

## Study on the Ideological and Political Education of Party Members During the Land Revolutionary War

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### Abstract

During the Agrarian Revolutionary War, the failure of the Revolution and the repeated sieges by the Kuomintang brought serious losses to the young Party organization, and there were problems such as ideological confusion and unswerving beliefs among the Party members, so ideological and political education for Party members was urgent. The first part of this paper points out the background of ideological and political education for Party members by analyzing the external situation faced by our Party during the Agrarian Revolutionary War and the problems existing within the Party organization and the Party members themselves; the second part summarizes the main contents of ideological and political education for Party members during this period according to relevant data, mainly educating the Party members on Marxist theory, Party guidelines and policies, ideals and beliefs and The third part summarizes the realistic inspiration of ideological and political education for Party members in this period, and provides experience for the ideological and political education work of Party members in the new era.

### Keywords

Communist Party members; Ideological and political education; Realistic revelation.

### 1. Background of Ideological and Political Education of The Party Members During the Agrarian Revolutionary War

The ideological and political education of party members has been very important in every period of the Communist Party's history, but the specific content of ideological and political education is determined by the specific national conditions of each period. Therefore, before summarizing the content of ideological and political education of the Party members during the Agrarian Revolutionary War, we first analyze the situation faced by the Party and the problems existing within the Party members during this period.

#### 1.1. Political Situation of Internal and External Troubles

After the defeat of the Revolution, the people's revolutionary struggle led by the Chinese Communist Party entered the most difficult years. The Kuomintang cracked down on the Communist Party and the revolutionary forces by promulgating various decrees, such as the Temporary Counter-Revolutionary Punishment Law and the Suppression of Communist Conspiracy. From 1928 onwards, the Kuomintang set up special secret service organizations to search and kill Communists and democrats, which plunged the whole society into the white terror of the Kuomintang. After the Communist Party established revolutionary bases in the countryside, the Kuomintang launched several sieges against them. This made the Communist Party not only fight against foreign invaders but also resist the siege from the Kuomintang.

## 1.2. Threats to the Party Organization

After the establishment of the Kuomintang regime, it concentrated all counter-revolutionary forces to massacre communists as well as revolutionaries. At the same time, in the face of the treacherous situation, some communists left the Communist Party due to their unstable ideology, and even betrayed the Party. These situations led to a sharp decline in the number of party members and dealt a great blow to the nascent Communist Party organization. Under the reactionary rule of the Kuomintang, many trade unions and peasant associations were dissolved, and the Communist Party was declared "illegal", which made some revolutionaries afraid to join the Communist Party, resulting in a lack of backup and allies for the Party. The Party membership was an important part of the Party organization, and the decrease in the number of members and the lack of back-up forces caused serious damage to the Party organization.

## 1.3. The Ideological Crisis Facing The Party Membership

The persecution of the Communist Party by the Kuomintang led to the loss of a large number of Communist Party members, and in order to ensure the development of the Party organization, a large number of non-proletarians were admitted to the Party, including not only peasants and petty bourgeoisie, but also captured soldiers of the Kuomintang. Since the Communist Party had established revolutionary bases in the countryside and was in deep contact with the peasants, and since the Chinese working class was small and concentrated mainly in the cities, the peasants accounted for a relatively large proportion of the membership of the Communist Party for a period of time. The existence of these non-proletarians also led to the existence of a large number of non-proletarian ideas such as extreme democratization, subjectivism, rogueism and the wrong ideas of the old army in the Communist Party, which hindered the construction of the Party.

The Nanchang Uprising was the beginning of the Communist Party's independent leadership of the revolutionary war. Due to the misjudgment of the domestic situation by the Party Central Committee during this period and the existence of leftist and other erroneous ideas in the Party, the Party was at a disadvantage in the battle with the Kuomintang, which caused some Party members to have confused ideas and even lost confidence in the Red regime, and even created the question of "how long can the Red Flag fight?" This led to an ideological crisis in the Party.

## 2. The Main Contents of Ideological and Political Education of the Party Members' Team During the Agrarian Revolutionary War

This thesis outlines the background of the ideological and political education of the Party members' team during the Agrarian Revolutionary War period in the above-mentioned contents and understands the uniqueness of this period. On the premise of having a deep understanding of the problems that existed in the party membership team during this period, the specific contents of the ideological and political education of the party membership team during this period are summarized by combing the relevant materials of this period.

### 2.1. Marxist Theory Education

During the Agrarian Revolutionary War, the composition of the Party members was confused, and peasants accounted for most of the Party members, while peasants had not systematically studied Marxist theory and lacked correct theoretical guidance. Marxism is the doctrine of the liberation of the proletariat and human beings, a very strict and thorough worldview of the proletariat and its party, a theory of the proletarian liberation movement, and a scientific expression of the fundamental interests of the proletariat. Since its establishment, the CPC has attached great importance to the education of Marxist theory for its members, and "the CPC's strengthening of the study and education of Marxist theory for its members is the primary

content of the Party's ideological and theoretical construction work, the core principle and main task of the Party's ideological and political education work, and the basic link of the ideological and political education work for Party members "[1]. Marxist theory education for Party members during the Agrarian Revolutionary War entered a more systematic stage of development based on the absorption of the experience of the Revolutionary period, and a large number of documents promulgated during this period contained content on Marxist theory education. Left-wing scientific workers translated and published a large number of Marxist works and spread Marxist theory. In the rural revolutionary bases, a large number of easy-to-understand documents were issued about Marxism-Leninism and readings on the basic knowledge of the Party to raise the ideological awareness of Party members. In the Resolution of the Gutian Conference, it was clearly stated that the study of Marxist-Leninist theory should be strengthened.

The study of Marxist theory during this period was not a complete copy, but a combination of it with the reality of the Chinese revolution. The Theory of Practice and the Theory of Contradiction written by Mao Zedong were the enrichment and development of Marxist theory based on the Chinese national conditions. As Engels pointed out, "Marx's whole worldview is not a doctrine, but a method. It provides not a ready-made dogma, but a starting point for further research and a method for such research." [2] During this period, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China attached great importance to the integration of Marxist theory with China, and asked its members to "interpret the programs and important resolutions of the Communist International and the Chinese Party in the light of Marxist-Leninist theory, and to interpret Marxist-Leninist theory by reference to various practical political and social problems" [3], "Marxist-Leninist methods were used to analyze the political situation and estimate the class forces instead of subjectivist analysis and estimation" [4]. The Chineseized Marxist theory was more in line with the characteristics of the Chinese revolution and more easily accepted by the communists to resist non-proletarian ideas and to use proletarian ideas to guide the Chinese revolution.

## 2.2. Education on the Party's Guidelines and Policies

The Party's guidelines and policies are proposed by the Party Central Committee in accordance with national conditions and are important guidelines for the Party's actions in leading the revolution. Mao Zedong clearly pointed out the importance of correct strategies in "Against Benevolence": the completion of the difficult revolutionary tasks "all depends on the correct and resolute strategies of the struggle of the proletarian party". [5] The 1929 Gutian Conference The Resolution clearly stated that the troops should be educated in the Party's line, guidelines and policies, and in order to better implement the spirit of the Gutian Conference, the Resolution was issued several times.

During the Agrarian Revolutionary War, the Party, based on the experience of the Revolutionary period and the analysis of the current situation of the revolution, determined the policy of the Agrarian Revolution, armed resistance against the Kuomintang reactionaries and the construction of revolutionary bases, and embarked on the road of encircling the cities in the countryside and seizing power with arms. In order to expand the influence of the revolution and to enable Party members to work under the correct guidelines and policies, the Party educated its members on the Party's guidelines and policies mainly through public speeches by leading cadres, centralized meetings and discussions, the formulation of relevant documents and the issuance of pamphlets. During the Nanchang Uprising, Zhou Enlai and other leaders of the uprising army propagated the Party's guidelines and policies by giving reports, proposing that "all Party policies must be discussed in branch meetings or group meetings so that every Party member can express his or her views" [6] and issuing documents such as the "Outline of Propaganda for the Land Revolution" to explain the purpose of the uprising and the goals of the

revolution. In 1928, when Mao Zedong presided over the first and second congresses of the Party at the Xiang-Gan border, he argued the reasons why small red regimes could exist and develop in rural areas of China, strengthened confidence in building rural revolutionary bases, and instilled the Party's guidelines and policies in Party members by holding meetings. After the Zunyi Conference in 1935, the Party's top leading cadres constantly conveyed the spirit of the conference downward so that every Party member could learn the Party's strategy. The Party's guidelines and policies were related to the rise and fall of the Chinese Revolution, so during the Agrarian Revolutionary War, the Party Central Committee Great importance is attached to the education of the party's members on guidelines and strategies.

### 2.3. Education on Ideals and Beliefs

Ideals and beliefs are the lighthouse that illuminates the way forward. Only by establishing firm ideals and beliefs can we have the right path of development and the courage to overcome hardships and dangers. The realization of communism is the highest ideal and ultimate goal of our Party, and the establishment of communist ideals and beliefs should run through every stage of our Party's development. During the Agrarian Revolutionary War, the Party faced a severe revolutionary situation and needed to establish the belief that the revolution would be won if it wanted to defeat the powerful enemy.

In order to develop and strengthen the Party organization, the Communist Party absorbed a large number of non-proletarians into the Party, which led to the existence of certain non-proletarian ideas in the Party, and at the same time, there were also certain left-leaning ideas in the Party, etc. All these ideas brought obstacles to the revolution. The Party taught its members Marxist theory and instilled in them communist ideals and beliefs through party lectures, party newspapers, seminars and other means. It was only by establishing the correct ideals and beliefs and guiding the revolution with the correct ideals and beliefs that the revolution could take the right path and achieve victory.

After the defeat of the Revolution, the brutal massacre of Communists by the Kuomintang and the failure of many uprisings in the cities caused some Party members to lose confidence in the revolution and raised the question of "how long will the Red Flag last". "The first congress of the Party on the Xiang-Gan border in May 1928 clearly answered the question of how long the Red Flag could be fought and pointed out that the revolutionary base areas and the Red Army could exist and develop for a long time. Mao Zedong argued in his articles "The Political Question and the Tasks of the Party at the Border" and "The Struggle at Jinggang Mountain" that the objective and subjective conditions for the long-term existence and development of the Red Regime were "the fact that the Red Flag at the border has never fallen indicates not only the power of the Communist Party but also the bankruptcy of the ruling class, which is of great significance in national politics"[7]. In his article "The Fire of the Stars Can Start a Prairie", Mao once again refuted the idea of "how long the red flag could be fought" and revealed the inevitable trend and objective law of the development of revolutionary warfare in China. Mao's answers to these questions and his analysis of the revolutionary situation and future helped the party members to build confidence that the revolution would win. During the Red Army's Long March, in order to stabilize the Red Army's mood due to successive defeats in the war, the Party used the Red Star newspaper to publish several articles such as "Our Victory" and "Our Victory in the Counterattack" to strengthen the confidence that the revolution would win.

### 2.4. Disciplinary Education

Party discipline is a rule of conduct that must be observed by all levels of the Party and all Party members, and is a guarantee for maintaining the unity of the Party and accomplishing the Party's tasks, and plays an important role in the maintenance and development of the Party. On the important role of party discipline, Marx pointed out that "party discipline must be absolutely maintained, otherwise nothing will be achieved"[8], and Lenin pointed out that "to

enable the proletariat to play its organizational role correctly, effectively and triumphantly (and this is its main role), the proletarian party It is necessary for the party of the proletariat to have a very strict centralization and discipline within it"[9]. During the period of the Agrarian Revolutionary War, our Party promulgated a series of documents based on some disciplinary problems existing within the Party, mainly regulating and educating Party members in two aspects: political discipline and integrity discipline.

In November 1927, the Party promulgated the Resolution on Political Discipline, which stated that only the strictest political discipline can strengthen the power of the proletarian party in its struggle, and this is the minimum condition that every communist party must have. During this period, the Central Committee of the Party made the content of political discipline education for Party members concrete and clear, "to strictly sanction many unacceptable phenomena among cadres, such as refusing work assigned by the Party, demanding a certain territory, not doing technical work, fearing the White Terror, surrendering to difficulties, staying in the old way of work, using various excuses to avoid work, hiring labor, not being nervous about work, not having the automaticity to work, and not being able to work. work, no automaticity of work, not serious and unrealistic perfunctory, negligence, ..... and all kinds of two-faced behavior, the attitude of watching the fire from the other side of the river, must not be condoned to enforce the iron discipline, so that these elements can not have a moment of freedom to mix in the leading organs"[10], these specific disciplinary requirements These specific disciplinary requirements are conducive to specific education and supervision of party members.

Since its inception, the Party has been concerned about the integrity of its members and has attached great importance to the education of Party members on integrity and discipline. During the period of the Party's Soviet construction, Soviet governments at all levels paid great attention to building integrity. After the establishment of the Provisional Central Government, anti-corruption and purge of corruption was regarded as an important task in the struggle, and numerous supervisory mechanisms, such as party and government supervision, were established. During this period, the Party Central Committee promulgated documents such as the "Instruction No. 26 on Punishing Corruption and Wastefulness" to provide for specific methods of dealing with corruption. The education of the Party Central Committee on the integrity and discipline of the Party members during the Agrarian Revolutionary War was conducive to ensuring the connection between our Party and the people and to ensuring the integrity and cleanliness of Party members.

### **3. The Realistic Inspiration of the Ideological and Political Education of the Party Members During the Agrarian Revolutionary War**

By sorting out the content and methods of ideological and political education of the Party members during the Agrarian Revolutionary War, the author summarizes the realistic inspiration of ideological and political education of the Party members, taking into account the specific situation of China in the new era.

#### **3.1. Educating the Party with the evolving Marxist theory**

During the Agrarian Revolutionary War, the Party advocated the use of Marxist theory to educate and arm the Party in the face of the problems of ideological confusion and unshakable beliefs, which to a certain extent protected the newly established Party and stabilized the Party's thinking. But Marxist theory is not an unchanging dogma, with the continuous progress and development of the times, Marxist theory has also added new connotations, our party formed Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Three Represents Important Thought, the Scientific Outlook on Development and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese

Characteristics for a New Era on the basis of combining the basic principles of Marxism with the national conditions of China. At present, China has entered a new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and in general, the development of China's party members is relatively healthy, but there are also bad thoughts such as greed for comfort and detachment from the masses. This requires strengthening the ideological and theoretical education of the party members, educating the whole party with richer and more adaptable Marxist theories to the current situation of China's development, and ensuring the purity and advancement of the party members.

### **3.2. Party Members' Ideological and Political Education Around the Main Tasks of the Party**

The ideological and political education of party members should revolve around the main tasks of the party at this stage. The ideological and political education of Party members should be in line with and serve the changed main tasks as the national conditions change in different stages of development. During the Agrarian Revolutionary War, the main task of the Party was to carry out the Agrarian Revolution, armed struggle and base area construction. In the new era, the main task of the Party is to achieve the first hundred-year goal, start a new journey to achieve the second hundred-year goal, and continue to advance toward the grand goal of achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The content of ideological and political education for party members in the new era should keep pace with the times, respond to the changes in national conditions, and add relevant contents that belong to this era, so that party members can keep the main tasks of the party in the new era in mind, play a leading role in working life, and strongly promote the main tasks of the party.

### **3.3. Ideological and Political Education According to the Specific Situation of Party Members**

Specific analysis of specific problems is a basic principle of Marxist philosophy, to take different measures according to the different circumstances of the matter. Each party member is an independent individual with his or her own thoughts. When conducting ideological and political education for party members, we should pay attention to both the general problems of the party members and the overall education of the party members, and also pay attention to the special problems of different party members to educate them in a targeted manner. The Resolution of the Gutian Conference, in its summary of ideological and political education methods, points out that individual talks should be implemented, and education with different contents and methods should be carried out according to the characteristics of Party members. The problems that exist in the party members in the new era also vary from person to person, with some wavering in their beliefs due to the influence of the environment and others lacking learning about party discipline, etc. By carrying out targeted ideological and political education work for party members, the problems that exist in the party members can be directly solved and the ideological consciousness of the party members can be improved.

## **4. Conclusion**

Party members are an important and fundamental part of the Communist Party, and they are also the propagators and executors of the Party's policies and guidelines. Whether the party members can always develop positively also affects whether the Communist Party can always remain advanced, therefore, the ideological and political education for the party members is very important at all times. During the Agrarian Revolutionary War, the Party made certain developments and innovations in the ideological and political education of the Party members, which to a certain extent consolidated the Party organization after the setbacks. In the new era, there are still certain problems within the party membership, and in order to maintain the

party's vanguard role, ideological and political education is needed for the party membership. Based on the content and methods of ideological and political education of the Party membership team during the Agrarian Revolutionary War, this thesis summarizes the realistic revelations to provide reference for the ideological and political education of the Party membership team in the new era.

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