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## Ideological and Political Work Should Pay Attention to the Cultivation and Enhancement of the Quality of Educators and Educatees: Based on the Study of Chinese Communist Party's Ideological and Political Work During the Anti-Japanese War

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### Abstract

Ideological and political work is human-oriented work and it is an interactive process of educators and educatees. During the anti-Japanese war, no matter of anti-Japanese bases or the rear areas, the Chinese Communist Party not only emphasized the enhancement of educators' quality, but also enhanced the quality of educatees through appropriate approaches to ensure the efficiency of ideological and political work. The practice of CCP's ideological and political work during the anti-Japanese war tells us that, we must pay same attention to the cultivation and enhancement of the quality of educators and educatees in ideological and political work and either can be neglected.

**Key words:** Ideological and political work; Educators; Educatees; Cultivation; Quality

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### INTRODUCTION

Ideological and political work is human-oriented work and it is to educate, guide, train and shape people and mobilize the enthusiasm of people. It is a powerful weapon to inspire human potentials. It is the most difficult thing to conduct ideological work among people. The

process is interactive. the two sides in ideological and political work interaction in the process. Of course, as educators' duty dictates, generally they are in a dominant position and have a positive impact on the ideological situation of the educatees. The main quality of ideological and political educators and educatees is crucial for the effect of the educational work. During the anti-Japanese war, the top leaders of the Communist Party of China and a large number of elite forces were deeply rooted in the ideological and political work of the first line. The excellent quality of educators has laid a solid foundation for the validity of the ideological and political work. Meanwhile, due to the special environment of war, when the people at the time of national crisis, with the leading of the Communist Party of China, we see the development direction of China's Anti-Japanese War, and have a strong sense of fighting spirit, reflecting the good quality. This has laid a good mass foundation for the smooth implementation of the ideological and political work of the Communist Party of China. During the war, in bases or in the rear, Communist Party of China was relying on high-quality team engaged and focused on raising qualities of the people and the military and other objects of education to ensure the actual effect of ideological and political work. Through a comparative study of the Communist Party of China ideological and political work in the rear bases during the Anti-Japanese War, it tells us that the current ideological and political work must have a strong and effective workforce, and must greatly enhance the overall quality of educators and the educatees.

### 1. TO ESTABLISH A HIGH QUALITY IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL WORK TEAM

After the anti-Japanese war broke out, the Communist Party of China first established the correct political

direction of anti-Japanese national united front line, but the correct direction also needs the right people to have them implemented, otherwise it is all empty talk. Cadres would surely bear this historical responsibility and became crucial important factor. During the Anti-Japanese War, Ideological and political work of the Communist Party of China played a huge role in uniting and mobilizing the community to save the national crisis and fight back to Japan. A very important reason is that our Party attaches great importance to the establishment of our ideological and political team, and strives to make the team work have a full coverage. We set up a special agency in the Party, the army and the government, with a dedicated team of ideological and political work, forming a systematically network so as to have a highly qualified team of ideological and political work cadres. This high-quality political work team would lead by example, be loyal to the leadership of the Communist Party of China, and be capable of firmly and correctly implement the Party's guidance, principles and policies. It is this high-quality full-time political work team, during different Anti-Japanese War periods, for different social conflicts and complex social situation, launched a multi-level, comprehensive public education work, deftly handled the relationships between national struggle and class struggle, anti-Japanese War and the new-democratic revolution, and played an important role in the war mobilization, education and solidarity and work for uniting friendly parties and armies. Meanwhile, they have accumulated a lot of valuable experience in ideological and political work. Ideological and political work is particularly practical, requiring political staff personally set an example by their exemplary behavior to impact the educatees, making the educatees not only listen to his words, but also watch his deeds (Zhang, 2009).

Strong and effective workforce is the personnel guarantee to carry out ideological and political work. There is no point talking about the excellent work without excellent team, not to mention good results. On February 18, 2008, in the national organizational work meeting, Hu Jintao stressed that we should improve the Party's executive ability, build a high-quality team of cadres who are politically reliable, capable in terms of work, honesty and upright in life style and trusted by public. Educators who engage in educational activities must have excellent quality. In the current ideological and political work, we must strictly control the admission and pay attention to enhancing their theoretical and cultural qualities and ability to lay a solid foundation for their excellent ideological and political quality. First, we should pay attention to the theoretical quality training and upgrading of the ideological and political work staff. Correct theory is the premise and basis of firm political position. If educators do not have deep and correct theoretical knowledge, it is difficult for them to achieve theoretical self-confidence and it is difficult to win the heart of

educational objects and it will lack appeal and cohesion, so that the effect of ideological and political work will be greatly reduced. Second, we must pay attention to the cultural quality training and enhancing of the ideological and political work staff. The level of cultural quality has a crucial impact on one's comprehension ability and work ability. Educators need to read a lot and first become "eclectics", and then become "experts" of ideological and political work. Only with enough knowledge can they adapt to different objects and different environments as well as different challenges educatees rise from different perspectives regarding ideological issues and only with enough knowledge can they meet the needs of practical work. Third, we should focus on the ability of training and upgrading of ideological and political work staff. The theoretical and cultural qualities of educators as well as ideological and political quality formed under the protection of both have laid an important political foundation for ideological and political work, but these qualities need to be transformed into ability, converted to abilities to conduct research, grasp the state of mind of masses and their needs and the ability for actual work. Otherwise, the barrier from theory to the reality would hinder the realization of purposes of the ideological and political work.

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## 2. TO IMPROVE THE SUBJECT CONSCIOUSNESS AND SUBJECT QUALITY OF IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATORS

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The basic elements of ideological and political education system include educators, educatees, educational goals, educational content and methods, including the development plan, implementation and evaluation and so on. The effective implementation of ideological and political education depends on the effectiveness of each part and various factors. However, ideological and political education is man-to-man education, and that is educational activities between educators and educatees. In order to ensure effective education of educatees, educators must first be qualified and able to meet the educational requirements. From this we can see, educators are in a dominant position in various elements of ideological and political education. Educators as the teaching subject in ideological and political education, in order to educate effectively, should have the appropriate subject consciousness and subjective quality.

Subject consciousness means that ideological and political educators have a conscious and clear awareness of themselves, including ideological and political educators' understanding of their own dominant position, the leading role and specific missions in the whole ideological and political educational activities, as well as a comprehensive and profound understanding of the real and long-term meaning of their own

activities for the community and their educatees. (Shen, 2008, p.64)

When ideological and political educators have a strong subject consciousness, they are able to make the Party change ideological and political education content, methods and means in accordance with the changing situation and different ideological and political educatees and their changing needs so as to ensure the effectiveness of ideological and political education activities.

A strong subject consciousness is an important driving force for ideological and political educators to consciously carry out ideological and political education activities in the subject identity and with a sense of responsibility and it is an important condition to promote ideological and political educators to convert from ought-to-be educators to actual educators. (Ibid)

Ideological and political workers with a strong subject consciousness, especially Party leaders who directly or indirectly engage in ideological and political work, can actively carry out ideological and political education with a strong sense of subject and right strategies and approaches to become calls and organizers to unite strength of people and play a role in turning the tide of history at a critical moment which will decide the fate of the country.

As the subjects of teaching activities, in order to effectively fulfill their subjective features, Ideological and political educators not only need to have subjective consciousness, but also need to have the appropriate subjective qualities. Ideological and political educators' subject qualities include four aspects: political quality, personality quality, theoretical quality and ability quality.

Ideological and political education is an integral part of social ideology and ideological and political education has obvious political function, that is, through the cultivation of educatees, to make them meet specific class needs of political quality in order to promote political development. Thus, whether acknowledged or not, ideological and political education of all classes serves its own class with a distinct class character and is politically oriented. To achieve this functionality of ideological and political education, it requires educational content to meet the benefits of specific class. Ideological and political education should take politics as its core. To get educatees to accept such content, ultimately it has to rely on the teaching subject of ideological and political education—ideological and political educators. Ideological and political education must have excellent political qualities to ensure the completion of the task of ideological and political education.

Political quality is the soul and core of the quality of cadres. Political quality is “a particular quality which makes people to conduct various spiritual activities and practices to realize the fundamental interests of their class.” (Ponomarev, 1986, p.187)

The political qualities of ideological and political educators include many aspects, such as correct political

orientation and political views, firm political stance, a high degree of political responsibility, political discipline, political discrimination and political acumen and so on.

During the war, Party leaders (ideological and political educators) had correct political orientation and political views, firm political stance and a high degree of political discipline and they ensured the correctness of the political direction of ideological and political education during the Anti-Japanese War; during the war, Party leaders (ideological and political educators) had a high degree of political responsibility, encouraging them to put their best in the revolutionary ideological and political education to lay a solid foundation for the victory of the revolution; during the war, Party leaders (ideological and political educators) had a high political discrimination and political acumen. During the Anti-Japanese War, the Chinese Communist Party showed its vision and recognized and grasped the development direction of the war, starting from the national interest to develop and implement the correct guidance and policy for the war and fully demonstrating Party leaders' strong political quality in anti-Japanese War. They achieved the leadership of the anti-Japanese War.

Ideological and political educators need to have excellent moral qualities. Ideological and political education activities are not line pure knowledge education. Educators' moral qualities and words and deeds will be directly or indirectly affect the objects of education. If educators are duplicitous, saying one thing and doing another, it will be difficult to achieve the purpose and effect of education. Conversely, if the educators have a high morality, their education will achieve the effect of “working even without requiring since their deeds demonstrate everything”.

Ideological and political educators need to have good mental qualities. Ideological and political educators should be full of passion of ideological and political education and have a profound emotional interaction with their work, with their high moral characters to impact and educate their educational objects.

In the view of leadership, the so-called leadership is the force needed to properly use incentives and incentive methods to mobilize the completion of a specific task and to fully stimulate the enthusiasm of others and it can charge the former and be the first demonstration and play the leading role. During the war, Party leaders (ideological and political educators), with their passion for the revolution and the love of the people, were actively devoted in ideological and political work; meanwhile, with their noble moral characters, they set an example to impact and educate the majority of soldiers and civilians, and tied together with the majority of the people and got support from people. This laid a solid mass foundation for the war.

Ideological and political education is a type of persuasive education. Ideological and political educators,



as the teaching subjects, must have a profound theoretical knowledge to effectively preach related ideas and correctly interpret practical problems, so as to guide the objects of education to establish respective ideas and finally convert ideas into actions.

Weapon of criticism of course cannot replace the criticism of weapons. Physical force can only be destroyed by using physical force; but once the theory masters the masses, it will become a material force. As long as the theory is persuasive, it will be able to grasp the masses; as long as the theory is thorough, it can convince people. (*Selected Works of Marx and Engels [Vol. 1], 2012, p.10*)

Any political party is engaged in political activities under certain theoretical guidance. During the war, the Party's ideological and political educators showed a strong theoretical foundation. At the same time, they were good at learning, combining the situation to conduct theoretical thinking and innovation, with theories suitable for the situation to conduct ideological and political education, and guiding the revolutionary struggle. During the Anti-Japanese War, Mao Zedong and other Communists, stood at the high ground of history, with a historical look reviewing the reality, showed a strong insight and accurate foresight, and produced a great deal of theoretical writings, including *On Protracted War*, *On Approaches, Methods and Prospects against Japanese Attacks* and *On New Democracy* and other historical masterworks. These works systematically proposed the patriotic guidance, programs and strategies, reflecting the communists' great theoretical innovation, playing the role of a powerful spiritual force in boosting people's morale and educating the public, and providing a powerful spiritual weapon for the war.

Ideological and political educators need to have a solid ability quality. Ideological and political educators should not only focus on theoretical reserves, but also to focus on practical skills. They should conduct theoretical promotion and education with their superb practical ability.

Ideological and political educators' positive subject consciousness and excellent subject quality is an important basis for the effectiveness of the ideological and political education which can ensure them to play their leading role, play positive organizational functions, educational functions and regulatory functions, and lay the most important foundation for the effectiveness of entire ideological and political education.

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### 3. TO FULLY MOBILIZE THE ENTHUSIASM AND INITIATIVES OF THE EDUCATEES

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Ideological and political work is a man-to-man task which needs interaction and cooperation of the two parties. It needs transmission as well as reception. Therefore, the quality of the educatees, just like that of political cadres

and ideological and political educators, has a direct and important impact on the effect of the work.

#### 3.1 To Strengthen the Awareness of the Educatees' Position and Role in Ideological and Political Education

The traditional ideological and political work theory believes that in ideological and political work, political cadres and educators are at a dominant position and they decide the occurrence, development and results of ideological and political work. However, it is not true. In modern ideological and political education, the relationship between the educators and the educatees is equal and interactive. It is not the relation of dominating and being dominated, controlling and being controlled, but a two-way interactive relation between the educators and the educatees, which are different from that in traditional ideological and political education (Zhang et al., 2006).

Whether Ideological and political workers have an adequate and proper understanding of the position and role of the educatees in ideological and political work will have a huge impact on the effect of ideological and political work. If they view the educatees as entirely passive acceptance, educators will often be in a superior position and they will conduct work for granted according to their own subjective design and totally ignore the educatees' initiatives. This will inevitably lead to failure. On the contrary, if they can recognize the educatees' subjective initiatives, put them in a subject position to treat them, with full respect for their individual differences, for their different ages, physiological differences, psychological differences, as well as cultural quality, moral level, family background, differences in social experience, and etc., take targeted education, select the appropriate ways and means of education, and do not engage in unanimity and "one size fits all" education, to provide flexible education models and teaching methods to adapt to the needs of different groups and individuals. Only when the educatees' dominant position and subjectivity are affirmed, educators can start from the needs of the educatees, select appropriate content, and appropriate ways and means to educate, and fully mobilize the enthusiasm of the educatees and inspire their inner vitality to strive together for the goal of ideological and political work.

#### 3.2 To Improve the Quality of the Educatees and Meet Their Spiritual and Materials Needs

During Anti-Japanese War, the Communist Party of China carried out winter learning movement in the bases to eradicate illiteracy and greatly improve the cultural quality of the people, thereby increasing their level of awareness to help them see the development direction of the current situation; they also seized the opportunity to push public democratization movement in the rear areas, which also played the role to inspire wisdom and enhance the public's political consciousness and quality. A series of initiatives to emphasize the improvement of quality of people and

other educatees have become an important guarantee for the effectiveness of China's Communist ideological and political work during the war.

Educatees are full of emotions with several needs. To mobilize their enthusiasm to participate in ideological and political work, it is very difficult by preaching alone. With the fundamental needs of human beings, we must meet their material and spiritual needs, with the development of society whose standards should be increased accordingly. Marx and Engels pointed out: We should first determine the first premise of all human existence and the first premise of all history, and the premise is: in order to make history, people must be able to live a life; but in order to live a life, first of all, we need clothes, food, living space as well as other things. Therefore, the first historical activity is to produce these materials to meet these needs, i.e. the production of material life itself. The human spirit production is not an activity purely unrelated to material and the development of spiritual civilization needs certain material conditions. These material conditions are provided by material civilization. Only the basic material and spiritual needs of the educatees are met, they will have the basic conditions and needs for political activities. This is also the most fundamental reason why a political party, a national and political cadres can attract them. If the basic material and cultural needs of the educatees are not met, only preaching is absolutely not attractive to them and the realization of ideological and political education goals will become water without source and trees without roots.

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## CONCLUSION

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The success of Chinese Communist Party's ideological and political work practice in Anti-Japanese War tells us that, ideological and political work is an interaction between the educators and the educatees and it requires active participation and cooperation of both the educators and the educatees. The cultivation and enhancement of the quality of educators and educatees is an important part and guarantee to ensure of the effectiveness of ideological and political work. Our ideological and political work must focus on both of two aspects of the educators and the educatees to equally enhance the quality of them both.

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