all-round, multi-level and three-dimensional. China has championed a community with a shared future for human to develop, and has encouraged the global governance system to get evolution. With this, it has been seen that a further rise in China’s international influence, ability to inspire, and power to shape. Moreover, China has made great as well as new contributions to the peace and development of the whole world.[9] These are all historic achievements in the development of China’s economy and society since the reform and opening up. In addition, since the reform and opening up, China has also achieved many historic changes. For example, regionally, in rural areas, China has implemented the reform of agricultural production and operation system, rural tax system, rural education system,

medical and health system, old-age security system and so on. In the city, China has implemented the reform of management system of enterprises owned by the state, the reform of tax system, registered residence management system, city housing system, education system, medical and health system, and old-age security system. At the aspects of the system of our society, concerning economic system reform, China has established a basic economic system with public ownership operating as the main body and the common development of various forms of ownership, implemented a distribution system based on distribution according to work and the coexistence of diversified distribution methods, and established a market economic system of socialism, so as to make the market have a determining or decisive effect in resource allocation and make better use of the government's macro-control role. In terms of political system reform, China have established a retirement system for the core administrative department of China and state leading cadres, set up and optimized the national civil service management system as well as the restriction and supervision mechanism of the public power operation, and other political system reforms are also advancing in a solid and orderly manner; In addition, the reform of specific systems and mechanisms in other fields is also deepening. Especially since the 18th Congress, the core administrative department of China has made rapid and steady progress in comprehensive as well as deepening reform, and finally resolutely eliminated the shortcomings of systems and mechanisms in all aspects. The reform has made comprehensive efforts, made multi-point breakthroughs and advanced in depth, made efforts to enhance the systematicness, integrity and synergy of the reform, expanded the breadth and depth of the reform, launched more than 1500 reform measures, made breakthroughs in the reform of important areas and key links, and basically established the main framework of the reform in major areas. The socialism system with Chinese characteristics has been further improved, the modernization level of the country's governance system and ability has been improved remarkably, and the development vitality and innovation vitality of the whole society have been enhanced obviously.[9] In addition, since the 18th National Congress of the core administrative department of China, with great political courage and strong responsibility, the core administrative department of China has put forward a whole string of new ideas, thoughts and strategies, issued a raft of major principles and policies, launched a number of major measures, promoted a great deal of major work, solved many problems that we wanted to solve but didn't solve for a long time, and accomplished many major events that we wanted to do but didn't accomplish in the past, promoted historic changes in the cause of the core administrative department and the government of China.[9]

The historic achievements and changes in the past forty years have pushed the socialism with Chinese characteristics into a new era. These unprecedented and world-renowned historical achievements and changes, as well as the socialism with Chinese characteristics entering into a new era, are certainly enough to make us feel elated, proud and excited. However, we should not be complacent because of these great achievements and changes. The reason of this above is that as the socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, the main social contradiction in our country has been transformed into the contradiction between the people's increasing needs for a better living state and unbalanced, insufficient development.[9] The main aspect of this contradiction[9] is unbalanced and insufficient development, which is mainly reflected in the series of specific problems as follows. The quality and efficiency of development

aren't high, the innovation ability isn't strong enough, the level of the real economy needs improvement, and the protection for ecological environment is still a long-term and arduous task. There are still many shortcomings in the field of people's livelihood, the task of poverty alleviation is arduous, the gap of regional development and income distribution between urban and rural areas is still big, and the people are still facing many difficulties in employment, education, medical treatment, housing and pension. The level of social civilization needs to be improved. Social contradictions and problems are intertwined and superimposed, the task of comprehensively ruling the country according to law is still arduous, and the national governance system and ability need improvement. The struggle in the ideological field is complex as before, and national security is facing new situations. Some reform plans and major policy measures need further implementing. There are still many weak links in the building of the core administrative department of China.[9] The main social contradictions in the new era have put forward many new requirements for the work of the core administrative department and the government of China, which are mainly to solve the unbalanced and insufficient development on the basis of continuing to promote development, vigorously improve the quality and efficiency of development, meet the growing needs of the people in economic, political, cultural, social as well as ecological aspects more effectively, and promote people's all-round development and comprehensive progress of the society more effectively.[9] In addition, the socialism with Chinese characteristics entering into a new era and the changes of the main social contradictions in the new era haven't changed the historical stage of socialist development in China as well as China's basic national conditions or international status. Specifically, from the development stage and specific national conditions, China is in as before and will be in the socialism primary stage for a long time. In terms of international status, China is the largest developing country as before worldwide.[9] Therefore, the report of the 19th National Congress of the core administrative department of China pointed out that all the members of the core administrative department of China should firmly and steadily grasp the basic national conditions of the socialism primary stage, firmly base itself on the greatest reality of the primary stage of socialism, firmly adhere to the basic line of the core administrative department of China, which is the lifeline of the core administrative department of China and the country as well as the happiness line of the people, lead and unite the people from all ethnic groups, focus on economic construction, adhere to the four basic principles as well as reform and opening up, rely on ourselves, work hard and strive to build China into a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, harmonious and beautiful modern socialist country with much power.[9] Based on these analysis and understanding above, facing new major social contradictions in the new era, the best way to promote patriotism is to be an enterpriser, pioneer and devotee at the forefront of the times under the leadership of the core administrative department of our country, and work with people from all ethnic groups with persistent faith, excellent morality, rich knowledge and excellent skills, shoulder the heavy responsibility of history. The socialism with Chinese characteristics entering into a new era means that the Chinese nation, which has suffered a lot since modern times, has ushered in a great leap from standing up, becoming rich to becoming strong.[9] In other words, the new era of society with Chinese characteristics is an era when the Chinese nation "gets stronger". Therefore, the above historical task is to build China into a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, harmonious and beautiful modern socialist power and realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. To build China into a powerful modern socialist country, it is necessary for us to

strengthen our self-confidence for road, theory, system and culture of the socialism with Chinese characteristics, continue to promote the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics as well as constantly promote the development of the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics under the leadership of the core administrative department of China. It can be seen that in the new era, in order to carry forward the patriotic spirit right along, it is necessary to actively devote ourselves to the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics under the leadership of the core administrative department of our country, and fully contribute our wisdom and strength to the practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics as well as the process of socialist modernization, so as to make China develop into a modern socialist country with much power as soon as possible, realize the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. In short, “strengthening our country” is the specific content or meaning of patriotism in the socialist core values.[10]

III. CONCLUSION

Patriotism is a consistent theme from the spirit of the May 4th Movement to the core socialist values. The main contents of the May 4th spirit are consist of patriotism, progress, democracy and science. Among them, patriotism is its primary content. Combined with the Chinese social and historical background, movement process and China’s historical development process after the May 4th Movement, the specific direction of patriotism in the May 4th spirit is “saving the country”, that is, to find a scientific theory and road to guide China’s revolutionary practice, so as to save the Chinese nation in danger, make the Chinese nation independent and liberate the Chinese people. The value requirements of socialist core values at the citizen level are patriotism, dedication, integrity and friendliness. It can be seen that patriotism is also the primary content of the value requirements of socialist core values at the citizen level. In the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the patriotism in the socialist core values specifically points to “strengthening the country”. The reason of this above is that the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics is a new historical position of China. Entering the new era above also means that the Chinese nation has entered an era of “getting stronger”. In addition, in the new era above, the main contradiction in our society is the contradiction between the people’s growing needs for a better living state and unbalanced, insufficient development. Meanwhile, the main aspect of this contradiction is unbalanced and insufficient development. Therefore, we must also improve the quality and efficiency of development and make the motherland stronger in economy, politics, culture, society, ecology and other aspects, so as to meet the people’s needs for a better living state more effectively. In short, whether it is “saving the country” or “strengthening the country”, a consistent theme is patriotism. In the new era above, we should always commemorate the May 4th Movement, and the best way to commemorate the May 4th Movement is to continue to carry forward the May 4th spirit.

In order to carry forward the spirit of the May 4th Movement right along, the most important and core point is to highly hold the patriotic banner, carry forward the patriotic spirit, strengthen the patriotic position, maintain patriotic feelings, and actively participate in the great cause of the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics under the leadership of the core administrative department of

China. Currently, it is necessary for us to fully contribute our wisdom and strength to the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, so as to build China into a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, harmonious and beautiful modern socialist powerful country as soon as possible and realize the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

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