Deepening Understanding and Rational Patriotism: On the Implementation of Rational Patriotic Education for College Students

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Abstract: Patriotism is a noble and sacred emotion and an important part of socialist core values. As an important link to maintain national unity, it encourages generations of young people to strive hard for the rise of China and go forward bravely. Rational patriotic education is an important part of University curriculum, which plays an active role in cultivating and guiding the formation of patriotic consciousness and patriotic behavior of College students. Based on this, this paper introduces the basic connotation of rational patriotism, analyses the current situation of college students' patriotism and patriotic behavior, and puts forward pertinent suggestions for the implementation of rational patriotism education for college students, with a view to promoting the smooth development of rational patriotism education for college students, and helping college students deepen their understanding of patriotism and achieve rational patriotism.

1. The Connotation of Rational Patriotism

1.1 The Content of Rational Patriotism

The content of rational patriotism mainly consists of two parts: patriotic emotion and patriotic behavior. The formation of patriotism has a long historical process. As early as before the emergence of the state, human society had the spirit of collectivism. With the change of social form from tribe to country, the spirit of collectivism gradually transformed into patriotism. Patriotism is a real thing, not elusive. When the territory of a country is forced to cede to another country, the people are angry about it. These are the concrete manifestations of patriotism. The traditional patriotic feeling is irrational, and its main manifestation is the loyalty and love of the nation to the monarch, while the new era has a new definition and requirements for patriotic feeling. As College students, we should understand the true meaning of patriotism, see the essence of things, really think about the development of the country and the happiness of the people, and achieve rational patriotism. Patriotic behavior is the external expression of patriotic emotion, which has different manifestations in different historical times. In feudal society, many generals fought against foreigners with all their strength; in modern society, the Chinese people set off a wave of revolution to resist foreign aggressors and safeguard the security of the motherland; in the early stage of socialist construction, many scientists returned to the motherland after studying abroad and worked together for the construction of the motherland; irrational patriotism was caused by patriotism and patriotism. In order to deviate from each other, many people in real life have high patriotic feelings, but their behavior is beyond the tolerance of society, which ultimately leads to deviation. As College students, we should correctly look at the relationship between patriotic feelings and patriotic behavior, take patriotic actions in close combination with the actual situation, express patriotic feelings legally, reasonably and orderly, and take scientific theoretical values as guidance. We can neither be enthusiastic but self-confident, nor can we make irrational patriotic acts under the pretext of patriotic feelings.
1.2 The Requirement of Rational Patriotism

Rational patriotism puts forward a lot of requirements for national patriotism and patriotic behavior. Firstly, emotional patriotism should be transformed into rational patriotic behavior. It is precisely because of the perceptual thinking that people have a strong feeling of love for the motherland. However, this feeling is immature and may deviate from the actual situation. Therefore, in order to realize the flexible change from perception to rationality, in the process of understanding the world, people should constantly improve their cognitive judgment ability and sublimate patriotic feelings to deep and great cohesive patriotic faith. Only in this way can the patriotic enthusiasm last forever and the real rational patriotic behavior be realized. Secondly, we should put patriotic behavior into our daily work and life. Patriotic behavior is not just a blindly slogan, but a combination of reality. For example, doctors do their job well to save lives and injuries, teachers teach and educate people, impart knowledge, leaders are conscientious and serve the people, these are the concrete manifestations of patriotic behavior. Rational patriotism requires us to start from small things, start from ourselves, transform patriotic enthusiasm into the driving force of work, adhere to the leadership of the Party, adhere to the basic principle of peace and development, and contribute our own strength to the construction of the motherland. For contemporary college students, it is the best patriotic behavior to study teaching knowledge and actively serve the society. Thirdly, national interests should be put in the first place. At present, our country is in a critical period of reform and development. We need the joint efforts of the people. Whenever and wherever we are, we should put national interests above personal interests, abide by discipline and law, obey the leadership of the Party, safeguard national security and unity. In the face of international disputes, we should learn to control our patriotic feelings and maintain a high degree of consistency between patriotic behavior and national decision-making. Fourth, we should pay attention to patriotic methods and forms. With the globalization of economy and the continuous progress of science and technology, peace and win-win have become the development goals pursued by more and more countries. The new political and economic situation also puts forward new requirements for patriotic behavior. When expressing our patriotic enthusiasm, we should take into account the actual situation, not blindly follow the trend, and avoid using violence to smash, snatch, burn and other illegal acts. This is not only not conducive to the easing of international relations and the improvement of the international situation, but also has a negative impact on the domestic order, and even threatens the lives and property security of the people.

2. The Present Situation of College Students’ Patriotic Consciousness and Patriotic Behavior

2.1 The Present Situation of College Students’ Patriotic Consciousness

As a whole, there is a strong sense of patriotism among college students in China. They can actively pay attention to international news and the construction and development of the motherland in their daily life. When the rights and interests of the motherland are threatened, they will burst out strong patriotism and are willing to contribute to safeguarding the interests of the motherland. At the same time, many college students can build their own development goals on the basis of national rejuvenation, and even some college students can truly study for the rise of the Chinese nation. However, there are still two problems in college students’ patriotism. First, with the deepening of reform and opening up, our country has become more and more closely related to the global economy and culture, and some college students have developed the mentality of worshipping foreign things and flattering foreign countries. For example, they disapprove of their own cultures and criticize traditional cultures with a long history as outdated products that do not conform to the current trend; they criticize the extreme behavior of people without asking reasons to justify the wrong behavior of other countries in the face of international disputes; and they blindly praise foreign festivals and think that as long as they are foreign, they must be good. Secondly, patriotism has become more and more extreme, even turning into narrow and unreasonable nationalism.
2.2 The Present Situation of College Students’ Patriotic Behavior

Patriotic behavior originates from patriotic consciousness. The problem that college students need to solve is how to correct their own wrong patriotic consciousness, so as to correct and standardize their own patriotic behavior. The patriotic behavior of college students should be restricted by morality and law, and they should not act in accordance with their own ideas. Any act that breaks the circle of national unity and threatens the safety of people's lives and property needs to pay a heavy price. In recent years, the forces of Hong Kong independence and Tibetan independence in China have not been completely eliminated. There are still some people who attempt to break the national unity in secret operations, propagate wrong separatist ideas and organize illegal activities.

2.3 Reasons for the Problems of Patriotic Consciousness and Patriotic Behavior of College Students

There are many reasons for the problems of patriotism and patriotic behavior of College students. Firstly, the age of college students is generally around 20 years old. Although they have grown up, they are still in the stage of growth. Their way of thinking is still immature, they lack certain social experience, they are full of curiosity about the unknown world, and they have not formed a good system of social values. It is precisely because of the special age characteristics that college students are vulnerable to external speech and behavior in the process of learning and life, and lose the ability to distinguish right from wrong. This may make them not think carefully before doing things, and easy to act on impulse, resulting in irreparable consequences. Secondly, there are still some problems in the rational patriotic education of college students in our country. Many colleges and universities neglect the education of students in this aspect, pay little attention to the cultivation and guidance of College Students’ patriotic consciousness and patriotic behavior, and some education courses are unreasonable, which leads to teachers' inadequate education work. Third, the social and network environment has a certain impact on students' patriotic consciousness and patriotic behavior. With the deepening development of economic globalization, more and more people have the wrong value of "money is above everything". Some college students have gradually lost their sense of social responsibility and even their national beliefs. Especially when personal interests conflict with national interests, these college students are likely to blindly pursue personal interests and forget patriotism. In addition, the rapid development of science and technology has made the network enter people's daily life, but nowadays the network environment lacks supervision and information is mottled and disorderly. Many college students are exposed to bad information which threatens our national security and breaks the ring of our national unity when using the network. Some college students believe in this information and join the ranks of bad elements to publish some exciting information. Progressive speech, dissemination of harmful ideas, and even illegal acts. It can be seen that it is necessary to strengthen the rational patriotic education for college students. The perfect education system and scientific teaching plan will make more college students form rational patriotic consciousness and act rationally when expressing their patriotic feelings.

3. Implementation of Rational Patriotic Education for College Students

3.1 Enriching the content of patriotism education for College Students

In order to enrich the content of patriotism education for college students, the following points should be done: First, the content of patriotism education for college students should be based on four basic principles: adhering to the socialist road, adhering to democratic dictatorship, adhering to Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought, and adhering to the leadership of the Party. For many years, the western countries have not abandoned their plans and ideas of westernizing our country. They spread false statements in various ways, distort facts, advocate the superiority of capitalist system and criticize socialism. Therefore, in implementing the rational patriotic education for college students, we should pay attention to cultivating their ability to distinguish information, so that they can have confidence in their own country and government. Influenced by bad external information.
Secondly, we should strengthen the dissemination of excellent traditional culture, so that college students do not worship foreign things, eliminate prejudices against traditional culture, so as to establish national self-esteem and form a sense of national honor. However, this does not mean that college students should exclude all foreign cultures. The purpose of strengthening the dissemination of excellent traditional cultures is to better protect our traditional culture, to make college students more rational about the impact and integration of our own culture and foreign cultures, and then learn from each other, to better understand and inherit excellent and worthwhile national cultures in continuous learning. It is a manifestation of College Students’ rational patriotism. Thirdly, we should strengthen the patriotism of college students on the basis of strengthening legal education. Compliance with discipline and law is the basic requirement of rational patriotism. Therefore, when conducting patriotic education to students, students should be made aware of the binding force and importance of law. All patriotic acts violating the basic law are irrational and improper. No matter at any time, patriotism can be used as an excuse to make some acts that threaten the interests of others. Fourthly, setting up national defense education curriculum, national defense education in the new era is no longer limited to the political and military security of the country, but involves cultural, scientific, economic, medical and other levels. Therefore, national defense education curriculum should actively guide students to form national defense concept, keep them alert, study hard, serve the motherland, and serve the territorial security of the motherland in the future. Military power, economic development, scientific progress and cultural prosperity make a contribution.

3.2 Ways to Improve Patriotism Education for College Students

The new situation puts forward new requirements for patriotism education of College students. In order to better realize the smooth development of education, schools should adopt more diversified education methods to achieve the best educational effect. Special psychological courses should be offered to train students’ healthy and rational patriotism, so that they can deal with crises rationally without negative emotions. Some concrete examples such as "Wenchuan earthquake" and "Urumqi violence" are listed to teach students how to deal with such situations correctly. The original misconception, correctly looking at history, not avoiding the national humiliation once suffered, and analyzing the current international situation, helps students to look at the political and economic relations between China and Japan, the United States, Russia and other countries from multiple perspectives, so that they can not forget the national humiliation, but also take a long-term view, and make full use of the network platform for the future development and progress of the country; Create a new education base, pay close attention to students’ ideological trends, use the developed network system to disseminate correct patriotic ideas, guide students to resist false statements in the network, so that they can actively explore the truth of things, not publish and disseminate false articles that are not conducive to national unity and national revival, and not blindly follow the views of others, thus forming their own rational judgment ability.

3.3 Shaping the Environment of Patriotism Education for College Students

Shaping the environment of patriotism education for college students requires the joint efforts of the state, society and schools. Firstly, the state should promulgate relevant laws and policies as soon as possible, severely punish the illegal personnel who endanger national security and disseminate false information, publicize the mainstream spirit of patriotism, praise and reward the staff who have made great efforts to maintain national unity, so as to enhance the patriotic consciousness of all citizens and make college students grow up in an environment full of patriotism. Secondly, people from all walks of life should set an example for college students. For example, the news media should shoulder the important responsibility of disseminating real news and leading the mainstream ideas. They should not only publish news releases that mislead readers through one-sided comments and unverified facts, but also restore the truth from an impartial and objective point of view so as to present comprehensive and true news information to readers.
4. Conclusion

Rational patriotism is one of the important requirements for realizing the goal of development and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation at the present stage. For college students in the growing stage, they are prone to irrational patriotism and behavior due to the lack of relevant social experience and the ability to distinguish right from wrong. Therefore, the implementation of rational patriotism education for college students is very important. In order to better carry out the work of rational patriotism education, the state should constantly improve the relevant legal system and create a good environment for college students ‘patriotism education. Schools should also improve the methods of College Students' patriotism education according to the actual requirements, enrich the contents of College Students’ patriotism education, actively guide students to deepen their understanding, form rational patriotism consciousness, and urge them to do so.

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