

## Brief Discussion on Zhu De's Party-Seeking Course

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### Abstract

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the seminar to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the birth of Comrade Zhu De: "In the flow of China's magnificent history in modern times, generations of Communists have united and led the people of all nationalities continue to struggle, make the Chinese nation to climb out of the unprecedented suffering of modern times and usher in the bright prospects for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation today. Comrade Zhu De is an outstanding representative of these communists and a superstar among the bright stars of our national heroes. "During his nearly 70-year revolutionary career, Comrade Zhu De always upheld the original intention and mission of working for the happiness of the Chinese people and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and he performed immortal feats to the success of the Chinese revolution, the cause of liberation of the Chinese people and the socialist revolution and construction of China. Studying Comrade Zhu De's admission course to the Party can better practice and keep in mind the original intention and purpose of the party, better push forward the great cause created by the revolutionary ancestors, and work hard for the grand blueprint of the new journey of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way.

### 1. Giving up Civilian Pursuits to Joining the Army, Refreshing the Old Country

Comrade Zhu De was born in a poor tenant farmer's family in Yilong County, Sichuan Province on December 1, 1886, at a time when China was in a semi-colonial, semi-feudal society and the Chinese people were suffering unprecedented hardships. Zhu De was born into a family with eleven persons, and the increase in population made the family more frugal in order to eke out a living, ever since Zhu De was sensible, he witnessed the cruel exploitation of the peasants by the feudal landlords, the whole family got up early, slept very late and worked hard all year to get grain, which was sent to the landlord's granary one by one, instead, the whole family never eats white rice, and mostly eats pea rice, vegetable rice, sweet potato rice, and coarse grain rice, with very little oil and salt. Zhu De recalled, " besides the 50 dans of rent a year, the remainder was barely enough to eat, and were not enough to eat and wear all the year round, if there was a disaster year, life would be even more difficult." In 1895, the landlord oppressed the tenants and wanted to increase the rent on the land they rented, and Zhu De's family could not afford to pay the rent increase, the landlord's butler suddenly came to Zhu's house on New Year's Eve and forced them to throw a lease and move house, this sudden blow forced the whole family to live in two places, Zhu De moved back to the old house in Dawan with his adoptive parents and rode out difficult times.[2] The cruelty of the landlord and the pain of separation of relatives made Zhu De taste the cruelty of society and the hardships of life prematurely, left the seeds of hatred for the landlord deeply in the heart of the small Zhu De, and also inspired the young Zhu De's thought to resist oppression and pursue the light.

During this period, in order to resist the bullying of tax collectors and officers, the family members decided to save money on food and expenses and send one or two children to study in the hope of changing the lives and status of the Zhu family in the future. In 1892, Zhu De began his study career, the teacher of the private school was his distant cousin Zhu Shiqin, who

gave Zhu De the name Zhu Daizhen according to the Zhu family tree. A year later, Zhu De changed his studies to Ding's private school, where he read the Book of Songs and Book of Books, and began to write couplets. At the age of 10, Zhu De transferred to Xi Pinsan private school to study, Xi Pinsan endured all kinds of hardships in the world and was very familiar with history, in the classroom, Xi Renzan often discussed the past and the present, criticized the current situation, directed spearhead to imperialism and feudalism. It is also Xi Pinsan's spirit of hating the evil forces and pursuing the true meaning of saving the country and the people, as well as his strong national feelings, which deeply infected Zhu De, made simple patriotism germinate in Zhu De's tender mind, and he began to consciously care about the future of the country and the destiny of the nation.

In 1905, Zhu De went to the county alone to take the imperial examination, and got in to the top 20 among more than 1,000 candidates, Zhu De successfully passed again in the subsequent prefectural examination, but at this time, the Qing government announced the abolition of the imperial examination, and Zhu De lost the opportunity to become a Xiucai before participating in the academy examination. With the rise of new-style schools, in the spring of 1906, Zhu De got into the Nanchong County Government Higher Primary School, and he got into the Shunqing Prefecture Government Secondary School half a year later, Zhang Lan, the superintendent of the secondary school, told his students, "Now that the country is going to die, we have to sacrifice our lives to save the country." Zhu De learned many truths of saving the country in the new-style school, he also accepted the progressive thought of "studying without forgetting to save the country" while receiving scientific education, which was the first important turning point in Zhu De's ideological development in his life. In 1907, Zhu De got into the Physical Education School attached to Sichuan Tong Province Normal School, where Zhu De "reading is reading, and he is very concerned about national affairs," Zhu De secretly read the organ publication "Min Pao" of the Chinese Revolutionary League, and was further influenced by the idea of democratic revolution, he more hated the autocratic and corrupt Qing government and began to give rise to thought of "overthrowing the emperor and establishing a good country". Zhu De graduated from the sports school in 1908, he applied for the job at the Yilong County Higher Primary School as a physical education teacher and general manager, , he advocated new learning together with his colleagues, and boldly instilled new culture and ideas into the students, but they were oppressed and excluded by the conservative forces, which made Zhu De see the corruption and darkness of the feudal society, and felt that "teaching is not a way out" and "the problem is that the country must be saved", so Zhu De resigned from the teaching post, determined to give up civilian pursuits to join the army and save the country from peril.

## **2. Being Will to Share Adversity with People and Vowing to Fight for China with Red Blood**

Just passed the Spring Festival in 1909, Zhu De took leave of his relatives and left for Kunming, Yunnan on foot, just as the Yunnan Army Military Academy began to enroll students, however, since Zhu De filled in Sichuan as his native place in this registration form, he was not admitted, Zhu De almost spent his money at this time, and he had no choice but to join the Sichuan Army as infantry. Because of his high level of education, after a short period of military life, Zhu De became the secretary of the army, Zhu De had excellent training results, solid work, and outstanding performance in all aspects, after being recommended by his infantry, he applied again for the Yunnan Army Military Academy, only this time, Zhu De filled Mengzi County, Lin'an Province as his place of origin, and was admitted successfully.

The military education and training at the Yunnan Army Military Academy was modern, Zhu De studied hard and was called as the 'Model Two Zhu' with his classmate Zhu Peide. Here Zhu De soon established linkages with the Chinese Revolutionary League and joined it, he and other

members not only circulated the magazine Yunnan, but also secretly peeped at progressive revolutionary journals such as Min Pao, Tian Tao, Jing Shi Zhong, Meng Hui Tou, etc. Influenced by the program of Chinese Revolutionary League's, Zhu De and his classmates: Tang Huaiyuan, Yang Ruxuan, Yang Chisheng and other, seven or eight persons organized a Wuhua Society, advocated "work hard and encourage each other, make the country rich and its military force efficient, and save the Chinese nation from peril." [3] Zhu De was extremely excited at this time, as Zhu De said: "I devoted myself to the work and life of Military Academy, I had never worked so hard before, I knew that I was finally on track for saving China from disaster." [4]

In August 1911, Zhu De graduated from the Military Academy and was sent to the left team of the 2nd Battalion of the 74th Regiment of the 37th Brigade of the 19th Town of Yunnan New Army, here Zhu De with a strong thirst for knowledge often went to Cai E's office to ask for advice and borrowed some books and periodicals, which made Zhu De's democratic thought more mature. In October of the same year, Cai E and some key members of the Chinese Revolutionary League of the Yunnan New Army decided to launch the Chongjiu Uprising in response to the Wuchang Uprising. Before the uprising, Zhu De was appointed to take over as the team officer of his company, Zhu De fought bravely when he attacked the Governor's Yamen, He captured Li Jingxi, the governor of Yunnan and Guizhou alive, performed feats and got the credit. In the summer of 1913, Zhu De was promoted to battalion commander and led troops in the area of Mengzi and Gejiu area, where he led troops to wipe out the bandits who often harassed the people and plundered their property. On January 1, 1916, Cai E held a swearing-in meeting in Kunming, and issued a text on Yuan Xu, which opened the prelude to the war to protect the country. Become famous in the Battle of Cotton Slope. On 1 January 1916, Cai E held an oath-taking rally in Kunming and issued a denunciation against Yuan Shikai, which opened the prelude to National Defense War, Zhu De was determined to shoulder the important task of saving the country's fortunes and saving the people's lives, he led troops to fight bravely and became famous in the Battle of Mianhuapo. After the victory of the National Defense War, Zhu De led his troops to garrison Luzhou, at this time, Zhu De's main job was to calm people's nerve to relieve their hardship, in addition to wipe out the local bandits who were endangering the people, he also read a lot of books. But at this time, Zhu De fell into depression and hesitation, because the victory of the National Defense War did not change the status quo of Chinese society, after Yuan Shikai's death, the Beiyang Warlords were torn apart, and wars often broke out between various factions for territory, there were frequent wars among the various factions for territory, causing pandemonium and people had nothing to depend on for their living [5]. Without any other means, Zhu De could only relieve his inner depression and resentment towards the warlords by writing poems, "the struggles year after year force people to appear, the people of land mourned", "pity the people suffering long disasters, sigh good soldiers after long and hard struggle", he could not rival the despair of reality by writing poems to relieve his inner depression, at this time, Zhu De learned to smoke opium, hoping to use opium to numb himself. However, his original intention to save the country and the people had never been forgotten for a moment, he was not willing to degenerate and sink, in the dark reality, he pondered bitterly and longed to find a path suitable for China to change the social scene in China.

### **3. What Is the Purpose of Abandoning Official Position and Giving up Wealth? Loyalty Like Rock Over China**

When Zhu De was still depressed and hesitant, an unprecedented patriotic movement broke out, which not only changed the development direction of Chinese history, but also made a major turning point in Zhu De's thought. The May 4th storm in 1919 impact the land of China violently, and soon the patriotic actions of Beijing students affected Luzhou, and the originally quiet social life began to boil. The wave of the May 4th Movement brought a large number of

books and periodicals that spread new ideas and culture into Luzhou, with the help of his friend Sun Bingwen, Zhu De read "New Youth", "Weekly Review", "New Wave" and other progressive publications that spread new thoughts, as well as Huxley's "Evolution and Ethics and other Essays", Rousseau's "Du Contrat Social", etc., the two often discussed new thoughts such as anarchism and communism that are popular in the world, and question of the revolutionary path was central to their discussions. Zhu De began to realize that the reason why the previous revolutions did not succeed must be that something had gone wrong on some fundamental issue. He realized that the Chinese revolution must be carried out more deeply and must be as thorough as the Russian revolution, moreover, he particularly appreciated the principle of "He who will not to work shall not eat" mentioned in the Soviet Union's labor code, He believed that only by applying such principles in China would it be possible to free the people from oppression and misery. Comparing his own experience with the reality of Soviet Russia, Zhu De began to feel dimly "the need to learn the new Russian revolutionary theory and methods in order to carry out the revolution from the beginning."

In May 1920, the fighting appeared again in Sichuan fiercely, Zhu De could help but involved in the confused fighting between the warlords, but he scoffed at the warlords, determined to get rid of the old army and found a new path. He made an appointment with Sun Bingwen to explore a new revolutionary path, planned that Sun would go to Beijing first and then join him after he defeated Tang Jiyao. After the successful overthrow of Tang, Zhu De asked for his resignation, his colleagues in the Yunnan army repeatedly urge him to stay, so Zhu De had to stay for the time being and work to consolidate the new regime, however, Zhu De did not give up the idea of studying abroad, He used his spare time to study foreign languages and prepare for going abroad. In March 1922, there was another major change in the political situation in Yunnan. Tang Jiyao took advantage of the opportunity of the Yunnan Army's northern expedition under the order of Sun Yat-sen, assembled the old Yunnan Army in Guangxi and some bandit forces in southern Yunnan, launched an attack on Kunming, and once again mastered Yunnan. military power. Zhu De was forced to leave Yunnan and go to Beijing to join Sun Bingwen. This escape became a turning point for Zhu De to embark on a new revolutionary path. Zhu De later recalled: "Through Tang Jiyao's poisonous hand, the feudal relationship was cut off for me." In March 1922, there was a major change in political situation of Yunnan once again, Tang Jiyao took advantage of the Yunnan Army's northern expedition under the order of Sun Yat-sen, assembled the old Yunnan Army in Guangxi and some bandit forces in southern Yunnan to attack Kunming and take control of the military and political power in Yunnan once again. Zhu De was forced to leave Yunnan to join Sun Bingwen in Beijing, this escape became a turning point for Zhu De to go on a journey of new revolutionary path. Zhu De later recalled, "the feudal relationship was cut off for me through the poisonous hand of Tang Jiyao."

In July 1922, Zhu De met his good friend Sun Bingwen after a gap of two years. Accompanied by Sun Bingwen, Zhu De visited many small factories and saw the miserable lives of the workers, these made Zhu De make sure "there is no country in the world as miserable as China". When he heard the news from Sun Bingwen that the Chinese Communist Party had been established for a year, it made Zhu De extremely excited, because Zhu De gradually realized that only this party could show the way out for a China in deep distress from personal experience, he was determined to find this party and become a member of it. Zhu De and Sun Bingwen went to Shanghai together. In Shanghai, Zhu De went to see Sun Yat-sen first. At this time, Sun Yat-sen was forced to come to Shanghai from Guangdong. Although Zhu De sympathized with Sun Yat-sen's situation at this time, his personal experience for more than ten years made him hopeful for Sun Yat-sen. It is no longer believed to use the power of one part of the warlord to fight another part of the warlord. Zhu De went to Shanghai with Sun Bingwen, Zhu De first went to see Sun Yat-sen In Shanghai, at this time, Sun Yat-sen was forced to come to Shanghai from Guangdong, although Zhu De sympathized with Sun's situation, more than ten years of personal

experience made him no longer believe in Sun's wish to use the power of one part of the warlords to fight another part of the warlords. Sun Yat-sen hoped that Zhu De would return to the Yunnan army in Guangxi, organized it to attack Chen Jiongming in Guangdong, and promised to pay 100,000 yuan up front, Zhu De expressed his determination to study abroad and politely declined, and Sun suggested that Zhu De should go to the United States, Zhu De sincerely said: "we are willing to go to Europe because we have heard that socialism is strongest in Europe", "Of course the European countries are also of the same batch, but a new social force has emerged in Europe, which may be more better for us." A few days later Zhu De met Chen Duxiu, Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of China, in a house in Zhabei, Shanghai, and applied to him for membership of the Party. Unfortunately, Chen Duxiu eventually rejected Zhu De's application to join the Communist Party of China on the grounds that he had held senior positions in the old army, joining the Communist Party of China in this capacity had never happened before, therefore, if Zhu De wanted to join the Communist Party of China, he must take the cause of the workers as his own cause, and he needs long-term study and sincere application. This experience made Zhu De feel depressed and hesitant, as Zhu De said, "one of my feet is still standing in the old order, while the other cannot find a foothold in the new." Without any other means, Zhu De could only place hopes on finding a way to save China on going abroad.

In September 1922, Zhu De and Sun Bingwen went to Europe by boat, after more than 40 days of sailing, Zhu De and his party arrived in France, during their stay in Paris, Zhu De heard that Chinese students had set up the organization of the Communist Party of China in France, the main organizer was Zhou Enlai, Zhu De immediately enquired about Zhou Enlai's address, he learned that Zhou Enlai was in Germany, he immediately took a train bound for the Germany. In Germany, Zhu De finally met Zhou Enlai and told him about his revolutionary experience and how he was rejected by Chen Duxiu in Shanghai, how to come to Europe in search of a new way of life and a new path for China, expressed a desire to join the Communist Party of China, study and work hard for it, as long as don't let him go back to the life of the old society. Zhou Enlai was struck by Zhu De's sincere application for Party membership, he indicated that he would introduce him to join the Party and help him go through the formality of joining the Party, but said that Zhu De was temporarily a candidate member before his application for Party membership was sent to China for approval, Zhou Enlai reported the matter to Zhang Shenfu, the head of the European branch of the Chinese Communist Party, Zhu De also asked Zhang Shenfu to join the Party several times. Zhang Shenfu saw that Zhu De was sincere and pursued progress, finally, he agreed with Zhu De to join the Party and was willing to be his sponsor when Zhu De was applying for Party membership. When Chen Duxiu received a letter of introduction of Zhu De's application for Party membership from Zhang Shenfu, after a lot of thought, he finally agreed that Zhu De join the Communist Party of China. In November of the same year, Zhu De finally joined the Communist Party of China after all these difficulties, after that, Zhu De studied the theory seriously, actively participated in the social activities of the party organization, began to fight for the party, the country and the people for life, as Zhu De wrote to Li Ji, Chen Qixiu's letter wrote: " I will serve the Party for life upon my return to China."

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