

Research on the Integration of “Four Confidences” into Ideological and Political Theory Course in Colleges and Universities

A Case Study of “Ideological and Moral Cultivation and Basic Law Education” Course

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Abstract—Strengthening the “four confidences” education in colleges and universities consolidates the guiding position of Marxism in the ideological sphere in colleges and universities, gathers our strength, and better promotes the sound development of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It is the mission of ideological and political theory course in colleges and universities, and also the need to promote the growth of college students. In order to better integrate the “four confidences” into ideological and political theory teaching in colleges and universities (taking “Ideological and Moral Cultivation and Basic Law Education” Course as an example), it is suggested to clarify the connotation of “four confidences” on the theory, emphasize the “four confidence” based on China’s economic and social development, raise students’ “four confidences” awareness in the comparison of Chinese and foreign systems, and give full play to students’ initiative in practical teaching.

Keywords—four confidences; college and university; ideological and political work

I. INTRODUCTION

The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China has pointed out that “the whole Party should have every confidence in our path, in our theories and in our system”[1], and proposed the concept of “three confidences”. At the 95th Anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China General Secretary Xi Jinping officially changed the concept of “three confidences” into “four confidences” for the first time. He has clearly highlighted “the importance of fostering stronger confidence in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics”[2]. At present, the “four confidences” are the latest achievement in the understanding of the socialist theory with Chinese characteristics. It has become an important part of the ideological work to launch the “four confidences” education in depth, and to encourage the whole party and all the people to firmly build “four confidences”. As the main position of ideological and political education of university students, it is imperative to carry out “four confidence” education in time throughout the teaching process.

II. THEORETICAL CONNOTATION OF THE “FOUR CONFIDENCES”

To be confident in path means that we must unswervingly take the socialist road with Chinese characteristics, reflecting our confidence in development direction and road. To be confident in path is to firmly believe that “the socialist road with Chinese characteristics is the only way for China to achieve socialist modernization and create decent lives for its people”.[3] To be confident in path derives from the successful practice of reform and opening up for more than 30 years. The tremendous achievements made in economic and social development since the reform and opening up have fully proved that the socialist road with Chinese characteristics is a development path suited to China’s national conditions, which is most conducive to the development of the productive forces, national prosperity and strength and the happiness of the people.

To be confident in theory is to maintain confidence in the truth and science of the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. We must have every confidence that the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the correct theory guiding the Party and the people to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation along the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics, as well as a scientific theory that stands at the forefront of the times and advances with the times”.[4] To be confident in theory stems from the tremendous achievements made in China’s social development under its guidance. Practice shows that this is a set of theories that is suitable for China’s national conditions and can guide China’s reform and construction to achieve great success.

To be confident in system is to have system superiority confidence in socialist system with Chinese characteristics. We must be convinced that “the socialist system with Chinese characteristics is the fundamental system guarantee for the development and progress of contemporary China, and is an advanced system with distinctive Chinese characteristics, obvious system superiority, and strong self-improvement capabilities”. [5] To be confident in system derives from the comparative advantage of the socialist system with Chinese

characteristics. Although there are many problems in the practice of this system, it has been still the most suitable social system for China's national conditions so far. It has shown the incomparable advantages comparing with any system that has ever appeared in Chinese history and other social systems chosen by developing countries at the same starting point.

To be confident in culture means that we must remain firm in our conviction that the socialist culture with Chinese characteristics "accumulates the deepest spiritual pursuit of the Chinese nation, and represents the unique spiritual identity of the Chinese nation".[6] It is the foundation and support of the socialist roads, systems, and theories with Chinese characteristics, as well as the ideological guarantee and spiritual drive for socialist modernization. The practice of reform and opening up and socialist modernization has proved that socialist culture with Chinese characteristics provides strong intellectual support, ideological security, and spiritual motivation for China's modernization and construction.

To be confident in path, theory, system and culture is centered on the word of "socialism with Chinese characteristics", which means that we stay confident in socialism with Chinese characteristics. Among them, the socialist road with Chinese characteristics is the way to reach the goal, and the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics offers a guide to action, and the socialist system with Chinese characteristics provides the fundamental guarantee, and the socialist culture with Chinese characteristics is a source of strength. The four are organically united in the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

III. THE IMPORTANCE AND PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF "FOUR CONFIDENCES" IN IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL THEORY COURSES IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

College students are the builders and main forces of the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and ideological and political theory course is the major position for the ideological and political education of university students. It is not only necessary but essential to carry out the "four confidences" education in the ideological and political theory course.

A. *The Demand of Consolidating the Guiding Position of Marxism in the Ideological Sphere in Colleges and Universities*

For a long time, some western countries have tried to belittle and denigrate the socialist road, theory, system, and culture with Chinese characteristics, which have adversely affected the ideas of teachers and students in some colleges and universities in China. Under this situation, we should do a good job in publicity and ideology work in colleges and universities. "It relates to the leadership of the Party to colleges and universities, the full implementation of the Party's educational policy, and the successor of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It is of great and far-reaching significance to consolidate the guiding position of Marxism in the ideological sphere in colleges and universities, and cement the common ideological basis of the whole Party and all the

people for unity and struggle."[7] The "four confidences" are the new development of Marxism in contemporary China. The core and essence of adhering confidence in theory is to strengthen Marxism beliefs. Therefore, we must timely integrate the "four confidences" education into the teaching of ideological and political course in colleges and universities, so as to promote teachers and students in colleges and universities to build the "four confidences", and firmly believe in Marxism.

B. *The Demand of Gathering Strength, and Better Promoting the Sound Development of the Cause of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics*

Practice shows that in China, such a country with complex national conditions and a large population, to achieve common goals, we must first effectively disseminate development road, theory, system, and cultural concept suitable for China's national conditions that we have worked hard to explore to the general public, so that the public have a common understanding and acceptance of them. "Four confidences" are the latest theoretical achievement guiding the cause of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, the level of cognition, acceptance and recognition by the public directly affects the development direction, realization path, system guarantee, and spiritual basis of the cause of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. We must strengthen the education of the "four confidences" so that young students generally build confidence in path, theory, system and culture, and strengthen convictions in building socialism with Chinese characteristics, so as to better gather the wisdom and strength of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

C. *The Mission of Ideological and Political Education in Colleges and Universities*

Opinions on Further Strengthening and Improving Ideological and Political Education for University Students by Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and State Council have pointed out: "the ideological and political theory course of colleges and universities undertakes the task of carrying out systematic Marxist theory education to college students, which is the main channel to conduct ideological and political theory education to college students". If college students lack a deep understanding and inner confidence in the path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics, it is undoubtedly a fool's dream to make it a qualified builder and reliable successor with firm belief and ideal in the building of socialism with Chinese characteristics and to work hard for the cause of socialist modernization.

D. *The Demand of Promoting the Growth of College Students*

At present, influenced by many problems arising from the development of China as well as western cultural trends and values, some college students have doubts about the path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics. These problems seriously affect the formation of college students' correct ideal belief and values as well as their growth. As a result, some college students are indifferent to their ideals and beliefs, lack of political beliefs, or fall apart and sit back or take risks and go astray. Therefore, through the "four confidences" education, we must guide the college

students to establish correct and firm ideals and beliefs, find the direction of life's struggle, enhance the sense of social responsibility and historical mission, and achieve their healthy development and growth.

IV. AN ATTEMPT TO INTEGRATE "FOUR CONFIDENCES" INTO THE "IDEOLOGICAL AND MORAL CULTIVATION AND BASIC LAW EDUCATION" COURSE

A. *Theoretically Explaining the Connotation of "Four Confidences" Clearly*

To cultivate students' awareness of "four confidences", the premise is that students must first understand what is "Four Confidences" and what concepts to believe. The survey finds that many students only have heard about the concept of "four confidences" but do not understand their specific contents, so it is necessary to explain them theoretically. The second question in Section II of Chapter II, "Socialism with Chinese characteristics is our common ideal", explains to students the content of "socialism with Chinese characteristics", that is, path, theory, system and culture. To erect a mutual ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics, we must first recognize and firmly believe in socialism with Chinese characteristics. That is to say, firming the "four confidences" is a necessary link to establish a mutual ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In this way, through the teaching of ideals and beliefs, at the same time, we also have completed the "four confidences" education.

B. *Advocating the "Four Confidences" Based on China's Economic and Social Development*

The formation of "four confidences" must be based on the understanding of Chinese historical and cultural traditions, scientific understanding of the law of the development of modern Chinese history, and the perception of the great achievements made in economic and social construction since China's reform and opening up. This requires that colleges and universities should be based on China's historical culture and social reality to carry out the "four confidences" education.

First, make clear the excellent traditional culture of China. During his visit to Qufu, General Secretary Xi Jinping has put forward four "clear explanations". He instructs that "to publicize and interpret Chinese characteristics, we must make it clear that: each country and nation has different historical traditions, cultural heritage, and basic national conditions, and its development path must have its own characteristics". "We must make it clear that socialism with Chinese characteristics is rooted in the fertile soil of Chinese culture..." Moreover, we must also get across that Chinese culture provides rich nourishment for Chinese nation's endless life and development, and the outstanding advantage of the Chinese nation is its excellent traditional culture. Therefore, it is necessary to explain traditional morality in the chapter of "Inheriting Chinese Traditional Virtues", so that students can understand traditional culture by means of traditional morality and fully recognize that Chinese excellent traditional culture is the foundation for us to take a firm foothold in the world culture.

Second, explain the "four confidences" in combination with Chinese revolutionary morality. In the section of "Developing Chinese Revolutionary Morality", through the narration of the content of Chinese revolutionary morality and the historical background of its formation, students are deeply aware of the lofty greatness of the revolutionary predecessors and realize that the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the choice of history and the people.

Third, talk about the "four confidences" in the light of the great achievements made in economic and social development. To be confident in path, theory, system and culture is based on the tremendous achievements China has made in economic construction for decades. It is the most convincing argument that the great achievements made in economic and social construction are the most persuasive.

C. *Strengthening Students' "Four Confidences" Consciousness in the Comparison of Chinese and Foreign Systems*

The formation of the "four confidences" must also be based on comparative study, and there can be no identification without contrast. In the "Law" section of "Ideological and Moral Cultivation and Basic Law Education Course", when teaching Chinese social system and legal characteristics, the teachers should compare and introduce relevant systems and theories abroad, and explain to students the theoretical origin, formation background and advantages and disadvantages of various social systems and development paths in foreign countries, so that students can understand that there are huge differences between Chinese and foreign systems, development models and development paths in comparison, be aware of the origin, characteristics, advantages of the socialist road, theory, system and culture with Chinese characteristics as well as the inevitability for the development of contemporary China, get rid of superstition and blind obedience, and strengthen the "four confidences".

D. *Giving Full Play to Students' Initiative in Practical Teaching*

In practical teaching link, such as pre-class news, social investigation, and so on, through the debates on some hot social issues and in-depth social visits, students can think seriously about some social hot spots. After thinking, comparing and judging, they can deeply realize that only by adhering to the leadership of the Communist Party of China and taking the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics can the economic and social development and the international status be promoted so rapidly. Only by thinking carefully and analyzing the conclusions can they firmly believe "the four confidences".

V. CONCLUSION

The "four confidences" education is an important part of ideological and political work in colleges and universities. It requires that we give full play to the role of ideological and political course, and all departments in colleges and universities should raise awareness, innovate method, and work closely together, so as to jointly create a good environment for educating people to train qualified socialist builders with Chinese characteristics.

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