

The Value Implication and Practice Path of Carrying Forward the Great Struggle Spirit of the Communist Party of China in the New Era

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[**Abstract**] The spirit of struggle is the spiritual wealth condensed from the hundred years' struggle of the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. In-depth study of the struggle spirit of the new era, from the theory of continuity, mission practice, character building, and coping with changes, answers the original question "why carry forward" of the struggle spirit in four dimensions. From three aspects of struggle consciousness, direction and position, and ability and effect, this paper continues to answer the realistic question of "how to carry forward". Based on the new era, it's necessary to learn to fully understand the spirit of struggle for the self-soul calcium, and spread and carry forward the spirit of struggle for the great dream quenching.

[**Key words**] new era; the Communist Party of China; spirit of struggle; value implication; practice path

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1 Introduction

The spirit of struggle has the value of the times. To uphold the spirit of struggle is to continue the Marxist theory of struggle, to adhere to the mission of a Marxist political party, to achieve the second centenary goal one after another, and to solve the current domestic contradictions and cope with the world's great changes unseen in a century. Going back over the past decade, the discussion of "struggle" has repeatedly appeared on major occasions and in important documents. The report of the 18th CPC National Congress puts forward that "we must prepare for a great struggle with many new historical characteristics", and the report of the 19th CPC National Congress clearly points out that "we must carry out a great struggle with many new historical characteristics" after "preparing". A series of important discussions on the spirit of struggle point out the development trend and direction for the continuous development of the spirit of struggle in the new era, the stage goals and practical requirements, the strong impetus and value support, and the detailed theoretical reference for in-depth exploration of the necessity and reality of carrying forward the great spirit of struggle in the new era.

2 The value implication of carrying forward the great spirit of struggle in the new era

"Struggle" is the distinctive feature of Marxist political parties and the political character of Chinese Communists. Since the new era, "struggle" has added many new meanings on the basis of the original meaning. To promote the struggle spirit in the new era is to promote the inheritance and development of the Marxist struggle theory, Chinese excellent traditional culture and the great Party-building spirit based on the specific reality of China, as well as the scientific and dynamic enterprising state and attitude of struggle serving the second "centenary

goal” and the Chinese dream, with initial mission as an important objective, wisdom and courage as the core, hard work as the value criterion, and objective laws as the basic objective. The addition of new meanings also gives the spirit of struggle many new realistic significance and value of the times.

2.1 It is the necessity to continue the Marxist struggle theory and give play to the value of the times

Marxism is the soul of ideals and the foundation of convictions for Chinese Communists. Marxists never shy away from the struggle. They always face the struggle, confront the struggle squarely and actively strive for the struggle. Since its birth, Marxism has been struggling against the old materialism, idealism, mechanism and opportunism. History and practice show that Marxist struggle theory is a truth judgment that is scientific and revolutionary, as well as theoretical and practical, and represents the theoretical source and scientific core of the struggle spirit in the new era. To carry forward the great spirit of struggle, we should base ourselves on the new era and seek insights from the source of Marxist theory.

Marx and Engels pointed out: “Without confrontation, there can be no progress.” Social progress, in a certain sense, is the resolution of the basic social contradictions, and the solution of the basic social contradictions in class society is mainly through class struggle. Lenin believes that “development is a struggle of opposites”. When the Soviet was in internal and external troubles, Lenin called on the people to carry out extensive and profound political struggles with the theme of purging non – proletarian and revisionist ideology and economic practices with the means of abandoning backward production and management modes, bringing the politically weak and economically depressed Soviet out of the predicament, which provided sufficient theoretical reference and practical experience for carrying forward the spirit of struggle in the new era. As a proletarian party, the Communist Party of China must take root in the Marxist theory of struggle, correctly grasp the position and direction of the Marxist theory of struggle, scientifically adopt strategies and methods, and skillfully use the art of struggle if it wants to truly resolve the main contradictions facing China. Marxist struggle theory is the original meaning of the great struggle spirit in the new era, and it still provides a source of living water for the promotion of the great spirit in the new era.

2.2 It is the source of power to practice the CPC’s original aspiration and mission and consolidate its ruling foundation

The people are the witnesses and creators of social history. The affinity to the people is the inherent essence and important manifestation of a Marxist political party. The Communist Party, as a Marxist political party, has engraved the idea of the people’s supremacy on its flag since its establishment. The Communist Party, as a firm proletarian party, must earnestly implement the original aspiration and mission of the Party to implement the concept of people’s supremacy, which is the most fundamental requirement and the most vivid manifestation of the concept of people’s supremacy. The original aspiration and the mission have the same value connotation in a certain sense, but they are different. Through the interpretation of the mass line, the original aspiration focuses more on the description of the source point, that is, the starting point of action “everything for the masses”, emphasizing spontaneous consciousness, which can be understood as a spontaneous and active mental state. Mission is embodied as an external bestowal. The mission of the Communist Party of China is an important task of the times entrusted by the state, the nation and the people, which requires “going to the masses” and emphasizes conscious practice, which can be understood as a conscious and positive state of behavior. From this we can see that the original aspiration is the source of the mission, and the mission is the continuation of the original aspiration. To carry forward the spirit of struggle in the new era, we must promote the full integration of the original aspiration and

mission, pay attention to the identity of the source and responsibility, and take the fundamental interests of the people as the important purpose of the struggle.

The great struggle spirit of the new era is a historical inheritance and a realistic choice. Since its founding, the Communist Party of China has led the broad masses of the people in a broad and profound struggle. Vertically, it can be divided into four stages: the first stage is the struggle practice of resisting oppression, bloody fighting to the end, and seizing power with armed forces as the main way; the second stage is the deepening of the struggle to safeguard peace and work hard, with socialist revolution and construction as the theme of development; the third stage is the struggle and transformation of seeking truth from facts and daring to struggle, with economic construction as the center of work; the fourth stage is to work hard, and adhere to the integrity of innovation, with achieving the Chinese dream as the goal of struggle to expand. In this process, the Party and the people have forged a profound friendship and accomplished many important things. Based on the new era, we are in the fourth stage of the struggle. The realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is a “hard battle” that must be fought and won by the whole Party and the people of all ethnic groups in China. The importance and difficulty of the task put forward higher requirements for the majority of Party members and cadres, which requires the majority of Party members and cadres to deeply imprint the supremacy of the people in their hearts, and truly work for the people. As a result, the relationship between the Party and the people has become closer, and the ruling foundation of the Party has become more solid.

2.3 It is the key move to temper the spiritual character of Communists and take the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics

Firm ideals and convictions have always been the key elements of the spiritual character of Chinese Communists. From the point of view of the goal, communism is the highest social ideal of Marxism and the highest stage of socialism. To realize the common ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the aspiration of every Chinese people, and the necessary preparation and process for realizing the highest ideal of communism. From this, we can see that firmly following the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the goal of carrying forward the great spirit in the new era. From a practical point of view, the Communist Party of China is the largest Party in the world, and in a certain sense, the mental state of its members directly affects the mental state of the broad masses of the people. Whether the majority of Party members possess the spirit of struggle has a direct bearing on the people's consciousness and self-consciousness, and on the degree of practice and actual results of building socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

Resolute struggle courage has always been an important connotation of the spiritual character of Chinese Communists. From the perspective of the particularity of Communist Party members, “Communist Party members are special people who do not seek personal gains at all, but only seek the welfare of the nation and the people”. Based on the new era, Party members, especially Party cadres, are the vanguard of carrying forward the great spirit of struggle and the main force in building socialism with Chinese characteristics. From the perspective of the objective environment faced by the Communist Party members, since the new era, the Communist Party of China has faced “four tests” and “four dangers”. Some Party members and cadres have slack spirit, insufficient ability, disconnections with the people and passive corruption, boiling down to “dare to do” and “whether to do”. “Dare to do” is the premise and basis of “doing”, and the practical source of struggle. Therefore, whether they have resolute struggle courage is an important basis to measure whether the Communists can have the struggle potential, and an internal dimension to determine whether they can play a vanguard role in the process of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. To carry forward the great spirit in the new era, the first and foremost is to cultivate

ideals and convictions, and to strengthen the courage to fight to seize ideological positions. This is not only conducive to the shaping of the spiritual character of Communists, but also breaks down ideological barriers and enhances the sense of initiative for the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

2.4 It is the lasting strategy to face the great changes unseen in a century and realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation

“The world today is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, and China is at a crucial stage of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Our Party is leading the people in a great struggle with many new historical features. The situation and environment are changing rapidly, the tasks of reform, development and stability are heavier, contradictions, risks and challenges are numerous, and the governance of our Party is being tested more than ever.” This illustrates the practical significance and strategic position of carrying forward the great spirit of struggle in the new era, and reveals the complexity and randomness of today’s domestic and foreign environments. For example, from the international side, there are sovereignty disputes, economic friction, oil crisis, health security and other issues; from the domestic side, there are changes in the main domestic contradictions, economic difficulties, overcapacity, population problems and so on. In the field of ideology, some western countries export western ideology through various ways such as hype infiltration, inducement infiltration and academic infiltration, advocating consumerism and hedonism, distorting Chinese policies, stigmatizing heroes, etc. In the field of domestic ideology, formalism, utilitarianism, political nihilism and historical nihilism are hidden. The unpredictable international environment and the realistic goal of carrying heavy burdens have clarified the direction for the “struggle” in the new era and put forward the requirements of the times.

Since the Opium War, China has been humiliated, its people have suffered, and its civilization has been tarnished. Since then, the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation has become the longing and thinking of every Chinese people. Over the past hundred years, under the guidance of the spirit of struggle, the Communist Party of China has united and led the people of all ethnic groups to struggle tirelessly, to be strong and unyielding, to fight bloody battles, to be reborn, to write magnificent epic struggles one after another, to cast a marvel of construction, to depict a moving picture of innovation, and to make “progress that the old China has not made in hundreds or thousands of years”. Constrained by certain historical conditions and complex situations, the CPC has made both “left” and “right” mistakes in leading the revolution, construction and reform. However, the Communist Party of China has the courage to revolutionize itself at critical times, and relies on its own strength to fight tenaciously against “left” and “right” mistakes, and constantly self-correct, self-improve, and self-purify. History and practice have fully shown that the Communist Party of China has truly integrated the spirit of struggle into the great cause of the Party’s self-building and the career of leading the people of all ethnic groups in pursuing development and rejuvenation. Therefore, only by inheriting and carrying forward the struggle characteristics inherent in the spiritual lineage of the Communist Party of China and guiding practice can the Party truly lead the people of all ethnic groups to remember the hardships of the past, follow the glory of history, and realize national rejuvenation.

3 The practice path of carrying forward the great spirit of struggle in the new era

The Communist Party of China has always attached importance to the spirit of struggle, actively promoted the practice of struggle, and regarded the promotion of the spirit of struggle that is inherent in Party members as the important initiative and key strategy for the Party to lead the broad masses of the people to carry out extensive and profound social practice. “We must rely on our own heroic struggle, as no one will grant us a bright China.”

Therefore, it is of great benefit to the pursuit of a bright China to fully coordinate the various elements and links of the struggle and effectively exert the effectiveness of the struggle.

3.1 Strengthen the consciousness of struggle and the main responsibility

Strengthening the consciousness of struggle is the first important point and the key to carry forward the great spirit of struggle in the new era, which involves the willingness to participate in the struggle and the degree of the determination of struggle. The world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. At home, we are in a period of overcoming difficulties in the second “centenary goal”, and the whole Party and the people of all ethnic groups in China are working together to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. During this period, the two social systems are intertwined and gamble with each other. But as Marx said, “It would be too easy to make world history if the struggle were to proceed only under conditions of absolute advantage.” The deeper and more thorny the struggle becomes, the more we must adhere to the principle of “never forget danger, death and happiness, always stay alert, raise our spirits, and carry out many great struggles with new historical characteristics”. Firstly, in the face of ideological noise and cultural penetration, we must change from passive to active. In view of the phenomenon of premeditated ideological implantation by western forces, the majority of Party members and cadres should take the lead and take the initiative to identify and act. Facing the behavior of advocating political nihilism and historical nihilism at home and abroad, the majority of Party members and cadres should take the initiative to strengthen theoretical study, and to commit to clarification and education. Secondly, strengthen the bottom line thinking, take precautions and prevent problems before they happen. The majority of Party members and cadres should cultivate the feelings of the family and the country, enhance the sense of struggle, bear the initiative of history in mind, and bravely shoulder the heavy task of rejuvenation. We are good at identifying potential risks, making scientific predictions based on development trends and objective laws, improving our ability to prevent and defuse “black swan” and “gray rhino” incidents, focusing on preventing and defusing risks in economic, political, ideological and social services and public health, and safeguarding the great cause of the new era.

The implementation of the main responsibility is the important content of carrying forward the great spirit of struggle and improving the effectiveness of struggle in the new era, the practical need of strengthening one’s resistance, and avoiding and overcoming all kinds of non – proletarian ideas, and the important guarantee of constructing great projects, developing great undertakings and realizing great dreams in the new era. Whether Party members and cadres practice and make a difference is directly related to whether the broad masses of the people have the confidence and enthusiasm for struggle, whether they can form the common consciousness of the Chinese nation and fight together, and the timing, degree and effectiveness of development. Marx and Engels pointed out: “We must replace the false responsibility system with the real responsibility system.” At present, there are all kinds of non-Marxist and anti-Marxist ideas in the field of ideology in China, some of which are intuitive and obvious, and some of which are potential and recessive, mainly embodied in formalism, bureaucracy, utilitarianism, historical nihilism and political nihilism. Therefore, firstly, subjectively, the majority of Party members and cadres are required to ensure that they remain conscious, adhere to a high degree of theoretical consciousness and practice for themselves, truly implement the main responsibility, and achieve the consciousness, defense, undertaking and conscientiousness of responsibility. Secondly, we need to objectively improve the oversight and accountability mechanism. The majority of Party members and cadres should conduct self-reflection on their Party spirit and personal behaviors in accordance with Party members’ norms. Relevant departments should conduct supervision and accountability in strict accordance with relevant laws and regulations such as the

CPC Constitution, the CPC Intra – Party Supervision Regulations, and the CPC Accountability Regulations. Through the supervision mechanism, the external driving force can be formed to carry forward the great spirit of struggle, and enhance the ideological correctness and behavior of Party members. At the same time, it is necessary to guide the broad masses of the people to participate in the supervision of Party members and cadres, which is an important part of improving the supervision mechanism, and an important measure to ensure that the people exercise their power and enhance the actual effectiveness of supervision.

3.2 Clear the direction of struggle and firm the position of struggle

Actively adhering to the guiding practice of Marxist struggle theory and the centralized and unified leadership of the Party is a conscious response to the spiritual direction of struggle in the new era. Firstly, we must unswervingly adhere to the theoretical guidance of Marxism. Marxist philosophy is the inner essence and theoretical key of inheriting and developing Marxist struggle theory in the new era. It is embodied in the common value orientation of many philosophical dimensions such as materialism, which takes seeking truth from facts as its fundamental essence; epistemology, which takes the unity of knowledge and action as its prominent representation; and dialectics, which takes the law of contradiction as its main content. Therefore, when carrying forward the spirit of struggle, we must adhere to seek the truth from facts, face the problems, and identify contradictions. Based on the exploration and compliance with the objective laws, in the process of analyzing and solving contradictions, the opposite sides are promoted to transform each other, so as to achieve further development. Based on this, we should deeply understand the Communists’ “philosophy of struggle”, use the analytical methods of dialectical materialism and historical materialism, combine the international environment and the domestic small environment, grasp the main contradictions and main aspects of contradictions, and adhere to the unity of “two–point theory” and “key point theory”. We must unite and fight at the same time, cooperate and fight at the same time, promote each other and fight at the same time, carry out the struggle in a rational, beneficial and orderly manner, and ensure that policies are adapted to local conditions, the time and the individual, so as to prevent the practice of struggle from falling into a single and formalized pattern. Secondly, we must unswervingly uphold the centralized and unified leadership of the Party. The spirit of struggle is a prominent feature inherent in the CPC’s leadership of the Chinese people’s revolution, construction and reform, a political advantage for Chinese Communists, and an important guideline for Party members and cadres in the new era to improve their ideological consciousness and practical ability. This requires the majority of Party members and cadres to implement ideological consciousness and self–oriented actions, firmly establish a sense of main responsibility while consciously fulfilling the tasks entrusted by the Party and the people, consciously oppose all forces that threaten the Party’s ruling status, and consciously safeguard the authority of the Party’s Central Committee.

The issue of position involves the principle and key issues of carrying forward the great spirit of struggle. When implemented into concrete practice, it is to discuss the issues of “where to stand” and “why to stand”, that is, “from whom to start” and “for whom”. On this basis, to carry forward the great spirit of struggle, we must firmly stand on the people’s side. In the new era, the main contradiction in society has changed, and the people are no longer satisfied with their basic needs for survival and living, but have more aspirations for a better life. Therefore, measures to protect the people should also be more systematic, comprehensive, flexible and targeted. Firstly, understand the people’s feelings and relieve their worries. The majority of Party members and cadres should look at the macro–level as well as the micro–level, earnestly concern the people, go deep into the people, listen to the people and serve the people, take care of the people’s political, economic, cultural, social, ecological and security rights and interests, and be good “leaders” and “warm people”. Secondly, concentrate the wisdom of the people

and benefit the people. We must fully respect the principal position of the people, and for their well-being, rely on their strength, pool their wisdom, and give full play to their pioneering spirit, so that the fruits of development will truly benefit the people.

3.3 Enhance the ability and effectiveness of struggle

Leading officials must undergo strict ideological training, political experience, and practical training, and in complex and severe struggles, go through trials and hardships, enrich the experience, and strengthen the strength and bones, truly forging into fire and gold. If we want to become fire and gold, we must go through the progressive links of willingness to work, courage to work, ability to work, proficiency in work and effort in work, which are also the inevitable requirements for cultivating intelligent, courageous and resourceful subjects of struggle. Strengthen the will of struggle by cultivating the consciousness of struggle, stimulate the initiative of struggle by cultivating the courage of struggle, and enhance the ability of struggle by systematic and comprehensive theoretical study and practical exercise. In addition, based on the principle of scientific and artistic unity, we should skillfully use the art of struggle and struggle strategy to strengthen the ability of struggle and improve the effectiveness of struggle. Strengthening the ability of struggle is the essential core and practical need of carrying forward the great spirit of struggle in the new era, which solves the problem of whether one can participate in the struggle and how the struggle is effective, mainly involving the mastery of the struggle theory, the application of the struggle method and the struggle strategy and the strengthening of the struggle will. Subjectively, mastering the ability of struggle depends on the “immersion” learning of the majority of Party members and cadres. On the other hand, it is necessary to take the initiative to analyze the positive and negative experience and lessons with a comprehensive view, a connected view and a negation of the negation view, to clarify the inevitability and regularity of the struggle. In short, the majority of Party members and cadres should adhere to the combination of historical materialism and dialectical materialism, and become “insiders” who truly understand the meaning of struggle and “preachers” who actively promote the spirit of struggle. From an objective point of view, struggle should grasp the situation and respect objective laws. On the one hand, we must proceed from reality, accurately grasp the situation of the world, the national conditions, the Party and the people, scientifically study and judge the development trend, and firmly grasp the initiative of development with our own hands. On the other hand, we should adopt a reasonable way of struggle, properly use the art of struggle, and grasp the heat of struggle, beware of the insufficient intensity and overhastiness.

4 The demand of the times of carrying forward the great spirit of struggle in the new era

To carry forward the great spirit of struggle in the new era is the necessity of value, reality and the times. “The courage to fight and win is an invincible and powerful spiritual force for the Party and the people.” It is also the spiritual key for the Party to lead the people of all ethnic groups to push forward the development of the socialist cause in the new era.

The character of daring to be the first and brave is the core value of carrying forward the great spirit of struggle, and a prerequisite for being good at struggle and having the courage to win. Dare to struggle is not only the character requirements of courage, but also the value requirements of the original aspiration and mission, and the practical guidance of the consciousness and action consistency of the majority of Party members and cadres. It also provides methodological guidance for the great struggle for socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. Being good at struggle is a key link to determine the effectiveness of struggle, a vivid manifestation of skillfully interweaving and flexible use of struggle theory, struggle method, struggle strategy and struggle art, and a concrete

manifestation of the combination of strategic thinking and tactical thinking, overall awareness, focus and reasonable concerns. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the learning, thinking and criticism initiatives, and be armed with self-thought to improve the practical degree and effect of struggle. The courage to win is the last and decisive part of the practice of participating in the struggle. This is based on the establishment of the struggle confidence, the cultivation of the struggle courage, the deepening of the struggle theory, the mastery of the struggle method, the mastery of the struggle art and the strengthening of the struggle will. This is a kind of emotional conversion from the practice based on the future, with a deep struggle background. The courage to win is to maintain the open-minded mentality when facing difficulties and obstacles, the persistent choice when cracking a hard nut, and the enterprising spirit when being in trouble. Taking victory as the goal, direction and destination, we must unswervingly take the courage to win as the value bearer and practical direction of carrying forward the great spirit of struggle in the new era.

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