

Original Paper

The “Two Roads” Spirit in Strengthening the Sense of
Community of the Chinese Nation: Internal Logic, Practical
Challenges and Implementation Paths

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the “Two Roads” spirit and explores its unique values and practical approaches in forging a strong sense of community of the Chinese nation in the new era. Research shows that the “Two Roads” spirit, supported by rich historical narratives, deep emotional connections and extensive interactive activities, provides solid spiritual nourishment and realistic carriers for the construction of the Chinese national community. In the meantime, consolidating the sense of community of the Chinese nation also provides clear guidance for inheriting and promoting the “Two Roads” spirit. The two goals are highly consistent and jointly serve the cause of ethnic unity and national community building. In view of practical challenges such as insufficient protection and development of cultural heritage sites, low efficiency in transforming historical value into economic benefits, the erosion of identity by historical nihilism, and inadequate social atmosphere that restricts ethnic exchanges and integration, this study puts forward a practical framework of “Consciousness-Inheritance-Innovation”. This framework transforms the “Two Roads” spirit into a driving force for ethnic interaction, communication and integration, and offers an operable model for ethnic regions.

Keywords

the “Two Roads” spirit, the sense of community of the Chinese nation, practical pathways

1. Introduction

Since the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, fostering a strong sense of community of the Chinese nation has become a major national strategy. It was included in the Party Constitution in 2017. A legislative proposal was put forward in 2024, and the Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress was officially promulgated in 2026. As an important part of revolutionary culture, the “Two Roads” spirit provides an important model for enhancing ethnic cohesion and strengthening the sense of community of the Chinese nation.

Although existing research has confirmed its significance, problems such as incomplete working mechanisms and backward resource development still exist. Therefore, this paper proposes a practical path of “Consciousness-Inheritance-Innovation”. Through multi-stakeholder cooperation, long-term mechanism construction and digital communication methods, it aims to boost deeper interaction and integration among all ethnic groups.

In the early years of the People’s Republic of China, the Party and the government built the two Roads to safeguard national unity and border stability. Soldiers and civilians of all ethnic groups overcame countless difficulties and completed these projects, which improved transportation conditions, promoted exchanges among ethnic groups, and laid an important foundation for the formation of a sense of community. The “Two Roads” spirit formed in this process includes the qualities of fearing neither hardship nor death, tenacious struggle, willingness to contribute, unity between the military and the people, and ethnic solidarity. Carrying forward this spirit helps to strengthen the sense of community among all ethnic groups and advance the construction of the Chinese national community.

2. The Internal Logic of the “Two Roads” Spirit in Consolidating the Sense of Community of the Chinese Nation

The “Two Roads” spirit is the spiritual outcome formed in the construction and maintenance of the two Roads. Its core connotation is highly consistent with the value orientation of forging the sense of community of the Chinese nation. In the early days of the People’s Republic of China, the construction of the two highways was a heroic cause jointly completed by soldiers and people of all ethnic groups. It laid a solid foundation of shared interests, emotional integration and shared destiny for the formation of the sense of community of the Chinese nation.

Logically speaking, the “Two Roads” spirit provides spiritual nourishment and a vivid carrier for forging a strong sense of community of the Chinese nation, and embodies the political community, cultural community and community of shared destiny. Meanwhile, strengthening the sense of community of the Chinese nation points out the direction for promoting the “Two Roads” spirit in the new era. Under the principle of complementarity, unity and goal alignment, the two achieve value integration and goal convergence.

2.1 The “Two Roads” Spirit as Spiritual Nourishment and Carrier for Forging the Sense of Community of the Chinese Nation

The “Two Roads” spirit took shape in the construction and protection of the two highways. It carries the memory of arduous years and the persistent pursuit of people of all ethnic groups, and contains the spiritual qualities of courage, selfless dedication and joint progress. As spiritual nourishment and a practical carrier for forging the sense of community of the Chinese nation, it promotes communication and interaction among ethnic groups and deepens emotional bonds and mutual recognition.

By presenting vivid historical events and individual stories, it is highly accessible and has become an important force for national unity and progress. In the process of building the sense of community of the Chinese nation, the “Two Roads” spirit fully demonstrates the power of ethnic unity and leaves a precious spiritual legacy. Deepening the understanding and practice of this spirit helps promote ethnic integration and development, and lays a solid foundation for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

2.2 Strengthening the Sense of Community of the Chinese Nation as Guidance for Upholding the “Two Roads” Spirit

The work of forging the sense of community of the Chinese nation must be integrated with concrete actions. The “Two Roads” spirit is a powerful spiritual force formed in the construction of the two highways, which reflects the firm conviction and fearless spirit of the Chinese nation. It drives social progress and promotes ethnic unity, and advocates the establishment of a community concept featuring shared destiny.

In carrying forward this spirit, we must keep in mind the mission of promoting ethnic unity and safeguarding national unity, turn the spirit of responsibility and dedication into concrete actions, and guide all ethnic groups to strive for unity and common prosperity. This spirit not only commemorates the difficult past but also inspires people to move forward. In the new era, we must continue to strengthen ethnic unity, enrich its connotation, and make it a strong driving force for national rejuvenation.

2.3 Convergence of Goals: Joint Promotion of Ethnic Unity and Integration

The “Two Roads” spirit and the goal of forging the sense of community of the Chinese nation share the same purpose, both aiming to advance ethnic unity. The former demonstrates the power of unity through historical practice, while the latter provides theoretical and institutional support. The two complement each other and jointly promote the construction of the Chinese national community.

Originating from the construction of the two highways, the “Two Roads” spirit embodies the spirit of joint struggle of soldiers and civilians of all ethnic groups, and constitutes the inherent foundation of the sense of community of the Chinese nation. The sense of community of the Chinese nation, as a systematic ideological concept, provides direction for inheriting the “Two Roads” spirit. It requires us to translate spiritual strength into practical actions, promote exchanges and cooperation among ethnic groups, and realize common development.

3. Practical Challenges in Applying the “Two Roads” Spirit to Strengthen the Sense of Community of the Chinese Nation

In practice, there are still many realistic difficulties in using the “Two Roads” spirit to strengthen the sense of community of the Chinese nation. Constrained by the level of economic development, the capacity for the protection and development of cultural heritage is insufficient, which affects the transformation of economic benefits. In publicity and education, historical nihilism interferes with the formation of cultural identity.

At the social level, the overall atmosphere needs to be improved, which is not conducive to the sustained progress of ethnic interaction, exchange and integration, and brings negative impacts to the cultivation of the sense of community of the Chinese nation.

3.1 Economic Dimension: Insufficient Protection and Development Restrict the Transformation of Economic Benefits

The “Two Roads” spirit is an important part of red cultural resources. Its protection and development capacity directly affect the transformation of economic benefits and sustainable development. At present, there are obvious shortcomings in this field. On the one hand, the protection of historical sites and relics is insufficient, lacking effective mechanisms and measures, leading to the damage and loss of cultural resources. On the other hand, the exploration of economic value is not in-depth, lacking innovative models and diversified industrial paths, so that economic potential cannot be fully released. In terms of protection, due to the lack of overall planning and capital investment, many sites are in poor condition; the management team and supervision system are not perfect, resulting in superficial protection. In terms of development, the model is relatively single, mainly relying on traditional tourism, which easily leads to excessive commercialization and cultural alienation. At the same time, insufficient innovation restricts the improvement of overall benefits.

3.2 Publicity Dimension: Historical Nihilism Impedes the Construction of Cultural Identity

Historical nihilism seriously hinders the promotion of the “Two Roads” spirit and the consolidation of the sense of community of the Chinese nation. It denies or distorts historical facts, weakens the value of the “Two Roads” spirit, damages cultural identity and ethnic unity, and endangers social stability.

Historical nihilism erodes the national spirit by fabricating history, glorifying aggression and slandering heroes. In online communication, it denies the leadership of the Party and the government and the participation of the people in road construction; it exaggerates sacrifices and difficulties while ignoring the positive effects of road construction on regional connection, accelerated development and deeper ethnic integration.

These sensational and superficial narratives distort the deeds of heroes and mislead the cognition of young people. The “Two Roads” spirit is a precious treasure of the Chinese nation. We must take strong measures to maintain historical authenticity, carry forward the “Two Roads” spirit, and make contributions to realizing the Chinese Dream.

3.3 Social Dimension: Inadequate Social Atmosphere Restricts Ethnic Interaction and Integration

In a pluralistic social environment, forging the sense of community of the Chinese nation is of great importance, which is related to national unity, social stability and cultural inheritance. This process is not only a process of enhancing the identity of the motherland, nation, culture, the Party and socialism, but also a process of strengthening national cohesion, ethnic solidarity and social integration.

However, the influence of narrow separatist ideas still exists, which may spread through social sentiment and online public opinion and damage ethnic unity. In addition, individualism, consumerism and historical nihilism have impacted collectivism, patriotism and community values, affecting people's value judgments. These factors are not conducive to the construction of shared historical memory and the smooth progress of ethnic interaction and integration.

4. Practical Paths for the “Two Roads” Spirit to Strengthen the Sense of Community of the Chinese Nation

After clarifying the realistic challenges faced by the “Two Roads” spirit in forging the sense of community of the Chinese nation, it is particularly critical to explore effective practical paths. This part will further analyze and explain the paths for the “Two Roads” spirit to strengthen the sense of community of the Chinese nation.

4.1 Consciousness: Promoting Multi-stakeholder Participation to Create a Favorable Atmosphere

To carry forward the “Two Roads” spirit and consolidate the sense of community of the Chinese nation, joint participation of multiple subjects is essential. As the core subject of social governance, the government should play a leading role, formulate relevant policies and plans, and provide strong institutional support.

Schools, as important positions of education, should carry out targeted teaching and research, integrate the sense of community of the Chinese nation into classroom teaching, and enhance students' national pride and cultural identity. The media, as the main channel of communication, should strengthen publicity and expand social influence through television, radio, newspapers and internet platforms.

Enterprises and social organizations can participate by funding projects and holding public welfare activities. Communities and villages can carry out cultural exchanges and ethnic unity activities to promote communication among residents and enhance their sense of community.

4.2 Inheritance: Improving Working Mechanisms to Enhance the Effectiveness of Spirit Inheritance

Improving working mechanisms is an important way to strengthen the effectiveness of inheriting the “Two Roads” spirit. As precious spiritual wealth, the inheritance and promotion of this spirit need scientific and systematic mechanisms. First, clarify the responsibilities of various departments and form a collaborative work pattern. Second, strengthen coordination, supervision and inspection, build regular communication channels, solve practical problems in a timely manner, and ensure the implementation of work.

At the same time, long-term platforms such as education bases and research bases should be built to

make the inheritance of the “Two Roads” spirit sustainable. Through clarifying responsibilities, strengthening coordination and improving mechanisms, the “Two Roads” spirit will glow with stronger vitality in the new era.

4.3 Innovation: Using New Media to Expand the Communication Channels of the “Two Roads” Spirit

New media provides an important platform for expanding the influence of the “Two Roads” spirit. We can make full use of Weibo, WeChat, short videos and other channels for communication, apply VR, AR and other technologies to create immersive experiences, and carry out online and offline integrated communication activities.

Meanwhile, we must strengthen historical education, establish a correct view of history, resist historical nihilism, and ensure the authenticity and seriousness of the “Two Roads” spirit. New media expands communication coverage and enhances interaction; short videos make core values more vivid; digital technologies improve the vividness of education.

The combination of online and offline can reach more groups and enhance communication effects. In the process of using new media, we must not ignore historical education, resist wrong thoughts, and ensure the correct inheritance of spiritual connotation.

5. Conclusion

In the exploration and practice of using the “Two Roads” spirit to forge the sense of community of the Chinese nation, positive progress has been made in both theoretical interpretation and practical promotion. The values contained in the “Two Roads” spirit, such as patriotism, collectivism, unity between the military and the people, and ethnic solidarity, are constantly transformed into important spiritual resources that enhance the identity of all ethnic groups and promote interaction and integration.

In the future, we need to further strengthen research on the contemporary value, theoretical connotation and practical paths of the “Two Roads” spirit, so as to better integrate it into ideological and political education, ethnic unity work, revolutionary culture communication and social practice. This will help enhance the understanding, identity and practice of the sense of community of the Chinese nation in the whole society, especially among young people.

Through continuous theoretical deepening, practical innovation and social joint efforts, the “Two Roads” spirit will become a strong driving force for forging the sense of community of the Chinese nation, and inject more powerful spiritual strength into the construction of the Chinese national community and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

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