

# *The Brief Discussion on the Era Value of the Red Boat Spirit*

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**Abstract:** The Red Boat Spirit is the product of the Communist Party of China's forward-looking thinking to cope with the changes of the times, and is a kind of spiritual force with the characteristics of the times. On the basis of understanding the connotation, status, and contemporary value of the Red Boat Spirit, grasping its contemporary value in the historical period of revolution, construction, and reform is conducive to deepening the contemporary understanding of the Red Boat Spirit and promoting its inheritance and development in the new era.

## 1. Introduction

The great revolutionary spirit arises from great revolutionary practice and will become a powerful driving force for leading the progress of the times. The spirit of the Red Boat was nurtured by the profound changes in modern Chinese society, and is a dialectical unity of the Chinese national spirit, the scientific truth of Marxism, and the new understanding obtained from the revolutionary practice of the modern Chinese people.[1] "The pioneering spirit of breaking new ground and daring to be the first, the spirit of firm ideals and indomitable struggle, and the spirit of dedication of building the Party for the public and being loyal to the people are the source of the Chinese revolutionary spirit and the profound connotation of the Red Boat Spirit." [2] By exploring the value position of the Red Boat Spirit in the path of revolution, construction, reform and the development of the new era, we can not only deeply understand the century long struggle history of the CPC, It can also provide direction guidance and strength support for the current construction of Chinese-style modernization and the development of socialism.

## 2. The Red Boat Spirit Leads the Opening up of the Road of New Democracy.

The birth background of the CPC is a semi colonial and semi feudal society in which the country was devastated and the nation was in dire straits. At this time, neither the reform of the ruling class for survival nor the democratic revolution of the bourgeoisie could change the tragic situation of the people's oppression, still less the situation of nation peril. The October Revolution in Russia achieved an unprecedented victory under the guidance of Marxist theory, which brought Marxism

into the view of the Chinese people. Patriotic intellectuals led by Li Dazhao and Chen Duxiu began to promote the dissemination and development of this theory in China. The CPC chose the scientific guiding ideology of Marxism at the historical juncture of saving the nation from extinction, and met an epoch-making mission: to overthrow the capitalist class regime that oppressed the people and save the people from suffering. The convening of the First National Congress of the Communist Party of China has brought confidence and guidance to the impoverished Chinese people, gathered the strength of unity, and demonstrated the courage of the CPC people to pioneer and lead the times.[3]

In the early stage of the New Democratic Revolution, our party faced complex domestic and international environments and urgently needed an advanced ideology to guide the direction of the revolution. The Red Boat Spirit was nurtured in this context. The Red Boat Spirit contains such characteristics as firm belief, brave struggle and unyielding will, which are exactly in line with the actual needs of the Chinese revolution at that time, and are also the qualities cultivated by the CPC in the long-term struggle. With its noble revolutionary ideas and powerful spiritual power, The Red Boat Spirit became the leading force of the Party in terms of ideology, indicating the ideological direction and action goals of future revolution.

The program adopted at the First National Congress summarized the Party's primary task as "the revolutionary army must overthrow the capitalist class's political power together with the proletariat, and must support the working class until the social class distinctions disappear." This indicates that our Party has firmly regarded socialism and communism as its direction of struggle from the beginning, establishing lofty ideals and lofty pursuits. The Second National Congress of the Communist Party of China subdivided this task, established a genuine democratic republic on the existing basis, and worked hard to achieve the lofty ideal of communism. Since then, achieving national rejuvenation has become the goal guide of the CPC on the way forward. Integrate the scientific content of the basic principles of Marxism with the actual situation of the Chinese revolution, achieve lofty ideals through continuous struggle, and promote the long-term development of the Chinese revolutionary practice. The people of the CPC, with the courage and wisdom of "daring to be the first", put the masses of the people at the top of the revolutionary task, closely relied on and united the masses of the people to win the Agrarian Revolutionary War, the War of Resistance against Japan and the War of Liberation, and successfully blazed a correct path for the new democratic revolution - the rural encirclement of the city and the armed seizure of power, realizing the great dream of the Chinese nation to stand up for a hundred years.

In the process of the new democratic revolution, the CPC dared to be the first, stood at the forefront, united and led the people to firm their ideals and convictions, and sailed the revolutionary ship from the South Lake with difficulty.[4] Under difficult circumstances, the original aspiration and mission of "serving the people" have never been forgotten. Our party is steadfastly fighting for the Chinese revolution, not afraid of setbacks, and tirelessly fighting for the interests of the people. The great spirit of selfless dedication has stimulated the people's consciousness and participation, contributed to the Chinese revolutionary cause, and promoted the establishment of the model of the people's participation in revolutionary construction, making the revolutionary cause widely penetrate into all aspects of people's life. It was under the guidance of the spirit of innovation, struggle and dedication that the revolutionary cause of the CPC people can continue and eventually become the main force of the Chinese revolution.

### **3. The spirit of the Red Boat guides the Party and the People towards the Path of Socialist Revolution.**

On the basis of the prerequisite for the completion of the new democratic revolution, new

difficulties and challenges are faced by the CPC, namely, what kind of new China to build. At the Second Plenary Session of the Seventh Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Mao Zedong warned the whole party that winning the national victory was only the first step of the Long March, and that the work style of hard struggle still needs to be maintained. In the course of its development, China has often drawn on the experiences of other countries, but historical lessons tell us that only by proceeding from China's actual condition, implementing the original intention of serving the people, and adhering to the criterion of seeking truth from facts, can we build a country that meets the needs of the people.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, in order to restore the national economy, repair the wounds of war, and consolidate the newly formed people's power, the CPC united and led the masses to launch the agrarian revolution. In order to adapt to the new situation after the founding of New China, the CPC summarized the historical experience of leading land reform in the past and passed the Land Reform Law of the People's Republic of China, which not only provided the legal basis for land reform in the newly liberated areas, but also changed the rural production relations and turned the masses of the people into the owners of land. Based on China's national conditions, a general line for the transitional period was proposed, which is to carry out socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts, capitalist industry and commerce. The three major reforms, as a creative measure, have achieved a smooth transition from a new democratic society to a socialist society in China. At the same time, they have enriched and developed the scientific socialist theory of Marxism Leninism in both theory and practice, laying a solid institutional foundation for China's future development and progress.

In the historical period of transition from New Democracy to socialism, China is facing a dual test of internal and external troubles. While achieving domestic peace construction, it is also necessary to be vigilant against the watchful eyes of Western countries. In the complex and volatile international environment and domestic situation, the Chinese Communists have always maintained their courage and determination, firmly committed to the original aspiration of seeking the interests of the people, firmly realized the communist ideal and conviction, and constantly promoted socialist construction.

#### **4. The spirit of the Red Boat Inspires Confidence in Exploring the Path of Socialist Construction**

The basic socialist system has been basically established during the transitional period of the Party, which provides a prerequisite and foundation for China's socialist construction. Due to the fact that the of socialist construction is still in its infancy, it means that China's level of productivity is still insufficient. Under this realistic dilemma, how to develop the political, economic, and cultural undertakings of socialism has become a new challenge faced by the Party and the people. The special national conditions of China determine the difficulty of socialist construction. Faced with the complex international and domestic environment, how to build a socialist great country is a difficult problem that faces people of all ethnic groups in the country.

"When the new task of building socialism in an all-round way was put forward so quickly, the whole party was not only inexperienced but also lacked sufficient ideological preparation on how to build socialism in China, so it was impossible to have a complete set of theories." [5](P373) After the founding of New China, the Soviet Union, as a country with relatively mature socialist development, naturally attracted the attention of the CPC. Learning from the Soviet Union became the main way to build socialism at that time, but from the reality of China's development, learning from the Soviet Union could not solve all of China's problems, which stimulated the urgent desire of Communists to explore their own development path. Starting from the contradictions between the

ten pairs of relations, On the Ten Major Relations points out the strengths and weaknesses of China's development, and clarifies the determination of the CPC to explore the path of socialist construction in line with China's own reality. The Eighth Party Congress of China pointed out the main contradiction in current Chinese society and proposed that the future work task is to transform China from a backward agricultural country to an advanced industrial country. The creative approach of "criticism unity criticism" has been proposed in dealing with internal contradictions among the people. These are significant theoretical achievements achieved in exploring China's own construction path, and are the culmination of the outstanding achievements of the Party and the broad masses of the people in their arduous struggle.

The future of socialist construction is bright, but the road is winding. Faced with fierce international competition, the starting point of China's desire to change the current situation of poverty and weakness in the domestic market in a short period of time is correct. However, in the process of development, there is an objective mistake of being hasty and impatient. The formulation of development goals goes beyond objective reality, and the "Great Leap Forward" and the People's Commune Movement were widely carried out across the country. This not only surpassed the stage of socialist development in China, but also violates the laws of socialist construction. In the process of significant changes in the international and domestic social environment, some correct decisions have not been implemented, and socialist construction has gone through many twists and challenges. The lessons learned from it are profound and heartbreaking. In the process of exploring the path of socialist construction in China, various obstacles and twists and turns are inevitably encountered, which also means that we have valuable experience and lessons for reference in the future socialist construction process.

In the process of China's exploration of the socialist road, with the inspiration and guidance of the Red Boat Spirit, Chinese Communists have constantly pushed forward various reforms and development, and strive to achieve national modernization. In the course of great practice of socialist construction, generation after generation of Chinese Communists have given play to their own spirit of innovation, dedication and struggle, composed a series of new spiritual chapters such as the "Daqing Spirit", the "Two Bombs and One Star Spirit", and the "Jiao Yulu Spirit", endowed the Red Boat Spirit, the source of the Chinese revolutionary spirit, with new era connotation and value implications, and enriched the spiritual pedigree of the CPC, It is an inexhaustible source of spiritual motivation for opening up the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

## **5. The Red Boat Spirit has boosted the Morale of the Party in Blazing the Path of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics.**

In exploring the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics Chinese Communists have always adhered to the idea of people-centered development and carried forward reform and modernization in the spirit of the Red Boat. They dare to face various difficulties and challenges, bravely accept the challenges and tests brought about by social change, and constantly explore development paths that are in line with China's National conditions.

The CPC, represented by Comrade Mao Zedong, led the masses of the people on the path of China's socialist construction through arduous exploration and struggle, and finally achieved a series of great achievements. The accumulation of positive and negative experiences and lessons in this process has important implications for future development. In the mid-1970s, the domestic political environment underwent changes. Through reflecting on the experiences and lessons of the Cultural Revolution, a great discussion was held on the issue of truth standards, which opened the curtain of China's reform and opening up. In the spirit of "daring to be the first in the world", 18 farmers in Xiaogang Village pressed their bright red handprint on a "secret contract" that divided

their field to their households , implementing agricultural "Da Bao Gan ", to "fight their way out " to establish special Economic and Technological Special Zone with a strong sense and daring to be the first in the world ,thus realizing reform and innovation in China's economic system. The creativity and spirit of struggle of the Party and the people have been fully demonstrated in pioneering the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, which is conducive to promoting the vigorous development of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

"Combining the universal truth of Marxism with the specific reality of our country, taking our own path and building socialism with Chinese characteristics is the basic conclusion we have drawn from long-term experience." [6](P3) The CPC, represented by Comrade Deng Xiaoping, led the people to forge ahead courageously and explored a socialist development path suitable for China's national conditions in the process of "crossing the river by feeling the stones", China has achieved leapfrog development and kept up with the pace of the times with great strides. The path of socialism with Chinese characteristics was pioneered against the backdrop of a new era of reform and opening-up. During this period, China is in a critical period of economic development and social change, and there must be a new development model to adapt to the change. The CPC has led the people to make historic decisions, creatively put forward the path of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, and promoted social development in a way more suited to China's national conditions. This path is not only an important historical opportunity, but also based on the unremitting efforts of the Party and people. It has been validated and practiced in various periods, and has important significance in China's modernization construction and global peaceful development.

The spirit of the Red Boat has injected strong spiritual strength into the exploration of the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and has also provided valuable experience and inspiration for today's China. In today's new era, it is all the most necessary for us to invigorate our spirit , carry forward the Red Boat spirit ,and make continue efforts to realize the Chinese dream of great nation renewal.

## **6. The Red Boat Spirit Promotes The Realization of the Chinese Dream.**

In the current era, the timeliness of the Red Boat Spirit still has its epochal character and is still an important spiritual pillar for the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics. We still face various difficulties and challenges, which require firm faith, courage to struggle, indomitable will, and to strive and strive. We need to maintain an innovative spirit, actively adapt to the needs of the times, and promote reforms and progress in all aspects.[7]

In the face of the current complex and volatile international situation, the CPC must withstand the "four major tests" - political, ideological, organizational and disciplinary test, and overcome the "four major dangers" - external , internal , economic and social risks. At the same time, it still has to face the arduous task of "catching up with the test". We must maintain a clear mind, firm faith and conviction , continuously promote self-improvement, actively respond to various risks and challenges, inherit and carry forward the spirit of the Red Boat, combine it with the core socialist values in the new era, working tirelessly together to achieve the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

The spirit of innovation, struggle and dedication contained in the Red Boat Spirit provides a strong support for the socialist core values. Both the Red Boat Spirit and the socialist core values reflect the original intention of the CPC to work for the happiness of the Chinese people and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and both reflect the socialist ideology and work together to realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.[8]The most important value of the Red Boat Spirit in the new era is to provide spiritual impetus to the Party and the broad



masses, and to promote the great practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics towards new victories.[9]

Develop communication models with the spirit of "pioneering spirit". The "pioneering spirit" has always inspired the Chinese Communists to firmly believe in and create a great cause that has never been done before and will never be done again. In the new era, it is necessary to extensively publicize and promote outstanding example of Red Boat that have made remarkable achievements in exploration, innovation and pioneering progress through traditional media, new media and other channels, so that their spiritual influence can be more widely passed on and inherited, and more people can be inspired to have the "pioneering spirit", Enhance people's understanding and identification with the core socialist values. The dissemination of socialist core values should fully promote the "pioneering spirit", and incorporate socialist core values into it through promotional posters, microfilms, short videos, and other forms. With the help of popular slogans, specific scenes, and characters, vivid promotional images should be created to attract more attention and acceptance, and gradually become the code of conduct and moral beliefs of the general public.

Eliminate negative impacts with the "spirit of struggle". The struggle spirit of "firm ideals and indomitable" embodied in the Red Boat Spirit is the root of the Chinese Communists settling down and one of the important spiritual supports of the socialist core values. We must unswervingly eliminate all negative impacts caused by economic globalization and mass media with the spirit of struggle. Taking education as the overall focus, we will strengthen patriotic education, social responsibility education, and innovation and entrepreneurship education for students in families, schools, and other educational institutions, stimulate their spirit of struggle, and make them realize that only through their own efforts and struggles can they achieve their dreams and ideals. At the same time, strengthen the system of cracking down on and restraining negative values, so that those values that do not conform to the socialist core values can not be inherited and developed.

To strengthen the effectiveness of communication with "dedication". The century long struggle history of the Party cannot be separated from the selfless dedication of the vast number of Party members and people. The basic requirement for every Communist Party member is to "bear hardship first and enjoy later". In its long-term practice, the CPC has constantly pursued the requirement of strict management of Party members to ensure that Party members have a high sense of responsibility and spirit of responsibility in their work. In the process of work, has always put the interests of the people first, engraved the people's concept and service awareness in the work guidelines, adhered to the people as the center. The promotion of the Red Boat Spirit in the new era must be combined with the socialist core values, strength the spread of socialist core values with the "dedication", and creat a good education environment with the help of a variety of means and carriers, so that the dedication and the Red Boat Spirit will be deeply rooted in the hearts of people, and provide strong ideological and cultural support for promoting the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The Red Boat Spirit is the fine tradition and spiritual wealth of the CPC. It is an important thought and action guide for our party to strengthen its ideals and convictions, and always maintain the ture spirit and revolutionary nature. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. Only through in-depth exploration and continuous enrichment under new historical conditions can the spirit of the Red Boat shine with new vitality and brilliance in the new era, becoming a powerful support for the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

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### Data Availability

Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no new data were created or analysed in this study.

### Conflict of Interest

The author states that this article has no conflict of interest.

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