

## New Understanding of the Chinese Dream

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### Abstract

**As the new force of the Chinese dream of great rejuvenation, contemporary college students undertake the important mission of sticking to, believing in and practicing the Chinese dream. Contemporary college students should stick to the source of pursuing dreams from the struggle and practice of the party's original heart and mission; firmly believe in the idea of building dreams from the value orientation of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation; practice the road of realizing dreams from the global perspective of the people's pursuit of happy life, and release the youth dreams in the practice of the unity of knowledge and practice of the Chinese dream.**

### Keywords

**Chinese dream; college students; perseverance; conviction; practice.**

### 1. Introduction

Realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is the greatest dream of the Chinese nation since modern times[1]. At present, the academic discussions around the Chinese dream mainly focus on the realization path of the Chinese dream, the relying power of the Chinese dream, the essential connotation of the Chinese dream, the important leading role of the Chinese dream, etc. They further find that the Chinese dream needs to start from three perspectives, which are original aspiration and mission of the Party, successful practice of "Three Great Leaps", and the goal of people's happiness in life. Only by fully recognizing the Chinese dream can we better fight for the Chinese dream of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

### 2. The Perspective of Pursuing Dream: Sticking to the Source of Dream Pursuing from the Struggle Practice of the Party's Original Aspiration and Mission

To seek happiness for the Chinese people and to rejuvenate the Chinese nation is the original aspiration and mission of the Communist Party of China, and it is the fundamental motivation for inspiring generations of Chinese Communists to go forward and succeed bravely[2]. The Communist Party of China has always remembered and adhered to its original aspiration and mission at the beginning of pursuing dreams in different historical periods.

(1) The Communist Party of China represented by Mao Zedong: clarifying the Party's original aspiration and mission

Mao Zedong had already clarified his original aspiration and mission in his youth. In 1919, Mao Zedong wrote in the proclamation of The Shian Kian Weekly Review, "The time has come! The tide of the world is more urgent! The gate of Dongting Lake has moved and opened! The mighty new wave of thought has been surging on both sides of the Xiangjiang River. Those who follow it will survive, while the rest will die" [3]. The ambition of Mao Zedong was to save the nation from crisis, and lead the Communist Party of China and the Chinese nation to realize the Chinese dream through the right path. The Communist Party of China, represented by Mao Zedong, united and led the Chinese people in 28 years of bloody battles. They defeated Japanese

imperialism, overthrew the reactionary rule of Kuomintang, completed the new democratic revolution, and established the People's Republic of China[4]. Since then, they have led hundreds of millions of people to explore the road to struggle for the prosperity of the country, the rejuvenation of the nation, and the happiness of the people. Not long after the founding of the People's Republic of China, China has initially established an independent and complete industrial system and national economic system, and independently developed "two bombs and one satellite" to provide material security and institutional support for the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In 1919, Mao Zedong was 26 years old. The average age of the 13 delegates was 28 years old when the first national congress of the Communist Party of China was held. They had ideals and beliefs, national identity, and a moral spirit. They dared to make good efforts, stay motivated, and stick to the end. It was the tenacity of those Chinese people that led the Chinese nation to the path of pursuing dreams.

(2) Chinese Communists represented by Deng Xiaoping: fulfilling the party's original aspiration and mission

Deng Xiaoping devoted all his life to practice the party's original aspiration and mission. After the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee, the development of China has ushered in a new stage. Deng Xiaoping focused on solving major social contradictions. He promoted the transformation of China towards economic construction. Under his leadership, China gradually shifted from closed door to opened up, from conservative to comprehensive reform. Deng Xiaoping was determined to shift the focus of the work of the whole party to the construction of socialist modernization, and made major decisions on reform and opening up. During this period, the party's original aspiration and mission was to unite and lead the people of all ethnic groups throughout the country, in order to liberate and develop productivity, and build socialist market economy, democratic politics, advanced culture, a harmonious society, and a beautiful China, thus to achieve common prosperity for the people and continuous national revitalization with unremitting efforts[5]. Deng Xiaoping has embarked on a path of socialism with Chinese characteristics in this unremitting exploration of his original aspiration and mission. He drew up a blueprint for socialist modernization. Deng Xiaoping's life is closely connected with the historical process of Chinese revolution, construction, and reform, and closely connected with the Chinese nation's historical process of struggle, independence, and rejuvenation.[6]. His life is glorious, magnificent, persistent and dauntless.

(3) The Party Central Committee with General Secretary Xi Jinping at the core: strengthening the party's original aspiration and mission

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping has strengthened the party's original aspiration and mission. From the 18th National Congress to the 19th National Congress, from the National Museum in Tiananmen Square in Beijing to the "Mother Ship" of the Party in Shanghai and Jiaying, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphatically pointed out that Chinese Communists in the new era must always "remain true to our original aspiration and keep our mission firmly in mind." Entering a new era, under the main contradictions of the new society, the original aspiration and mission of the Communist Party of China also endowed it with a new era. On the one hand, optimizing the economic structure, keeping the economy operating in a reasonable range, and laying a more solid material guarantee for building a well-off society and a powerful modern socialist country. On the other hand, fighting the three tough battles, and taking the people's diverse and multi-level needs for a better life as the starting point and end point of all the theories and practices of the party's governance, more comprehensively promoting the overall layout of the "economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological progress" and coordinating the promotion of the layout of "four-pronged comprehensive strategy". General Secretary Xi Jinping used the feeling of "I will be selfless and live up to the people" as the original aspiration and mission of building up the Chinese Communists. In the struggle of the original aspiration and mission, they have the

courage to pursue their dreams, stick to their original aspirations, and fulfill the historical mission given by the times.

### **3. The Perspective of Building Dream: From the Goal of the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation, Firmly Believe in the Faith of Building A Dream**

The realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is the greatest dream of the Chinese nation in modern times. The successful practice of the “Three Great Leaps” has witnessed the course of national rejuvenation. If the rise of Chinese nation was the prerequisite and basis for a great rejuvenation, and the drive of reforming and opening up was conditions and support, then the ultimate goal of national rejuvenation is strengthening the new era.

#### **(1) Standing up is the premise and foundation**

Standing up is the premise and foundation of the Chinese nation’s great revival of the Chinese dream, and it is also the historical process in which Mao Zedong led the people of the whole country to fight and seek humiliation, and realize the independence of the Chinese nation and the liberation of the people. At the first Political Consultative Conference, Mao Zedong solemnly declared “Our work will be written in the history of mankind, and it will show that the Chinese, who account for one quarter of the total number of human beings, have stood up since then” [7]. Chinese people pursued the dream of standing up for 109 years. Since 1840, people with lofty ideals have begun their dream-traveling journey to save the nation’s peril, to the Chinese Communist Party’s baton to catch up with the trend of the times, and then to the party to lead the people to overthrow the “Three Mountains” and establish a new China. It is not easy to complete the hardship of standing up. From the exploration of the peasant class, the practice of enlightening landlord class, the self-salvation of the bourgeois reformists, the practice of the bourgeois democratic revolutionists, and the path of the Chinese Communists in pursuing dreams, every piece of history needs the hardening of blood and fire, the struggle between life and death, the courage, enterprising, innovation, adventure, boldness and even sacrifice [8]. The average age of “The Six Gentlemen of 1898” was 37 years old when they were brave, and the pioneers of the May 4th Movement were young students. The average age of the First Party Representative was 28 years old. They were the restless and unyielding reform youths. The young people who resisted the war of fire and water, the young people who built New China on the ruins, and the socialist youth who dedicated their motherland on the road of peace always cherished the Chinese dream, and exchanged the great leap of the Chinese nation with youth and struggle.

#### **(2) Getting rich is the condition and support**

Getting rich is the condition and support of the Chinese nation’s great revival of the Chinese dream, and it is also Deng Xiaoping’s lifelong ideal of adhering to reform and opening up to achieve comprehensive national strength improvement and people’s prosperity. After Deng Xiaoping proposed to build socialism with Chinese characteristics at the 12th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, a nationwide upsurge of reform and opening up was launched. On the one hand, the reform has gone through the process from the contract responsibility system of rural households to the comprehensive reform of the urban economic system. Economic construction was completed on schedule from the “Seventh Five-Year Plan” to the “Twelfth Five-Year Plan”, and the historic leap from food and clothing to a well-off society was generally achieved. On the other hand, the scale of opening up and the effectiveness of reforms have also increased. While the economy was rapidly developed, the return of Hong Kong and Macao to the motherland witnessed a substantial increase in China’s overall national strength. Under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese people finally moved from standing up to getting rich. Deng Xiaoping had a firm conviction throughout his life and was dedicated to the

development of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Deng Xiaoping once said: "I am the son of the Chinese people, and I love my motherland and people affectionately"[9]. Deng Xiaoping loved the motherland, implemented reform and opening up, created Deng Xiaoping Theory, and successfully initiated socialism with Chinese characteristics. Deng Xiaoping loved the people, raised common prosperity to the essence of socialism, and proposed to cultivate new generation of people with lofty ideals, moral integrity, good education and a strong sense of discipline.

### (3) Strengthening is the ultimate goal and value orientation

Strengthening is the ultimate goal and value orientation of the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. It is the Chinese dream of achieving the grand goal of "two centenary goals" under the leadership of the party and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the party and the government have established a strategic layout for comprehensively deepening reforms; actively strengthening the new army, taking the path of strengthening the military with Chinese characteristics, and promoting the modernization of national defense and the army; actively promoting the strategic layout of four-pronged comprehensive strategy and overall layout of "economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological progress"; giving priority to improving people's livelihood, targeted poverty alleviation, and establish and improve the social medical security system; adhering to peaceful development and actively building a community of shared future for mankind. General Secretary Xi Jinping solved many problems with outstanding theoretical courage and far-sighted political vision. He proposed a series of pioneering new ideas and new theories, led the people to achieve the world-renowned achievements in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and truly tamped the foundation for strengthening. There are two short-term goals for the Chinese Dream. The first centenary goal is to realize the comprehensive construction of a well-off society before the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Party. The second centenary goal is to build a modern and powerful country before the 100th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. These two centenary goals have special significance to the Chinese nation and they are special opportunities to the people of the whole country. Almost most Chinese people can witness the historical moments of national prosperity, national rejuvenation, and people's prosperity.

## **4. Perspective of Realizing Dream: Practicing the Road of Dream Realization from the Global Perspective of People'S Pursuit of A Happy Life**

The fundamental purpose of the Chinese dream is that people live a happy life. What the Chinese Communist Party does is to seek happiness for the Chinese people, to revive the Chinese nation, and to seek peace and development for mankind[10]. The ultimate goal of the Chinese Communist Party is to lead the people to pursue the Chinese dream is to allow both China and the world to live a good life and achieve free and comprehensive development for each individual.

### (1) People's happiness is to live a good life

General Secretary Xi Jinping once pointed out that people's happiness must depend on the people to realize, and must continuously benefit the people[11]. This sentence makes it clear that the Chinese dream is not a discourse of grand narrative, but a combination of individual dreams. Every individual hopes that life is full of happiness, and a happy life does not only refer to material wealth, but also the satisfaction of the spiritual world. In other words, the happy life that the people have should be the harmonization of material pursuit as well as spiritual pursuit. On the one hand, material life is the guarantee for a good life. People "look forward to better

education, more stable work, more satisfactory income, more reliable social security, higher levels of medical and health services, and more comfortable living conditions. Meanwhile, they hope their children can grow better, get good job and have better life"[12]. On the other hand, spiritual life is the sublimation of the realm of life. People look forward to more harmonious ecological environment, more prosperous socialist culture, healthier and nutritious food supply, and more fair and just social environment. The Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is the integration and unity of material happiness and spiritual happiness, the mutual achievement of the national dream and the people's small dream, and the complementarity of the people and the motherland. During the pursuing of happy life, the country needs to center on economic construction, and it is also necessary to create a social environment full of humanistic care and people-oriented. Every independent individual, especially young college students, must work hard. If thousands of independent individuals have a happy life, then the whole society will be surrounded by happiness, and every citizen will live a happy life.

### (2) People's happiness is each individual's free and comprehensive development

The Communist Manifesto points out the future social form: "There will be such a union, and it is going to replace the bourgeois old society in which class and class opposition exist. In this union, the free development of everyone is a condition for the free development of all people"[13]. There are two meanings here. One is that the happiness of the people depends on everyone's free and comprehensive development. In this aspect, what comes first is the full and free development of human intelligence and physical strength. Everyone taps their maximum potential to realize the full development of moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetics labor, personality, ability, temperament, character and so on. Then, individual talents develop in many ways, including material and mental activities. Individuals freely and voluntarily choose occupations and lifestyles in accordance with their interests, show their personal values, and obtain a sense of well-being in achieving themselves. Finally, personal social relations are highly developed. It ranges from family relations and workplace relations to political party relations and the harmonious development of state relations. The other is freedom and comprehensive development of individuals can only be achieved in the community. In other words, the personal dream and the Chinese dream are integrated. On the one hand, the Chinese dream is a personal dream for each individual. Only when all great dreams fall on every small dream, can there be a magnificent world where "the immense sea allows fish to leap at liberty, the vast sky lets birds fly freely". Everyone is both the subject of the dream's practice and dream value, both the subject of the individual's dream and the subject of realizing the Chinese dream. On the other hand, the Chinese dream is the premise guarantee for countless personal dreams. At any time, the Chinese dream is a prerequisite for individuals to pursue their dreams. Only when the country is stable can the people enjoy peace and can they have personal energy to work hard for their dreams.

### (3) The happiness of Chinese people is the happiness of people all over the world

The Chinese dream we want to realize not only benefits the Chinese people, but also the people of all countries[14]. The Chinese dream of sharing happiness in the world is different from the American dream of pursuing individual freedom and happiness. The Chinese dream has always adhered to the path of peaceful development, and the realization of the happiness of the people is the ultimate goal of the Chinese dream. The Chinese dream is to achieve national prosperity, national rejuvenation, and people's happiness. It is a dream of peace, development, cooperation, and a win-win situation. It is interconnected with the beautiful dreams of people all over the world, including the American dream[15]. The Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and the dreams of people around the world are interlinked and support each other. On one hand, Chinese dream is one of the components of the world dream. The prosperity and development of China and the realization of the Chinese dream are inseparable from the

peaceful and stable international environment and the support of all countries in the world. Similarly, the development of all countries in the world is inseparable from China. Chinese dream connects the world into a stable development entirety and realizes the common development of all countries in the world. On the other hand, the development of countries in the world is inseparable from China's assistance. While insisting on developing itself, China promotes and helps neighboring countries and those friendly countries willing to develop together, and shares development opportunities with all countries in the world. The construction of "The Belt and Road" and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind have shown the world the desire of Chinese people and the people from all countries in the world to jointly forge the development of world dream.

## 5. Conclusion

The year 2020 is a crucial year for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and also an important foundation and a key step in realizing the Chinese dream. Entering a new era, we must adhere to the Chinese dream from the perspective of pursuing dream, firmly believe in the Chinese dream from the perspective of building dreams, and practice the Chinese dream from the perspective of realizing dreams. We must obtain both high ambitious and down-to-earth style of work; we must not only stand on the present, but also look forward to the future; and we must not only keep the source of pursuing dreams, but also believe in the faith of building dreams, and more importantly, to carry out the road to our dream.

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