

# Analysis of Yan'an Rectification Movement on Inspiration of Ideological and Political Education in the New Era

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## Abstract

**The Yan'an Rectification Movement is a Marxist-Leninist educational activity carried out in the whole party, and it is an important milestone in the Chineseization of Marxism. In this paper, we study the background, content and value of the Yan'an Rectification Movement and the ideological and political education methods of the Party at that time. On this basis, we explore the inspiration of the Yan'an Rectification Movement to the ideological and political education of college students and Party members and cadres in the new era, and promote ideological and political education to keep pace with the times and develop further.**

## Keywords

**Yan'an Rectification Movement; Ideological and Political Education; Revelation.**

## 1. Introduction

The Yan'an Rectification Movement is an extensive and profound ideological liberation movement in the history of the Chinese Communist Party, and an ideological reformation movement to overcome and conquer non-proletarian ideology with proletarian ideology, and a Marxist-Leninist education activity carried out in the whole Party. Yan'an Rectification Movement is a typical case of success in the history of ideological and political education, which has an important impact on the ideological and political education in the new era and gives certain inspiration for the development of ideological and political education in the new era, especially in the ideological and political education of college students and party cadres in the new era.

## 2. Yan'an Rectification Movement

### 2.1. Background of Yan'an Rectification Movement

Yan'an Rectification Movement is a party-wide Marxist-Leninist education movement and ideological liberation movement. At that time, the main reason for a rectification campaign was that after the Zunyi Conference, the Party wanted to correct the "left-leaning" mistakes represented by Wang Ming militarily and politically, but it did not liquidate them in time, which led to the deep-rooted thinking. Due to the rapid development of the revolutionary situation, the revolutionary forces became increasingly large, but most of them lacked Marxist literacy and the ability to distinguish between true and false Marxism. As the Communist International failed to judge the current situation in China in time, it led to the South Anhui Incident with heavy losses. The background analysis of the Yan'an Rectification Movement was actually the result of the Chinese Communist Party's copying of the Comintern's instructions, which was a manifestation of dogmatism and reflected that the Chinese Communist Party had not yet well integrated Marxism with the concrete reality of the Chinese revolution. The Yan'an Rectification Movement was an ideological liberation movement to solve the above problems.

## 2.2. Content of the Yan'an Rectification Movement

During the Rectification Movement, Comrade Mao Zedong published many writings, the main contents of which included opposing subjectivism to rectify the academic style, opposing sectarianism to rectify the Party style, and opposing the Party's eight shares to rectify the literary style. This ideologically summarized the differences in the Party line in the past and analyzed the problems of improper academic, Party and literary styles that widely existed in the Party, which had a wide and far-reaching impact in the Party's history.

## 2.3. The Significance of the Yan'an Rectification Movement

Yan'an Rectification Movement has great historical merit and far-reaching practical significance. It established the three fine styles, established the guiding position of Mao Zedong Thought, and emphasized the importance of ideological and political work. It raised the wind of investigation and research, which became the magic weapon to deal with dogmatism and subjectivism in the Yan'an Rectification Movement, and also became an important method and way for the CPC to understand public sentiment. The Yan'an Rectification Movement provides experience and practice for the Party to carry out ideological and political education in the future, and promotes the development of ideological and political education work.

## 3. The Method of Ideological and Political Education during the Yan'an Rectification Movement

### 3.1. The Combination of Institutional Construction and Ideological and Political Education

The Yan'an Rectification Movement strengthened the Party's ideological and political work through the construction of systems such as the learning system, the organizational system and the leadership system. In the study system, the study time of ideological and political education has been significantly changed. By adopting the system of sub-study groups, exchanges and communications among members of the army were strengthened. In the organizational system, the central government used relevant documents to clearly stipulate that "all cadres of the Party, except the army, are managed by the Organization Department of the Party Committee [1]", which maintains a high degree of consistency in ideology, action and organization. In the leadership system, the democratic decision-making system has been implemented to achieve intra-party democracy and improve the level of ideological and political education of the whole party.

### 3.2. Combining Theory and Practice

The Yan'an Rectification Movement was not an abstract study, nor was it a "closed-door thinking" type of recuperation, but was closely integrated with the transformation of work style, improvement of work, and profound and scientific analysis of the practical problems of the Chinese revolution and the continuous development of the revolutionary cause. Throughout the process, the Party carried out a large number of theoretical studies and educational activities, such as studying documents, literature and historical works, and by formulating reasonable and effective study and education plans and arranging relevant theoretical courses, the majority of Party members were significantly enhanced and directly improved in terms of ideology and theoretical education. At the same time, on the basis of theoretical study, the whole party also carried out a variety of practical activities, and formed a style of investigation and research at that time, fully embodying the spirit of "no investigation is no right to speak [2]". The educational method of combining theory and practice requires us to insist that practice is the only criterion for testing the truth, to study and master the principle of the relationship between understanding and practice, to deepen understanding and summarize

experience according to the changes of the times and the development of practice, so as to achieve a healthy interaction between theoretical and practical innovation.

### **3.3. Methods of Criticism and Self-criticism**

Criticism and Self-criticism is one of the three fine styles of our Party, and it is an effective method to improve the style of thinking and work. During the Yan'an Rectification Movement, the Communist Party of China used its own practical actions to illustrate the working method of criticism and Self-criticism, and a number of models and examples of excellent style emerged. For example, Mao Zedong personally apologized to the wrongly ruled cadres in the review campaign, Chen Yi walked more than 30 miles to make apologies, Chen Yun made his thunderstruck comrades shed tears of self-reflection, Lin Boqu resolved the conflict of "treating the vice chairman as a decoration", and Wang Jiaxiang, Li Weihan, Ren Bishi and other important party leaders and cadres made sincere Self-criticism for their previous faults. These all show that the CPC insists on the education method of criticism and Self-criticism, forming a beautiful scenery in the Party's ideological education and providing a powerful method for solving the Party's learning style, literary style and Party style.

### **3.4. The Method of Close Contact with the Masses**

During the Yan'an rectification period, every member of the revolution joined this great Marxist education movement, and the mass line education method was implemented from the establishment of the leadership team at all levels, to the formulation of the rectification plan, to the specific deployment of each campaign stage. An effective set of working methods was adopted throughout the process was comprehensively practiced and applied. Therefore, in carrying out the Party's mass line education and practice activities, we always maintain close contact with the masses work methods, adhere to the fundamental purpose of wholeheartedly serving the people, and always adhere to the realization, maintenance and development of the fundamental interests of the majority of the people, only in this way can our party stand invincible.

## **4. The Inspiration of Yan'an Rectification Movement to the Ideological and Political Education in the New Era**

### **4.1. Inspiration to the Ideological and Political Education of College Students in the New Era**

#### **4.1.1. Establish Firm Ideals and Beliefs and Carry Forward the Core Socialist Values**

The reason why the Yan'an Rectification Movement was finally victorious was because of the firm leadership of Marxism and the Chinese Communist Party. Due to the development of science and technology especially the mass communication media is increasingly modernized and diversified, our mainstream thought is also disturbed by foreign thoughts, which brings great influence to the ideal beliefs, cognition and behavior, utilitarianism and hedonistic conceptions and thoughts of college students in the new era, so we should pay special attention to the ideological and political education of college students, guide their understanding of Marxism-Leninism, adhere to the Marxist theory guiding position, study through various channels, firm ideals and beliefs, promote socialist core values, and improve the ideological and political education of college students.

#### **4.1.2. Establish the Scientific Attitude of Seeking Truth from Facts and Pragmatic Spirit**

One of the reasons for the success of the Yan'an Rectification Movement was that it adhered to the principle of seeking truth from facts and did everything from the practical point of view. As Mao Zedong pointed out in "New Democracy" in January 1940, "The attitude of science is to seek truth from facts" [3]. On the basis of seriously studying theoretical knowledge, especially

when facing the research of academic and theoretical views, college students of the new era always maintain a rigorous scientific attitude and the spirit of truth-seeking and pragmatic. On the other hand: the new-age college students should combine their own characteristics, apply the theoretical knowledge they have learned to practical life and solve the practical problems in life. Because only when the ideological principle of seeking truth from facts is adhered to and the mainstream ideology is adhered to, can the study work be put into practice and play the role of college students as the backbone of the development of the cause of socialist construction with Chinese characteristics.

#### **4.1.3. Cultivate the Behavior of Self-management, Self-monitoring and Self-education**

The Yan'an Rectification Movement insisted on the education method of criticism and Self-criticism, which made the ideology and behavior in the Party highly consistent and provided experience for the ideological and political education activities in the future. With the development of network technology and the diversity of information nowadays, the new-age college students should have a certain sense of independent thinking and reflection as well as the ability to distinguish right from wrong in the face of various information, so that some non-mainstream ideas that affect the world view, values and life view of college students can be "rejected". At the same time, in daily study and work, college students should constantly carry out and strengthen Self-management, Self-monitoring and Self-education, improve their ideological and political level and moral quality, achieve consistent cognition and behavior, consistent ideological awareness and practical action, consistent ideological consciousness and political level, and develop comprehensively.

## **4.2. Implications for Ideological and Political Education of Party Members and Cadres in the New Era**

### **4.2.1. Insist on Arming the Whole Party with Ideological Construction**

General Secretary Xi Jinping said: "Ideological construction is the basic construction of the Party" [4]. The ideological construction of the Party lays the ideological foundation for the construction of the Party and provides theoretical guidance and spiritual motivation. To grasp the ideology first of all, cadres should be educated. To play the role of party members and cadres in the ideological construction, all party members should be educated and armed with Marxist theory. This requires party members and cadres to build ideals and beliefs, strengthen the party's character and moral education, arm the party with Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and theoretically strengthen the party, maintain and develop the party's advancement and purity, build a strategic, fundamental and leading position and role of the "four qualified" party members, so that the whole party Always maintain a unified ideology, firm will, coordinated action, strong combat power, so that the party's great cause to travel unimpeded.

### **4.2.2. Establishing the "Three Major Styles" of the Party**

In the report on "On United Government" made at the Seventh National Congress of the Party, the "three major styles" of the Party, namely "combining theory and practice, close ties with the people and Self-criticism", were put forward. The "three major styles" of the Party are: "combining theory and practice, working closely with the people and Self-criticism" [5]. Therefore, Party members and cadres should first of all be unified theoretically, ideologically, organizationally and operationally, and through propaganda and education to carry forward the Party's "three major styles" some thematic education activities, let the whole Party actively participate in practicing and practicing the spirit of the style, and bring into play the Party's strong cohesive force and fighting power. In the party, the method of criticism and Self-criticism is used to cleanse the mind and soul of each party member and cadre, to improve the ability of party members and cadres to solve their own internal conflicts, to make criticism and Self-

criticism a compulsory course for each party member and cadre, and to become a powerful weapon for party members and cadres to prevent and cure diseases, so as to solve the outstanding problems in the party to achieve self-purification, self-perfection, self-reinvention and self-improvement. Finally, our party comes from the people, rooted in the people, any of our party members and cadres to truly rely on the people, to do for the people, to do the people's responsibility, to truly do wholeheartedly for the masses to do more practical things, do good, the party only adhere to the original intention, remember the mission, our party can get the people's heartfelt support.

## 5. Summary

The victory of the Yan'an rectification movement has left a strong and colorful mark in the history of the Party. With the passage of time, it has increasingly shown that the educational methods during the Yan'an Rectification Movement have played a significant role in the development of ideological and political education in the new era, especially in the ideological and political education among contemporary college students and party cadres. This movement tells contemporary college students and Party members and cadres to always learn and implement the working methods of linking theory with practice, close contact with the masses, criticism and Self-criticism, always maintain a scientific attitude of truthfulness and pragmatism, always arm themselves and develop themselves with political construction, ideological construction, style construction, etc., promote their all-round development, and contribute to the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In order to better achieve the goal of "two hundred years" and realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

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