



# The Important Exposition of President Xi's Youth Ideological and Political Education and Its Enlightenment

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**Abstract:** President Xi highly values the youth and youth ideological and political education, cordially cares for the healthy growth of young people, and elaborates on youth characteristics, youth status, youth ideological and political education and other issues, forming a systematic theoretical system of ideological and political education for young people. The theoretical system is an important component of the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and has significant enlightenment for strengthening and improving youth ideological and political education in the new era.

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A country will thrive only if its young people thrive, and a nation will be strong only if its young people are strong. Embarking on a journey to fully build a modern socialist China in the new era, we need to effectively strengthen and improve youth ideological and political education. Only in this way can we provide a constant stream of spiritual strength and strong talent support for realizing the two centenary goals and the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

## 1 The core essence of President Xi's important exposition of youth ideological and political education

### 1.1 The characteristics and status of the youth

First of all, youth is the golden age of life and is

also the best age to grow into a talent. Young people are always vigorous, energetic, enthusiastic, and extremely creative. President Xi said that young people are the liveliest part of a nation and a country. Secondly, President Xi fully affirmed the importance of the youth in the development of the cause of the Party and the country. He said that whether past, present or future, Chinese youth has always been the vanguard force to realize the national rejuvenation. Meanwhile, he believed that young people in the new era will surely gain great success, keep in step with the new era to constantly make progress and create a new miracle for the Chinese nation. He hoped that young students would live up to their youth, their lives, and the age, value highly their time to study hard and have a good command of professional knowledge, have both integrity and ability, take a good path in life, and combine their youthful dreams with the Chinese Dream and strive for them.

### 1.2 The goal of youth ideological and political education

In the context of the new era, President Xi, based on the general trend of global development and the overarching task of national development, has considered carefully the new developments facing youth ideological and political education and adjusted promptly the goal of youth ideological and political education. The goal is "strive to train a new generation who can take on the responsibility of national rejuvenation, and cultivate builders and successors of socialism who develop morally, intellectually, physically, aesthetically and labor-working in an all-round way<sup>[1]</sup>." This statement not only points out the way for young people to grow healthily and become talented, but also brings fresh

impetus to the development of youth ideological and political education.

### **1.3 The content of youth ideological and political education**

The content of youth ideological and political education includes Marxism theory education, ideals and convictions education, core socialist values education, moral education, and fine Chinese culture education. These are closely linked, connected and interact with each other.

(1) Marxism theory education. The theory of Marxism mainly refers to Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents, the Scientific Outlook on development and the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. President Xi has always insisted on learning Marxism and studying Marxist classics; has repeatedly emphasized the importance of strengthening the study of Marxist theory on many occasions; and has pointed out that we must do a good job in Marxism theory education and producing a large number of young Marxists, ultimately making the younger generations more purposeful in working tirelessly to realize socialist modernization.

(2) Ideals and convictions education. “The ideals and convictions of the younger generations are about the future of a country<sup>[2]</sup>.” President Xi said that all our young people should set up ideals and convictions that is consistent with the development of the times, and establish faith in Marxism, belief in Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, and confidence in Communism. To be specific, young people should arm themselves with the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, set aims high, be down-to-earth, act with courage to assume responsibility, actively participate in the great practice of the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, and contribute their ingenuity and expertise.

(3) Core socialist values education. President Xi stressed that core values represent the spiritual pursuit of a nation and a country and embody the value standard of a country to judge right and wrong. When young people have the right values, they can only have the right ideals and convictions, know themselves correctly, distinguish the right and wrong of external information more rationally, and then make right behavioral choices. Therefore,

professional educators should do more to strengthen the education of core socialist values for young people. Moreover, to all young people, they should also keep the core socialist values firmly in mind, and put them into practice.

(4) Moral education. “A country cannot prosper without virtue, and people cannot succeed without virtue.” President Xi often encouraged young people to be excellent and virtuous, be filial and affectionate, be patriotic, and be grateful to the Party, the country, the society and the people; be good at drawing moral nourishment from the traditional Chinese virtues; and consciously learn ethical style from heroic figures and models of the times. Actually, it is a true saying that a person will be put in important positions only when he complies with public ethical standards and personal integrity<sup>[3]</sup>.

(5) Fine Chinese culture education. Without a high degree of cultural confidence, without the prosperity of culture, there will be no national rejuvenation. Fine Chinese culture refers mainly to traditional culture, revolutionary culture, and advanced socialist culture. They are the spiritual life blood of the Chinese people of all ethnic groups, and represent a profound force that sustains Chinese development. President Xi thought that delving deep into the vision, concepts, values, and moral norms behind fine Chinese culture will help young people set up correct views on history, ethnicity, country, and culture. Therefore, it is very essential to give priority to fine Chinese culture education, strengthening young people’s confidence in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

## **2 The enlightenment from the important exposition of President Xi’s youth ideological and political education**

### **2.1 Fully understanding the youth**

To understand youth comprehensively and scientifically, educators must adhere to a scientific attitude and stand-dialectical and historical materialism, and acknowledge the objective existence of dialectical contradictions. This is the premise and foundation for producing outstanding young people in the new era and making advances in youth ideological and political education. A comprehensive understanding of the youth means understanding the nature of the youth, the physical and mental

characteristics of the youth, the growth rules of the youth, and regarding young people's strengths and weaknesses critically.

Karl Marx believed that the essential nature of the youth is social. The growth of youth is closely related to the external environment, and will be affected and restricted by the economic, political and cultural conditions of the time. Currently, global multi-polarization, economic globalization, IT application, and cultural diversity are developing in depth; the impact of internet is becoming more and more far-reaching; as socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, the principal contradiction facing Chinese society is undergoing profound and complex changes. All these make the growth environment of young people more complicated. In the new era, the body and mind of Chinese youth has been developing positively in general, but we must be very clear that there are still many worrying problems. The main ones are as follows.

With the great enrichment of material life, quite a few young people have developed poor lifestyle habits such as not paying attention to physical exercise and excessively indulging in the Internet, resulting in obesity and severe vision loss and other problems. And some young people are suffering from excessive anxiety, tension and other negative emotions for a long time because of increasing academic pressure, employment competition, interpersonal communication, social integration and other practical problems, which seriously affect their mental health. Based on these, it is necessary to guide young people through education to help them embrace the right worldview, outlook on life, and values, keep healthy and positive lifestyles, pay more attention to physical exercise, have good psychological quality, temper their will, and improve their overall quality.

In addition, contemporary young people are full of personality and creativity, eager to excel themselves, have a strong enterprising spirit and learning ability, have a wide range of hobbies, have their own unique perspective on things, and have the courage to break new ground. However, due to lack of life experience and other reasons, the development of young people is not stable in many aspects such as collective consciousness, stress tolerance, and concentration. For this, we must recognize that it is the growth rules of the youth. In training the young

talents, professional educators must learn about and adhere to the growth rules of the youth when they do youth ideological and political work. "Young people who want to be talented generally follow the law of unification of individual development and social development, the law of coordination of internal and external factors, and the law of gradual progress<sup>[4]</sup>." This not only requires young people to play their own role, actively carry out self-education, but also requires care and help from families, schools, governments, and the society to create a good social environment for youth growth.

## **2.2 Continuing to vigorously promote Marxism theory education**

As emerging media resources like the Internet have rapidly developed, various kinds of ideology and culture, and social thought are spreading quickly. Young people are not mature enough in mind, self-awareness, and cognitive ability, and lack the judgment in backward and decadent culture, and erroneous views. Therefore, it is particularly urgent to guide young people with correct and scientific ideological theory.

Marxism is such a theory and its scientific truth has been repeatedly proved in practice. It is fundamental to the Communist Party of China building; it can also help young people to understand the whole world objectively and rationally; to better integrate into society; and to develop in all aspects. Therefore, Chinese youth in the new era should continue to learn and actively practice Marxism, extracting the intellectual wisdom and theoretical power from it.

To vigorously promote the Marxist theory education in the new era, we should educate and guide young people to intensively and persistently learn the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, which opens up a new realm of Marxism in China, and has strong truth power and unique thought charm. Therefore, when learning the Thought, young people should pay attention to integrating theories with reality and problem solving, deeply understand the spiritual essence and rich meaning of it, and apply it to their studies and work flexibly.

We should take full advantage of ideological and political theory course, which is the most important platform for Marxism theory education. In doing this, educators should insist on taking young students as the

main body, centering on students' practical condition, innovating teaching methods, constantly enriching the classroom content, and providing students with a diverse learning experience. We should pay attention to infiltrating the scientific thinking mode contained in Marxism into the teaching of other disciplines in a reasonable form to expand the spread of Marxism. We should exert the effect of practical education, and promote extensively social activities, club activities, and campus cultural activities to help young students further improve the theoretical level and application of Marxism. In addition to schools, Party and government departments, enterprises, and research institutes, we should also undertake in-depth publicity and education of Marxism in other fields of society, increasing the public appeal of Marxism.

We should make effective use of new media and technologies. We must see that the youth of today is almost the largest population in cyberspace. We must maintain the right tone in public communication, strengthen the online publicity work of Marxism, intensify the construction of online content and establish a comprehensive network governance system to create a clean network ecology. We need to turn the basic principles of Marxism into vivid truths, express them in words that the internet users can understand and accept, and publish them on the network platform through short videos, micro movies, pictures and other forms, attracting the attention of the majority of the internet users and enabling Marxism to spread more widely in cyberspace.

### **2.3 Strengthening the ideological and political education team**

The ideological and political education team do the groundwork to ensure the tasks of youth ideological and political education are implemented. We must first uphold absolute Party leadership over the youth ideological and political work, which is a fundamental principle and cannot be shaken. "The Party exercises overall leadership over all areas of endeavor in every part of the country<sup>[5]</sup>." Party committees and governments at all levels should reinforce political leadership, set sound tasks of youth ideological and political education, work effectively in accordance with actual situation of the youth, and be adept in utilizing Internet technology to carry out the work.

We must strengthen the Chinese Communist

Youth League organizations and train a contingent of competent League cadres. As Party's assistant and reserve army, and a tower of strength for the youth ideological and political education, the Communist Youth League should be good at engaging with young people; enhance its political, advanced, and mass nature; fulfill its responsibilities for serving young people; play its role of bridges connecting the Party with young people; and mobilize young people to follow the Party's pace. There is a saying that goes, embroidery has to be handy. League cadres must play an exemplary role, bear in mind the Party's mission, strengthen political awareness, and political ability, and take a down-earth approach in work. In doing so, League cadres should care more about young people, and take the initiative to solve the difficult problems for them.

We must train a contingent of professional teachers. President Xi once said that teacher is one of the oldest professions in human history, and also one of the greatest and most sacred professions. "The first criterion for evaluating the quality of teachers should be teachers' moral style<sup>[6]</sup>." Teachers should insist on the unity of imparting knowledge and educating people, the unity of words and deeds, the unity of concentrating on studies and concerning the society, and the unity of academic freedom and unified academic norms<sup>[7]</sup>, and strive to be good teachers who have strong political ability, deep feelings, creative thinking, broad horizons, strict self-discipline, and upright character<sup>[8]</sup>. Whether in class or after class, teachers should consciously strengthen the study of scientific theories and professional knowledge, constantly raise intellectual and moral standards, and be a role model for students.

## **3 Conclusion**

The important exposition of President Xi's youth ideological and political education not only builds on the basic standpoints, viewpoints, and methods of the thought on Marxist youth ideological and political education, but also represents the latest achievements in adapting the thought on Marxist youth ideological and political education to the Chinese context. It is the scientific theory guiding youth ideological and political education in the new era and must be sustained and developed continually for a long time. The new era requires new responsibilities and calls



for new accomplishments. To achieve the all-round development of the youth, build a high level of socialist spiritual civilization, and realize the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, we must continue to intensify and improve youth ideological political education in the new era.

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