

# Research on the Path of Cultivating the Spirit of Struggle Among College and University Students in the New Era

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**Abstract:** The spirit of struggle has different connotations in different eras. The spirit of struggle of college and university students in the new era is mainly reflected in taking the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation as their own responsibility, daring to face difficulties without fear, and serving the people wholeheartedly. At present, the course of cultivating the spirit of struggle is mainly facing three problems: students do not want to struggle due to superior material conditions, dare not struggle due to a low degree of socialization, and are not able to struggle due to insufficient ability. Based on this, colleges and universities must strive to create a cultural atmosphere conducive to cultivating the spirit of struggle as well as give full play to the role of ideological and political theory education. The students themselves also need to consciously strengthen theoretical learning, strive to devote themselves to the practice of struggle, and give full play to their subjective initiatives.

**Keywords:** Spirit of struggle; New era; Specific connotation; Cultural atmosphere; Challenges

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## 1. Introduction

As the leader for the younger generation, whether college and university students have the spirit of struggle plays an important role in the progress and development of China. With the rapid development of China's economy and society as well as the improvement of material conditions, many college and university students do not have enough motivation to struggle. Therefore, we must attach great importance to this issue, actively cultivate the spirit of struggle among college and university students, as well as encourage them to contribute to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

## 2. Specific connotation of the spirit of struggle in the new era

The spirit of struggle has distinctive characteristics of the times and has different forms in different eras. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, putting forward clear requirements for how and for whom college and university students should strive. College and university students must always keep in mind their historical mission and constantly push forward the cause of the country in the process of self-improvement.

### **2.1. Regard the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation as one's own responsibility**

Marx once said, “As a definite and realistic person, you have rules, you have missions, and you have tasks [1].” As people of the “sum of all social relations,” the times are always bequeathing new missions and tasks as well as new struggles and challenges. Since the Opium War, China has become a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society. The Chinese nation has suffered unprecedented humiliation. Countless people with lofty ideals have consciously undertaken the historical task of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The founding of New China has initially laid the foundation for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The development since the reform and opening-up has provided material conditions for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. With the entry of socialism with Chinese characteristics into a new era, China is developing rapidly in all fields, and its national strength is continuously improving. The Chinese nation has never been so close to the goal of great rejuvenation as it is now. Therefore, contemporary college and university students must bravely shoulder the burden of the times, assume the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation as their own responsibility, and actively forge ahead.

### **2.2. Dare to face difficulties and obstacles without fear**

At present, China is in a stage of development. Facing the domestic market, it is facing the heavy tasks of reform, development, and stability. Facing the international market, China is moving closer to the center of the world stage, and its comprehensive national strength as well as international influence have developed significantly. However, the occurrence spawns more risks and difficulties for China. On the road of development, China will certainly experience more difficulties and challenges. These difficulties and challenges will accompany the whole historical process of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Under such circumstances, if the spirit of struggle of daring to face difficulties and obstacles without fear does not exist, China will hesitate in the face of complex situations, stand still in the face of severe challenges, and miss the opportunity for development in vain. Therefore, one of the important elements of the spirit of struggle in the new era is to fully carry forward the spirit of “cracking hard nuts,” which involves facing difficulties and obstacles without fear and daring to reveal the sword in the face of difficulties, so as to provide a guarantee for China's progress and development.

### **2.3. Serve the people wholeheartedly**

“The people's yearning for a better life is our goal [2].” This phrase answers the question of who contemporary college and university students should struggle for. It enlightens contemporary college and university students to establish correct value judgment and value choice as well as adhere to the correct direction. The people are the creators of history and the decisive impetus for social change. Since modern times, countless people with lofty ideals have been devoting themselves to the development of the motherland and social progress without hesitation because in their minds, the broad masses and the interests of the people are always placed first. Based on this, college and university students should always consider the broad masses of the people, gain inexhaustible spiritual strength from the process of serving the people, and consistently assume the people's yearning for a better life as their goal.

## **3. The realistic dilemma of cultivating the spirit of struggle among college and university students at present**

Cultivating the spirit of struggle among college and university students is the requirement for a healthy growth. Only by firmly establishing the consciousness of struggle can these students fill their emptiness and grasp the direction of progress without feeling confused in going through life. At present, all sectors of the society are paying more attention to cultivating the consciousness of struggle among college and

university students, in which they have taken a series of measures to encourage college students to consciously form the consciousness of struggle; however, there are still many deficiencies in this process.

### **3.1. Refuse to struggle due to superior material conditions**

Since the reform and opening-up, the society in China has entered an era of high-speed development. With rapid economic growth, the whole society has undergone earth-shaking changes, and the needs of the people have been constantly met. Especially with the entry of socialism with Chinese characteristics into a new era, the development and progress of various fields in China are more obvious, and the people's living standards have improved significantly. Compared with the previous era when the level of social productivity was low, and people did not have enough to eat or wear warm clothes, college and university students can be said to have lived a carefree life. On the one hand, their sense of happiness and satisfaction continue to increase. On the other hand, this relatively superior condition has made contemporary college and university students lack the motivation to struggle along with a weak consciousness of struggle. Contemporary college and university students experience fewer setbacks and challenges, which makes it easier for them to retreat in the face of difficulties. When encountering difficulties, they easily "back down" as their fighting spirit to overcome difficulties as well as for the realization of their ideals and beliefs are weak.

### **3.2. Dare not struggle due to a low degree of socialization**

Socialization refers to the process in which individuals master the knowledge, skills, and norms of social life, adapt to the social environment, obtain social membership, and develop their sociality through learning<sup>[3]</sup>. College and university students live in the "ivory tower" all day, and they are unclear about the direction of their struggle or how to struggle. They tend to rely only on the internet as a single channel to understand society, but there are often great differences between the information on the internet and the real world. In addition, online information varies, which easily interferes students' cognition toward the society. If they indulge in the virtual world all day, it will lead to the disconnection between them and the world today. The low degree of socialization makes contemporary college and university students dare not struggle and do not know how to struggle in today's society. Only on the basis of full contact with society and continuous practical activities can college and university students form correct understanding of their own struggle.

### **3.3. Not able to struggle due to the lack of ability**

Colleges and universities play the core role in cultivating the spirit of struggle among college and university students. However, at present, the education has generally failed to achieve good results. Generally speaking, there are several reasons. First, the teaching form is single; the "cramming-style" teaching method based on books does not pursue the subjective role of college students. Second, the teaching content is boring and fails to keep pace with the times as well as the development of society. Third, the teaching carrier is backward and neglects the construction of network education platform, resulting in a great discount on the teaching effect. Fourth, there is no cultural atmosphere conducive to cultivating the spirit of struggle, and there are omissions in the governance of public opinion. The substandard education of the spirit of struggle in colleges and universities leads to the lack of ability of some college and university students in struggling.

## **4. Path of cultivating the spirit of struggle among college and university students in the new area**

In order to cultivate the spirit of struggle among college and university students in the new era, it is imperative to first give full play to the subjective initiative of college and university students. They should

consciously strengthen their theoretical learning and devote themselves to the practice of struggle. Secondly, colleges and universities should give full play to the dominant role of ideological and political theory education, establish morality, and cultivate people. Finally, colleges and universities should also strive to create a cultural atmosphere conducive to cultivating the spirit of struggle, so that college and university students can eventually form a sense of struggle.

#### **4.1. Give full play to the subjective role of college and university students**

##### **4.1.1. Consciously strengthen theoretical learning**

Today, considering that the world is in a century of great changes, and with the continuous development and progress of the society in China, theoretical learning is more important for students. If they do not strengthen theoretical learning or develop a clear understanding of today's world but rather indulge in the virtual world all day, China will fall behind the trend of the times and lose the opportunity to improve. Based on this, students must make full use of every spare time to consciously strengthen their theoretical learning, grasp the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics, arm their minds with advanced theories, continuously build on their own spiritual power that would inspire themselves to move forward from advanced theories, as well as examine current literatures, national conditions, and people's understanding through theoretical learning. On this basis, they can deeply understand the importance of the spirit of struggle for the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and deeply understand the important mission given by the Party as well as the country, so as to consciously cultivate the spirit of struggle.

##### **4.1.2. Actively engage in the practice of struggle**

Philosophers only explain the world in different ways, but the problem is in changing the world <sup>[4]</sup>. Marx attached importance to the role of practice. In today's society, we continue to emphasize the era connotation, value of the spirit of struggle, and the guiding role of theory. However, theory should eventually return to practice. The ultimate goal of cultivating the spirit of struggle among college and university students is to enable them to actively devote themselves to the practice of struggle. Many college students believe that the spirit of struggle is an ethereal thing, which is far away from their daily lives, but in fact, the spirit of struggle is reflected in all aspects of life. In order to advocate the practice of struggle, first of all, it is important to study hard, learn theoretical knowledge, and make greater efforts to contribute to the society with theoretical knowledge. Second, it is important to love the country and the Party, implement practical actions, and resolutely fight against all acts and speeches that endanger the interests of the Party and the state.

#### **4.2. Give full play to the dominant role of ideological and political theory education**

The ideological and political theory education in colleges and universities plays an important role in building morality and cultivating people. Therefore, to cultivate the spirit of struggle among college and university students, it is necessary to attach great importance to playing the dominant role. Ideological and political educators must integrate the cultivation of the spirit of struggle into the teaching of ideological and political theories. At the same time, they should strive to innovate the teaching methods, strengthen the interaction with students, encourage students to actively participate in teaching links, completely change the boring "cramming-style" teaching method in the past, and teach in a way such that college and university students are more willing to accept the education; for example, watching relevant films, carrying out debate competitions and thematic education activities, and so on. They should fully mobilize the initiative and enthusiasm of these students to learn and constantly improve the quality of teaching.

### 4.3. Create a cultural atmosphere conducive to cultivating the spirit of struggle

The cultivation of the spirit of struggle is not a problem that can be solved overnight. Therefore, we must persevere in taking various measures to promote it over a period of time. One important point is to create a cultural atmosphere conducive to cultivating the spirit of struggle, so that college and university students can be constantly influenced in this atmosphere, thus imperceptibly forming a conscious sense of struggle. Based on this, it is essential to first select real examples of “hard struggle” and then publicize these real cases in such a way that college and university students would take interest in, so that they would learn the spiritual strength of “hard struggle” from these cases and give full play to the leading and exemplary role of advanced models. Secondly, it is necessary to actively carry out all kinds of campus cultural activities to vigorously instill the value concept of “hard struggle” and “positive struggle,” so that students can fully understand the value and practical significance of the spirit of struggle in the colorful campus cultural life as well as form “positive struggle” and “hard struggle” in a good atmosphere.

#### Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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