

# Historical Investigation and Experience Enlightenment of Ideological and Political Education in Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia Border Region on the Revitalization of Rural Culture

Yuetong Wu

College of Marxism, Xinjiang Normal University, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830017, China

13124545234@163.com

## Abstract

During the war of resistance against Japan, the Communist Party of China and the government of the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region focused on using practice to promote the realization of the educational goal of our party's ideological and political education in the border region from the three levels of politics, culture and society: first, broaden the path of mass participation in the political dimension; Second, in the cultural dimension, improve the cultural level of the masses; Third, in the social dimension, we should get rid of the feudal superstition of the masses. These effective measures have important historical enlightenment for our party to promote cultural revitalization in the strategy of Rural Revitalization in the new era.

## Keywords

Anti Japanese War Period; Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia Border Region; Ideological and Political Education; Rural Vitalization.

## 1. Introduction

In the difficult situation during the Anti Japanese War, the government of the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region always adhered to the leadership of the party and cultivated a model Democratic base during the Anti Japanese war. The successful practice of this ideological education activity has not only effectively enhanced the overall quality of the people in the border region, effectively enhanced the unity and cohesion of the military and people in the border region, advantageously enhanced the Anti Japanese enthusiasm of the people in the border region, but also made important contributions to the economic and social construction of the border region. Investigate the practical approach of the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region as a democratic model base, summarize and refine the democratization construction of the Communist Party of China at the grass-roots level during the Anti Japanese War, and provide historical experience and Enlightenment for the implementation of rural cultural revitalization in the new era.

## 2. During the Anti Japanese War, The Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia Border Region Enhanced the Political Participation of the Masses

At the beginning of the Anti Japanese War, the masses of the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region did not understand what politics and democracy were because they had been affected by feudal rule for a long time. For the call and management of the party and the border region government, the vast majority of the masses chose to wait and see silently and had little idea of participating in politics. To this end, the Communist Party of China and the border region government promote the process of grassroots democratization in the border region by organizing people to participate in elections, supporting rural voter autonomy, and expanding

the number of Party members and the masses, so as to improve the political and ideological level of the people in the border region and enhance the credibility of the party and the border region government.

(1) Improve the political participation of the masses by organizing active elections

The masses in the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region have been influenced and restrained by feudal autocracy for a long time, so their political thoughts are relatively closed and their ideological concepts are relatively closed. As the grass-roots people have great political power, the party and the border region government began to organize the election of the Senate and promulgated the "Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region election regulations" to enhance the political participation of the local people.

(2) Improve the political participation of the masses by supporting the autonomy of rural voters

After the establishment of the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region, the political power level was divided into four levels: border region, sub region, county and township. Township is the most grass-roots political power and the most direct and close political power connecting rural areas and farmers. The core organizational link of rural autonomy is the rural Party branch. The township government, the village Party group and the villagers' assembly under the leadership of the rural Party branch are all important components of rural autonomy. Regardless of any form of mass political participation, the ultimate goal is to promote the production activities in the border region. The degree of political participation to a large extent reflects the enthusiasm of the people in the construction of production activities, and serves the central economic construction of the border region. As Ren Bishi said, "the central task of democratic politics in the border region is to mobilize the enthusiasm of the people, so that everyone in each household can actively work and participate in production, so as to improve people's lives, solve the needs of war, and create democracy in action" [1].

(3) Expand the number of Party members and the masses and improve the political participation of the masses

In order to rapidly expand the strength of the party organization and carry out a more effective anti Japanese struggle, the Party Central Committee decided to vigorously develop party members in the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region and increase the number of Party members. Under the advocacy and call of the party, a large number of workers, farmers and intellectuals actively joined the party organization. The people in the border areas have a strong desire to join the party, and the ranks of Party members have been greatly expanded. Mass organizations are related to the party and the masses, and are an important link in the relationship between the party and the masses. On the basis that the masses do not violate the provisions of the "supreme principle of Anti Japanese War and nation building", the border region government agrees that the masses can organize, conduct and participate in assemblies, mass organizations and various mass organizations by themselves. Representatives of mass organizations can directly enter the work of government departments and participate in politics directly. Other members of the organization can indirectly participate in politics and brainstorm in the process of organizing activities.

### **3. During the Anti Japanese War, The Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia Border Region Accelerated the Cultural Upgrading of the Masses**

The effectiveness of the party and the border region government in the management of the border region was also low in the early stage of the comprehensive anti Japanese war because of the low educational level of the people in the border region. With its rich experience in the construction of base areas and in view of the current reality of the border areas, the Communist Party of China believes that the democratization of the border areas must first of all rapidly improve the cultural level of the masses. The party and the border region government should

improve the cultural level of the people in the border region through cultural education and organizing cultural and recreational activities, so as to improve the effectiveness of border region governance.

(1) Carry out literacy and literacy, and improve the cultural literacy of the masses

The border region government regards literacy and literacy as the primary task of rural cultural construction. To this end, the CPC Central Committee and the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region government have focused on social education and school education [2]. Social education is not divorced from production to educate the people. It is an educational method that produces while learning, and learning does not hinder production. [3] At the same time, the party and the border region government also attach great importance to the combination of social education with practice in the process of people's actual life, so as to achieve the effect of "combining teaching with learning and teaching with labor", so as to make learning useful. The cultivation goal of primary and secondary schools in the border region is "to strive for the victory of the war of resistance against Japan, build an independent, free and happy New China, and cultivate soldiers and builders with national consciousness, democratic style, modern life skills and the task of building a nation during the war of resistance against Japan" [4], strengthen primary education and reduce illiteracy rate. The party and the border region government dispatched people to compile school textbooks, systematically train teachers, strengthen administrative leadership, and allocate a large amount of funds to build the border region education system according to the education policy. While the party and the border region government are actively organizing public schools, they are also encouraging and advocating the masses to raise funds to establish various types of primary schools.

(2) Organize cultural and recreational activities to cultivate the literary and artistic sentiment of the masses

While the party and the border region government organize literacy activities, they also attach great importance to the cultural and recreational life of the masses. The party and the border region government cultivate the cultural and recreational life of the masses from the aspects of drama, music, literature and art, and improve the cultural literacy of the masses through the forms of troupes performing in the countryside, organizing mass chorus, publishing literary and artistic publications, and encouraging artistic creation. In order to enhance the enthusiasm of the people in the border region for the war of resistance against Japan, the border region government called on literary and art workers to actively establish and participate in literary and art organizations to create artistic works loved by the people in the border region. These works of art need to use the old literary and artistic forms to convey new ideas and revolutionary ideas; It is necessary to touch the soul and determination of the masses while enabling the audience to understand and appreciate. Literary and art workers in the border areas took root in the countryside, and widely established cultural and recreational activities such as drama associations, Yangko teams, clubs, etc. to reach out to the masses and prosper rural literature and art.

#### **4. During the Anti Japanese War, the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia Border Region Widened the Social Reform Degree of the Masses**

In the villages of the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region, which account for the vast majority of the region, feudal superstition is still prevalent in social life because of the backwardness in all aspects of economy and culture. Social problems such as bandits' tyranny, women's foot binding, buying and selling wives and children, the proliferation of opium, and the high infant mortality rate are emerging one after another. Aiming at these social problems, the party and the border region government spread scientific knowledge and got rid of the feudal thoughts of the masses; On the one hand, we should reform traditional bad habits, cultivate new modern

citizens, and carry out social transformation of the people in the border areas from the inside out.

(1) Spread scientific knowledge and get rid of the feudal ideology of the masses

Due to the prevalence of traditional feudal superstition, superstitious behaviors such as "witchcraft saving people", "witchcraft deification" and "Yin and Yang prevailing" became popular in the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region in the 1930s. This kind of feudal superstition can not cure the disease and save people, but will delay the best time for doctors to diagnose and treat. The poor sanitary conditions, weak epidemic prevention foundation and poor public health quality in the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region have caused the spread of many epidemics. Among them, typhoid fever and acute gastroenteritis were the two most common seasonal infectious diseases with high incidence rate and high mortality at that time, and local people called them "fatal" [5]. The party and the border region government attach great importance to health education, and advocate the use of flexible and diverse ways to publicize health education, emphasizing the supply of medical and health care, so that the idea of "seeing a doctor when you are sick" has become popular.

(2) Reform traditional bad habits and cultivate new modern citizens

Reforming traditional bad habits is another important content of social governance in the border region. The first thing to bear the brunt of reforming traditional bad habits is to order the abolition of women's foot binding, improve women's status, advocate freedom of marriage and love, and protect women's rights. For thousands of years in Chinese feudal society, women's status has always been low. The bad habit of foot binding is a true portrayal of women being imprisoned in families and clans. The party and the border region government are proposing regulations to prohibit foot binding, and set up assault committees for some parents who openly comply with the law but secretly violate it, to check at home from time to time whether foot binding is mandatory for border region women under the age of 18. There are three main targets for cultivating modern new citizens: border bandits, addicted smokers and jobless vagrants.

## **5. The Practical Enlightenment of the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia Border Region to the Ideological and Political Education of the Masses**

Rural cultural revitalization is an important part of the overall Rural Revitalization in the new era. During the Anti Japanese War, the ideological and political education of the party and the border region government for the masses in the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region is a useful exploration of the party for the construction of rural grass-roots culture, and has practical significance and important enlightenment for the revitalization of rural culture in the Comprehensive Rural Revitalization in the new era.

(1) The fundamental guarantee for the revitalization of rural culture is to adhere to the leadership of the party

During the Anti Japanese War, the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region became a well-known Anti Japanese revolutionary base at home and abroad, which was inseparable from the leadership of the Communist Party of China. In the new era, the revitalization of rural culture is still inseparable from the leadership of the Communist Party of China. Only grass-roots party organizations can really understand what the masses think and mobilize their enthusiasm for production and life. "The party leads everything in the party, government, military and civilian studies, East, West, North and south." [6] The key to the revitalization of rural culture lies in the party, and the focus lies in the party. The party should not only do a good job in top-level design, but also do a good job in the construction of grassroots close to the ground, adjust measures to local conditions, implement specific policies, and accurately solve problems. "Give full play to the role of rural Party organizations, build rural Party organizations well, build strong

leadership groups, rely on good party branches to open up the situation in weak villages, and rely on good party branches to lead rich villages to another level." [7] The revitalization of rural culture requires the majority of rural Party members, cadres and comrades to lead the masses to improve their cultural cultivation. The masses should not "empty their heads" while "filling their pockets". Party members and cadres at the grass-roots level should set an example, play an exemplary role, use their own practical practice of socialist core values to infect the ideological and moral quality of the masses, and drive the masses to develop noble behavior habits.

(2) The important force and participants in the revitalization of rural culture are the masses  
The successful experience of the cultural transformation and ideological and political education of the masses in the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region tells us that the masses in the border region under the leadership of the party are the main body of cultural revitalization. Therefore, in order to promote the revitalization of rural culture and strengthen the construction of rural culture in the new era, people at all levels of society also need to actively participate and contribute their wisdom. The party and the government should actively "carry out cultural pairing assistance, formulate policies, and guide entrepreneurs, cultural workers, science popularization workers, retirees, cultural volunteers, etc. to participate in rural cultural construction, forming a new force for rural cultural construction" [8]. At present, the fight against poverty in an all-round way has entered a decisive period, and the "two worries" of farmers' material life have been basically solved, with no worries about food and clothing. More farmers' pursuit of spiritual level has been put on the agenda. Cultivate farmers' cultural consciousness and improve the ideological quality of farmers. The revitalization of rural culture is not achieved overnight. We should actively guide farmers' awareness of "ownership" of rural culture and improve the important force of mass participation.

(3) The basic guarantee for the revitalization of rural culture is excellent local culture  
The party and the border region government have used innovative theories, flexible and diverse ways and methods, and easy to understand systems and measures, so that the governance of the Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region has been understood and supported by the masses. Under the background of peace and development in the new era, the Communist Party of China also put forward the theoretical innovation of "Rural Revitalization Strategy" in rural governance. In the new era, the ideological and political education of the masses needs to follow the pace of the times, strengthen innovative education methods, and remember not to "respond to changes with invariance", but to transform and develop traditional education methods and update educational means. Mao Zedong pointed out: "we should not only put forward tasks, but also solve the problem of task methods" [9]. Excellent local culture is easy to understand and an important part of excellent traditional Chinese culture. In the construction of rural culture in the new era, we should take it as the basic guarantee for its reform, innovation and development, and then combine it with the socialist core values to collide with different theoretical sparks.

(4) The specific path to the revitalization of rural culture is to strengthen the construction of civilization

The fundamental path of the party and the border region government for the cultural construction of the border region is the rural cultural construction. The rural cultural construction has strongly improved the ideological and cultural level of the people in the border region, and greatly promoted the development of rural productivity in the border region. To implement the strategy of Rural Revitalization in the new era, we should pay attention to both material civilization and spiritual civilization, and focus on improving the spiritual civilization quality of the broad masses of farmers. [10] This requires the party and the government to have a "bottom line thinking" when promoting the construction of rural spiritual civilization,

draw a "moral red line", improve the style of rural spiritual civilization, and improve the moral quality of rural people.

## References

- [1] Selected works of Ren Bishi [M], Beijing: People's publishing house, 1987:265.
- [2] Liang Xingliang, Yang Hong, on the political, social and cultural history of the Communist Party of China in Yan'an period [m]Beijing: People's publishing house, 2011:347.
- [3] Educational materials of Shaanxi Gansu Ningxia border region, social education part (I) [Z]Beijing: Educational Science Press, 1981:52.
- [4] Wei YongliModern development history of Northwest China [M]Lanzhou: Gansu people's publishing house, 1993:596.
- [5] Quickly prevent water sickness, broom disease, vomiting and diarrhea [N]Liberation Daily, 1944-5-8 (04).
- [6] Beijing: People's Publishing House.2017:20.
- [7] Beijing: Foreign Language Press, 2020:261.
- [8] Beijing: Central Literature Press.2018:405406.
- [9] Mao Zedong, selected works of Mao Zedong (Volume 1) [M], Beijing: People's publishing house, 1991:139.
- [10] Beijing: Central Literature Press.2018:407.