

## *Original Paper*

# The Red Boat Spirit Leads the University's Ideal and Belief Education Path from the Perspective of Identity Theory

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### **Abstract**

*The Red boat spirit is the spirit formed by the Communist Party of China during the revolution, which contains rich ideals and beliefs and educational resources. It is a spiritual pillar for the construction and development of the CPC itself, so it has a unique value for guiding the ideal and belief education of college students. Identity theory provides a new perspective for exploring the era value of the Red Boat spirit leading the ideal and belief education in colleges and universities. At present, the public, especially college students' awareness and recognition of the Red Boat spirit deserve more in-depth study. Through the exploration and integration of theory and practice, this paper plans from the following aspects: the guidance of Red Boat spirit to college students' ideal and belief education, the improvement of the effectiveness of college students' ideal and belief education, the core of which is to grasp the essential point of agreement between the Red Boat spirit and college students' ideals and beliefs, find the agreement between the two from the perspective of homology and identity, explore the role of improving the Red Boat spirit culture in leading college students' ideals and beliefs, and enhance the university students' awareness and identity of the Red Boat spirit.*

### **Keywords**

*the Red Boat spirit, identity theory, ideals and beliefs, education path*

### **1. Introduction**

The Red Boat Spirit has played an important spiritual leading role in the socialist revolution and construction period led by the CPC. It is of great significance to the construction of universities in the ideological field. The new characteristics of college students in the new era, especially the characteristics of students born after 2000, deserve attention. Reviewing the essence of the Red Boat spirit and exploring the education path of ideals and beliefs of college students from the perspective of identity theory are of great value to the times.

## **2. The Times Connotation of the Red Boat Spirit and Ideals and Beliefs**

### *2.1 Identity Theory*

In psychology, the process of cognitive and emotional convergence between individuals and people, groups and things in their living environment during their growth is called identity. The process of receiving, cognition, internalization and identification of external people and things has been widely used in academic research. It is of great value to study the problems in the field of consciousness formed by individuals in social activities on the basis of identity theory.

### *2.2 The Times Connotation of the Red Boat Spirit*

The Red Boat Spirit was formed when the CPC explored the path of the independence of the Chinese nation. It is the spiritual crystallization of the youth groups exploring national independence in the early days of the Chinese revolution. Not only did it play an important spiritual guiding role in the Chinese revolution at that time, but it was also of great significance in the construction of socialism with characteristics in the new era, especially in the ideological field. Although the Red Boat spirit was born in the early revolutionary course of the CPC, the core body carrying the Red Boat spirit is the Chinese Communists, and the leading core of the socialist construction in the new era is also the CPC. The spiritual essence contained in the Red Boat spirit is in the same vein as the ideas of mass innovation, entrepreneurship, and the realization of the “Chinese Dream” in the new era. In the new era, China’s socialist construction has entered a decisive period. Problems and contradictions in various fields of society are also relatively concentrated and tense. In particular, college students are facing serious problems such as wavering ideals and beliefs on the road to socialism with Chinese characteristics and lack of core values.

## **3. The Status Quo of Ideal and Belief Education in Colleges and Universities**

The CPC is about to turn 100 years old. Looking back at the party’s history, among 19 important documents that emerged, ideals and beliefs have become a prominent problem. The areas of rational beliefs of individual citizens in our country have undergone tremendous changes, especially in the field of core values for college students. Since the founding of the party, ideal and belief education is the secret of our party’s success and an important magic weapon for the party’s continuous self-improvement and development. Ideals and beliefs are the “master switch”. Education on ideals and beliefs is an important ideological weapon to guide the healthy growth of contemporary college students, establish strong core values, and realize the ideals of college students.

Lack of faith has become the first social pathology. In the new era, colleges and universities welcome a new group of college students- the millennial, which were born and grew up in a period of rapid development of the Internet. The group has relatively low interest in red culture such as the Red Boat spirit, low awareness and recognition of the CPC, and indifference to the cause of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. From the perspective of individual college students, there is a lack of core belief, a lack of sense of direction for their future life, a lack of struggle consciousness and enterprising

spirit. In the process of cultivating and guiding college students to establish ideals and beliefs, the following problems exist:

### *3.1 The Goals of College Students' Ideals and Beliefs are Ambiguous*

Although the education of college students' ideals and beliefs in our country adheres to the principle of "people-oriented", the ultimate goal of establishing the ideals and beliefs of college students in our country has yet to be formed. In the process of ideal and belief education for college students in our country, the goal setting still does not meet the needs of social development in our country. In the ideal and belief education for college students, we should persist in concretizing the abstract and improve the students' identification. High standards should be normalized to enhance students' acceptance. Let what is called for and advocated conform to the needs of our real life, make the ideals and beliefs of college students coordinate in theory and action, and thoroughly solve the problem of serious disjunction between "reality" in the form and "emptiness" in the content, and between "knowledge" and "practice" in the education of ideals and beliefs of college students.

### *3.2 The Content of Ideal and Belief Education for College Students Emphasizes Theory over Practice*

Only by adhering to the combination of theory and practice can the ideal and belief education of college students have strong vitality. At present, the main way for Chinese college students to receive ideal and belief education is ideological and political theory courses. Most of the ideological and political theory courses in China have not yet combined theory with practice, and too many courses are set up on purely theoretical teaching. The content of ideal and belief education is monotonous, simple theoretical education, the teaching form is too single, lack of interaction, and students' individual active participation is not high, which makes ideal and belief education unable to sublimate into students' practical ideals and beliefs.

### *3.3 The Ideal and Belief Education Methods for College Students Emphasizes Standardization rather than Care*

At present, in the practice of college students' ideal and belief education in our country's colleges and universities, the educational methods are monotonous and lack of innovation. The content design of ideal and belief education for college students pays too much attention to the standard requirements, which makes it clear "what should be done" and "what should not be done". This is moralizing education. Due to insufficient attention to the ideological situation and inner needs of college students in the new era and lack of humanistic care, rational belief education is difficult to reach the students "minds, cannot meet students" spiritual needs, is not easy to be subjectively recognized and accepted by individual students. Therefore, the timeliness of ideal and belief education in colleges and universities cannot be realized.

#### **4. The Intrinsic Correspondence between College Students' Ideals and Beliefs and the Red Boat Spirit**

The Red Boat spirit condenses the values of the CPC. Similarly, the core of university students' ideals and beliefs is the struggle and pursuit of individual values and goals. It is the driving force for the continuous growth and progress of individual college students. It reflects the correspondence between the Red Boat spirit and the core of college students' ideals and beliefs. In the new era, the Red Boat spirit not only plays an important role in guiding the CPC but also plays an important role in guiding the young college students. The Red Boat spirit is integrated into college students' ideals and beliefs, guiding college students to realize their individual goals in life while practicing their core values.

##### *4.1 College Students' Ideals and Beliefs Share the Same Origin with the Red Boat Spirit*

No matter in any era, college students are not only the trendsetters of the times but also the creators and propagandists of the spirit of the times. They have the courage to abandon old ideas and old things, create new ideas and new things, focus on the interests of the people, and constantly strive for success are the essential spiritual characters of college students in the new era. College students must first ideologically agree with the significance of the spiritual essence of the Red Boat spirit on their individual growth. In the process of realizing their individual goals, they should dare to break through thinking, possess the spirit of dedication, keep forging ahead, and integrate the realization of individual goals into the national and ethnic undertakings.

##### *4.2 The Ideals and Beliefs of College Students and the Red Boat Spirit Go Hand in Hand*

The Red Boat Spirit was born during the CPC's exploration of the independence of the Chinese nation and the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Young people are the inheritors of the Chinese nation's spirit, and they are also the advocators and practitioners of the Red Boat spirit. The firmness and clarity of college students' ideals and beliefs are directly related to the realization of the rejuvenation of our nation. The Red Boat spirit is an important spirit formed by the youth groups in the early stage of the Chinese revolution to achieve national independence. The characteristics of the college student group in the new era are the cornerstone of the effective promotion of the Red Boat spirit. College students should continuously learn and deeply grasp the essence of the Red Boat spirit, externalize into practice, strengthen their ideals and beliefs, and fulfill the dream of national rejuvenation in the process of realizing their individual life ideals.

The spirit of innovation, struggle, and dedication is an indispensable spirit for the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and a spiritual magic weapon for college students to realize their ideals and beliefs in life. The decisive period of the socialist road with Chinese characteristics in the new era requires the whole nation to continue to carry forward the spirit of bearing hardships and standing hard work, to boldly innovate and seek new development ideas, and to contribute to the realization of the goal of socialist construction with Chinese characteristics. The core of the Red Boat spirit forms part of the core values of university students, and the two have internal consistency. By integrating the Red Boat spirit into the ideal and belief education in colleges and universities, and relying on the form of

activities acceptable to college students, it can attract college students to take the initiative to feel faith and firm their ideals in the activities.

## **5. Clarify the Several Paths that the Red Boat Spirit Leads to the Ideal and Belief Education of College Students**

The Red Boat spirit is based on the identity theory. Through a deep grasp of the spiritual essence of the Red Boat spirit and its promotion path, college students can consciously adjust their internal concepts and external behaviors to generate a value identity of the Red Boat spirit. In this process, they can have a deep grasp of the relationship between individuals and the Red Boat spirit and externalize the essence of the Red Boat spirit into behavioral guidance. As a real person, the individual's development needs are related to the existing world, and you will have regulations, missions, and tasks to face them. Similarly, only when college students have a sense of mission and responsibility can they truly realize the significance of ideals and beliefs to individual growth. In the traditional sense, the content design of ideal and belief education focuses on college students' lofty social ideals, while ignoring the actual situation of individual college students and lacking guidance on the construction of college students' short-term ideals and general ideals. As a result, the formation of ideal and belief education for college students deviates from the students' reality, and the timeliness of ideals and beliefs is much lower than expected. In the new era, college students' ideal and belief education has been launched, especially after the new generation-the millennial, we must base ourselves on the characteristics of the college student group, and use the Red Boat spirit to cultivate college students with innovative thinking, courage to struggle and dedication in the process of personality construction.

### *5.1 Explore the Red Boat Spirit and Innovate the Ideal and Belief Education Methods*

In the process of shaping the ideals and beliefs of college students, external perceptual intervention is needed in the personality level of the students to form an isomorphic relationship between the external spiritual culture and the students' subjective psychological identity, and alleviate the vacuum of ideals and beliefs. At the same time, through the integration of external rational education into students' perceptual personality, students' perceptual part will be rationalized to form a value-oriented attitude beyond individual practical utility part, and the core ideals and beliefs will be shaped.

The education of college students' ideals and beliefs must also meet the requirements of the times, break the traditional thinking and innovate education methods. For example, the integrated and interactive reform of "class ideological politics" and "ideological and political class" adopted by colleges and universities aims at educating college students' ideals and beliefs in a multi-dimensional, multi-perspective and multi-level way, thus opening the inner world of college students from the perspective of their individual morals, and guiding them to gain individual comprehensive development. From another perspective, college students are constantly awakening, positioning themselves, and motivating themselves, and strive to achieve their overall development subjectively. Dedication is the spirit of the early revolutionaries to achieve the independence of the Chinese nation. The formation of

college students' ideals and beliefs requires the selfless efforts of ideological and political workers in colleges and universities, and also requires the dedication of individual college students in achieving self-development and socialist construction. "Class ideological politics, ideological and political class" is proposed by Jiaying University, a university located in the birthplace of the Red Boat spirit, to improve the effect of ideological and political education, and integrate the content of ideological and political teaching into other courses in university. While learning theoretical knowledge, teachers and students also learned about the theory of the country, and the education of ideals and beliefs has achieved remarkable results.

### *5.2 Create a Good External Environment and Cultivate Ideals and Beliefs of College Students*

Ideals and beliefs are problems in the individual's inner spiritual world. Apart from being influenced by the individual's inner psychological choices, the external environment exerts a subtle influence on the individual's consciousness and spiritual level. In terms of social and cultural environment, during the continuous deepening of the country's reform and opening up process, the diversification of social ideological trends in the market economy and the phenomenon of corruption in China have affected the acceptance of college students' ideals and beliefs in educational content to a certain extent. Take the red case in the Red Boat spirit, rely on the external physical expression of the Red Boat spirit, promote positive energy, guide students to correctly understand the history of the party, subjectively agree with the party's philosophy, and build confidence in the country and the party. In terms of family environment, family is the key to the formation of individual ideal and belief education for college students, and the influence of family tradition on individual growth is of great significance. In the new era, Xi Jinping emphasizes the construction of family tradition. A good family tradition and a positive and upward family style play an important decisive role in the formation of individual college students' positive optimism. The campus cultural environment has a great influence on college students' ideals and beliefs. Colleges and universities should keep pace with the times and develop various campus cultures that meet the needs of college students according to the characteristics of college students. For example, the secondary colleges of Jiaying University, the local university of Jiaying where the red boat sailed, base their party building work on professional characteristics, and under the guidance of the Red Boat spirit, it builds the characteristics of the party building brand and actively guides the development of student party members. The School of Grammar and Law of Jiaying University demonstrated a period of historical time carried by a red boat through the drama "Original Aspiration". The actors of the drama are student actors. Students can deeply experience the spirit of the Red Boat, understand the spirit of the Red Boat, and strengthen their ideals and beliefs.

### *5.3 Dredge the Channels of New Media and Improve the Timeliness of Ideal and Belief Education*

New media has become an important part of college students' daily life. Ideological and political work in colleges and universities must also be adapted to the situation. According to the needs of students, the educational functions of new media should be developed as soon as possible, and the channels of educational functions of new media should be cleared. Ideological and political education in colleges

and universities has formed a mixed activity form of online and offline activities to spread the core values of socialism and achieve the effect of ideological and political education while entertaining students. Using micro-platforms to grasp the ideological trend of forum space, establishing a network platform to carry forward core values, such as Jiaying University uses its Red Boat Spirit Pioneer Learning Platform to carry forward the Red Boat spirit, publicize new achievements in the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics, transmit positive energy, and guide college students to establish correct ideas, identify bad information and establish firm ideals and beliefs. Dredge the channels of new media, form a combination of online and offline ideological and political education path, and form the resultant force of ideal and belief education for college students.

#### *5.4 Improve the Theoretical Cultivation of Ideological and Political Workers and Form a Joint Force of Ideological and Political Education Teams*

In the process of education, the Red Boat spirit is combined with the theoretical achievements of Marxism's sinicization, the Red Boat spirit is incorporated into the core value concept, and vivid cases are adopted to make the Red Boat spirit appear, so that college students can deepen their understanding of the party's revolutionary spirit and their recognition of ideals and beliefs. The improvement of ideal and belief education in colleges and universities requires a team of teachers with high theoretical accomplishments. The realization of the timeliness of ideal and belief education for college students depends in large part on the overall quality of the teachers (theoretical literacy, professional ability, etc.). The "two lessons" teachers, counselors, and professional teachers should design the teaching contents of theoretical classes according to the characteristics of students in the new era and enrich the teaching forms of social practice. Higher education workers (not limited to ideological and political education workers) grasp the essence of the theoretical achievements of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and as guides of rational beliefs must ideologically agree with the party's values. Teachers should form a positive atmosphere, set an example, spread positive energy, and provide high-quality human support for ideal and belief education in colleges and universities.

## **6. Conclusion**

From the perspective of identity theory, we should study and grasp the law of individual acceptance of spiritual culture, and find out the internal agreement between college students' ideals and beliefs and the Red Boat spirit. Starting from the connotation of the Red Boat spirit, this paper explores the paths of ideal and belief education for college students: creating a good external environment for ideal and belief education for college students, dredging new media channels to improve the timeliness of ideal and belief education for college students, and the key to the construction of the team of ideal and belief education for college students. Studying the spread of the Red Boat spirit in the ideals and beliefs of college students from the perspective of identity theory, on the one hand, it provides a new perspective for the better spread of the Red Boat spirit, and on the other hand, it provides a rich content for the education of ideals and beliefs in universities.

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