

# **A Comparative Study on the Construction Path of Core Values between Chinese and American College Students**

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**Abstract:** At present, the world is in a new historical stage of economic integration, political diversification, cultural integration and cultural impact. The way of life and value orientation between countries, between nations, and even between regions are changing unprecedentedly in the process of common prosperity and mutual conflict. The young college students in this period are not fully prepared for the sudden direct impact of culture and spirit. However, the existence of such impact and influence reality has brought a destructive impact on the spirit and thinking of young people. This paper summarizes the educational experience of college students' core values in China and American, makes a comparative study in combination with China's current educational and cultural background, and puts forward feasible suggestions for strengthening and improving the education of college students' core values in China.

## **1. Introduction**

College students are the future of the motherland and the nation. Establishing correct socialist core values is an important content of Ideological and political education in colleges and universities in China. We should give good education and guidance to college students and establish correct socialist core values, which is the basis for colleges and universities to cultivate college students' values. The cultivation of contemporary college students' non discrimination ability and value selection ability is conducive to clarify their value and status in the value diversified social system to a certain extent, and plays a stable role in their spiritual outlook and social core values. Therefore, strengthening the education of college students' core values is of great significance to realize the practice of socialist core values.

## **2. The Formation of Chinese and American Values**

### **2.1. China**

In the process of thousands of years of feudal autocratic rule in China, although it has also experienced the change of dynasties and the release of hundreds of schools of thought, the thought of Confucian unification has always occupied the dominant position of social replacement. The deep-rooted Confucian thought of great unity provides a political legal basis for the centralized regime and lays a stable ideological foundation for long-term social development, but it also hinders the development of free and democratic forces. The democratic consciousness of ordinary people in China is relatively weak[1]. Most of their personal behavior patterns and codes of conduct pursue the golden mean and rule by inaction.

### **2.2. American**

Many theoretical schools and practical models of moral education produced in the 20th century have had a significant impact on the core values education of American college students. For example, John Dewey put forward the philosophy of pragmatism, emphasizing that education is life and school is the best place for students to practice before entering society. For example, Kohlberg's cognitive development moral education theory holds that moral cognition develops gradually with people's growth. The value clarification school represented by Lars, the humanistic

moral education theory school represented by Maslow and Rogers, and the social learning moral education theory school represented by Bandura also affect the core values education of American college students to a certain extent. The political system and social ideology of American determine that its core values education must maintain the rule of the bourgeoisie and meet the requirements of the privatization of capitalist means of production[2].

### **3. Raise to the Research Issue and Significance**

#### **3.1. Issue**

At present, China is in the process of social transformation and globalization. Facing the direct impact and influx of Western values, traditional values are facing new challenges and changes. As young college students, they treat problems and things with diversified value choices and value evaluation, which has brought a new impact to the social core value system. The collision and interaction of multiple values have brought unprecedented challenges to the construction and cultivation of young college students' core values. The emergence of this problem also reflects the weakness of the single path of college students' core values construction, which makes us deeply realize the urgency and necessity of building a new path of college students' core values in today's society.

#### **3.2. Significance**

From the perspective of comparison, this paper analyzes the differences in the construction paths of contemporary college students' core values between China and American, and seeks and focuses on the construction of social core values guided by Marxism, based on Chinese social practice and integrating the advantages of China and American(See Figure 1 below). From the perspective of the significance of previous theoretical research, because the comparative study of values between China and American is relatively few in the field of value research in China, we should conduct a comparative study on the construction path of core values between China and American, sort out, compare and analyze the successful experience of the construction path choice of core values in American, absorb the advantages accumulated by China and American, and develop and innovate on this basis, Promoting the new research field of China's value philosophy and opening up a new path of value construction have epoch-making practical reference significance for China's core value construction and path innovation. At the same time, studying the construction path of College Students' core values will help to build core values with Chinese characteristics. From the new perspective of China and American comparison, this paper compares the core values of Chinese and American society, and analyzes how the core values of Chinese and American society play a role in their respective social progress under the background of modern new civilization, so as to deeply understand the differences in the content and path of the construction of core values between China and American, so as to make us deeply understand the ideological context and perspective of Western core values, Learn from Western core values to build the ethical pursuit of socialist core values.



Figure 1 Reference and integration of core values of Chinese and American college students.

## 4. Comparative Analysis

### 4.1. Differences in core values between China and American

The core values of Chinese college students are collectivism, while the core values of American college students are individualism. Contemporary American college students feel that independence, as the basic condition for individuals to survive in real society, mainly includes ideological independence, economic independence, life independence and so on. They pay special attention to individual independence. It can be said that the main pronoun of individualism is independence.

### 4.2. Differences in democracy, freedom and equality

In the pursuit of democracy, American college students often show that they will provide people eager for success with a stage and opportunity to realize their own values and show themselves, while Chinese college students believe that this is an expression of this right in political and social life. American college students argue that the core of the national political system is democracy. If there is no democracy, there will be no politics. However, Chinese college students like to discuss the country's principles, laws, policies and regulations democratically and freely on the Internet. They can actively participate in the management functions of various government departments and gradually establish the value of "worrying about the country and the people". They hope that while making more contributions to the country, they also hope that the society can realize justice, democracy and fairness, and realize individual social values in fair and democratic social competition.

In the pursuit of freedom and equality, American college students generally believe that free competition and equal opportunities are the fundamental way for individuals to realize their own value. However, Chinese college students pay more attention to realizing their social value through continuous self-improvement and enterprising struggle. American college students advocate that everyone has the freedom to strive for success. As long as they have the ability and strength, anyone can succeed. Chinese college students pursue excellence, actively participate, pay more attention to the realization of their social values through hard work, honesty and trustworthiness and self-improvement, and exercise the spirit of enterprising, brave and innovative in many times of self transcendence.

### 4.3. The influence of American values on China

The impact of American core values on our society is also twofold. Positive aspects: it can awaken the individual consciousness of the Chinese people. It makes everyone pay attention to the realization of their own value and affects the enhancement of people's self-consciousness. In American, contract and legal system are important behavior restraint mechanisms in people's life. While this value concept of Western society is constantly introduced, it has imperceptibly improved people's legal consciousness and legal concept(See Figure 2 below). Therefore, the continuous strengthening and influence of the concept of legal system is of far-reaching significance for promoting China's own improvement and development, promoting China's modernization and governing the country according to law. Negative aspects: the society's one-sided emphasis on pragmatism has contributed to the spread of utilitarian value orientation.



Figure 2 The collision of core values between Chinese and American college students.

## **5. Construction Path**

### **5.1. Using campus cultural environment**

In the United States, both national universities that provide comprehensive talent training and private universities that provide characteristic specialty training attach great importance to the positive role of campus culture construction in college students' values education. They generally believe that the quality of campus culture construction is directly related to the quality of talent training. Colleges and universities pursue the mainstream values of school culture consistent with American society and take it as the driving force of school development. As an important cultural carrier for the construction and cultivation of college Students' values, campus environment plays a bridgehead role in the construction of college Students' core values. At the same time, carry forward the concise university spirit, take elegant morality as the carrier, improve the spiritual civilization and material infrastructure of the campus, and create a fresh spiritual home for teachers and students.

### **5.2. Using growth life to cultivate**

Regardless of country, region and nationality, family is the foundation of social activities, and parents are also the enlighteners of children's personal values. From birth to the formation of values, every child grows up with his family. Family education runs through the child's growth process, that is, parents play a decisive role in the child's growth, the formation and choice of values. Therefore, we should pay attention to creating a harmonious, healthy and optimistic family atmosphere, which has a far-reaching impact on the formation of college students' values. As a school, we should timely observe students' abnormal behaviors, actively maintain smooth communication with students' families, understand students' performance and ideological changes at home, and discuss students' Ideological and political education and the cultivation and education of core values with students' parents.

### **5.3. Improve the initiative of self-improvement**

In the construction process of American college students' core values, moral quality education and civic quality education, as the core content of the construction, fully respect students' demands for personal freedom and power, and respect students' absolute dominant position in the process of education. In China, in the process of receiving the education of socialist core values, students overemphasize the educational object and unconditionally and passively accept the educational content, but often ignore the students' own initiative and overemphasize the external objective influence. In the process of path construction, to guide the formation of values, we must give play to our own initiative. The influence of external environment and the role of education are difficult to achieve the ideal effect. Personal positive cognition and discrimination are the decisive factors for the promotion of values. Strengthening the subjective understanding of the construction of college students' core values can consciously stimulate their subjective initiative, activate their ideological consciousness, combine theoretical knowledge with practice, and gradually improve the formation of their own ideological values, so as to improve their self-cultivation and truly realize the self-active construction and promotion of core values.

## **6. Conclusion**

In short, the construction of college students' core values in China is still in the primary stage of a historical process, showing some social problems and deficiencies. There is still a long way to go in the future. The construction of College Students' core values is a great cause related to national destiny and social civilization.

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