

Discussion on the New Trend of New-Era Ideological and Political Work

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Abstract: Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era and the country and society have taken on a new look. The new atmosphere in new era has exerted profound influence on ideological and political work and put forward new requirements. The new age is a beautiful age of prosperity. We should strengthen the ideological and political work, meanwhile, promote the new-age spirit. The new era is the key period to speed up to run over the key stage, which highlights the importance of ideological and political work, and the ideological and political work will be more difficult on the another hand; The new age is a critical period full of risks, which brings severe challenge to the ideological and political work, and it requires the constant development of ideological and political work, the courage to meet challenges and the ability to effectively defuse risks.

1. Introduction

In October 2017, General Secretary Xi Jinping officially announced at the 19th National Congress that ‘after long-term efforts, socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, which is a new historical juncture in China's development’^[1]. The direction of new-era mission should be based on the report of the 19th CPC National Congress on the new era, however, it should not simply repeat the contents of the report, but should make more specific summary from our current life experience. To study and judge the basic characteristics of the new era, discuss the influence and new requirements of these characteristics on the ideological and political work, and put forward the new trend of ideological and political work development are the important conditions for the realization of new achievement in the new era.

2. Characteristics and Significance of New Era

The achievements of the reform and opening up over the past 40 years, especially the historical achievements in accelerating China's development since the 18th CPC National Congress, has painted a rosy picture of the new era. In terms of material well-being, the total volume and quality of economic development have been greatly raised, the people's living standards have been greatly improved, education and employment have been further addressed, the social security and medical systems have been improved, and remarkable progress has been made in ecological and environmental protection. In terms of spiritual culture, since the 18th CPC National Congress, the CPC Central Committee with General Secretary Xi Jinping as the central leader has attached great importance to cultural development, with special emphasis on building strong cultural confidence in the whole society. On the basis of great achievements achieved in economic and social development, and under the influence of China's outstanding traditional culture, unique revolutionary culture and advanced socialist culture, the spiritual civilization of the Chinese people has taken on a new look, and their national self-confidence and pride have reached a new height, and they have become Chinese with strong collective self-esteem.

The trend towards a better and prosperous era has strengthened the spiritual power of ideological and political work. The spiritual power of further development of ideological and political work refers to the courage and integrity of ideological and political work, and its direct expression is the increasingly perfect conditions for the development of ideological and political work activities. Ideological and political work is in a good era of prosperity, in which era confidence has

been further strengthened. There are four main sources of this confidence. First, the achievements of ideological and political work. Since reform and opening up, great achievements have been made in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, presenting a beautiful picture of national prosperity, ethnic unity, social stability and cultural prosperity. The ideological and political work has made historic contributions to society, extensive forces and common development. Second, the accumulated rich experience of ideological and political work in the long-term practice. No matter for practical experience in practical work or academic achievements in scientific research, ideological and political work has gradually found its own development law, becoming more and more scientific and modern. Third, understanding and support from the masses. Over the past 40-plus years of reform and opening up, the people have come to appreciate the advantages of socialism with Chinese characteristics in raising their living standards. In particular, since the 18th CPC National Congress, the CPC Central Committee has made great efforts to combat corruption and uphold integrity, and achieved remarkable results in governing the Party with strict discipline, which has won popular support and made our ideological and political work be more confident and powerful. As for this confidence, General Secretary Xi Jinping once mentioned in the discussion, 'Why do we have such confidence now? Because our country has developed'^[2]. To sum up, the environment of a prosperous and beautiful era has strengthened the spiritual power of ideological and political work and created a good environment and atmosphere for the display of ideological and political work in the new era.

3. Challenge and Requirement from New Era

The new era is a crucial period for rushing through the key stage. This kind of rush not only means rushing to build a well-off society in an all-round way, but also means that the whole new era has the nature of rushing ahead, and now, we are making a final rush to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Judging from the actual situation, winning the three major campaigns of preventing and defusing major risks, targeted poverty alleviation and environmental pollution prevention and control is a challenged task. To be specific, the year 2020 appears to be the stage of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, in fact, it is related to whether the Four-pronged Comprehensive Strategy can achieve decisive results. Whether the goal of 'The Two Centenary' can be successfully achieved or not relates to the smooth progress of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

In the long run, ideological and political work faces four major challenges. First, the challenge brought by the urgent situation of ideal and belief education. In the new period, the social value orientation presents the diversification trend, which is difficult to build consensus with core socialist values and guide the people to increase their confidence in the process, theory, system and culture. Second, the challenge brought by the negative factors of social mentality in the new era. Reform has entered the 'critical period' and the 'deep-water zone'. The deep-seated social conflicts of interests have become prominent, and the negative factors in the social mentality have become more obvious, bringing difficulties to the development of ideological and political work. Ideological and political work to deal with these negative social psychology is also difficult to make adjustments. Third, the challenge of seizing the network public opinion. With the development of the internet, the network society has become an important platform for people to obtain information, exchange opinions and discuss their daily lives. However, the network information is uneven and it is difficult to tell the true from the false, besides, the quality of internet users still needs to be improved, and the hardware and software facilities to maintain network security are not perfect. Fourth, the challenge of western public opinion. Western capitalist countries have been vilifying and attacking China in public opinion for a long time and the 'China threat theory' has never be stopped. How to effectively deal with the risk of public opinion from the international community is a major challenge faced by ideological and political work.

4. New Trend of Ideological and Political Work

The new era requires ideological and political work to be more proactive, dare to meet challenges and effectively defuse risks. Enhancing initiative means that ideological and political work must have a clear understanding of the situation in crisis environment, take the initiative to identify problems, be good at discovering problems and constantly solve them. 'A first step to guard against risks is needed and clever measures to deal with and defuse risks and challenges are also needed. A well-prepared work to guard against and ward off risks in the fight is needed, and a strategic and active behavior to turn risks into opportunities in the fight is also needed.'

The changes of the times require ideological and political education to keep pace with the times and show the affective disposition of the new era, which is a state of mind full of confidence, high spirits, going ahead boldly and cheerful mood^[3]. Ideological and political work in the new era must effectively defuse all kinds of risks and meet all kinds of challenges with a tenacious fighting spirit. In social work, should actively adjust the negative mentality in social work, guide the negative emotion and provide suggestions to turn to positive state. In the face of the new situation of ideal and belief education, ideological and political work should strengthen reasoning ability, innovate ideal and belief education methods, and strive to achieve the effect of 'strong confidence, united people, warm heart, same faith'. In the face of the challenges brought by the internet, the majority of ideological and political workers should consciously improve their ability to use network technology, actively use network new media platforms, and be good at displaying the content of ideological and political work in the internet form favored by the masses, which can not only help answer the internet users' confusion, but also crack down on the extremist speech on the Internet. In the face of the severe challenge brought by international public opinion, ideological and political work should dare to draw swords. As the Communist Manifesto said, now is the time for communists to refute the myth of the spectre of communism with their manifesto. Ideological and political work should tell a good story about China, build up the national image and try to convey China's voice to the international community. The new era is a critical period full of risks, and also an era in which ideological and political work struggles against various risks and challenges. The new trend of ideological and political work will inevitably adapt to the trend of the times, and carry forward the core ideas on the basis of effectively solving problems.

5. Conclusion

The historical mission of ideological and political work revolves around the Party's historical mission and the 'Three Historical Tasks' in the new era. Therefore, the historical mission of ideological and political work in the new era is to gather China Strength, encourage the Chinese to continue to strive for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and continue to gather the ideological consensus of the people around the world, and actively promote the building of Community with a Shared Future for Mankind. Around this historical mission, ideological and political work needs to focus on several aspects of work. Firstly, take the 'Four Self-confidence' as the basis to build up solid foundation for the ideals and beliefs of the Chinese all ethnic groups. Secondly, Shoulder the responsibility of cultivating new people of The Times and rejuvenating the nation. Build the broadest patriotic united front and gather talents from all walks of life into the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Thirdly, gather strength worldwide. In order to unite the strength of all countries in the world, ideological and political work must combine 'Bringing In' with 'Going Out'. Learn from the effective experience of other countries' ideological and political work, and at the same time, introduce the successful experience of china's nearly one hundred years of hard work.

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