

Core Socialist Values • Keywords

Chief Editor: Han Zhen

Patriotism

Dong Lihe

Translated by Hu Dan



China Renmin University Press

Core Socialist Values • Keywords

Chief Editor: Han Zhen

Patriotism

Dong Lihe

Translated by Hu Dan

China's Core Socialist Values • Keywords Series

• Beijing •

Contents

Chapter 1	Patriotism at Home and Abroad	3
Chapter 2	Patriotic Tradition of the Chinese Nation	23
1.	Patriotism in Ancient China	25
2.	Patriotism in Modern China	39
3.	Patriotism since the Founding of New China	51
Chapter 3	The Theme of Patriotism in Our Age	61
1.	Aiming for Revitalizing the Chinese People	62
2.	Strengthening Confidence in Socialism of Chinese Characteristics	66
3.	Upholding Reform and Opening-up	77
4.	Safeguarding the Country's Core Interests	85
5.	Love Chinese History and Culture	103
6.	Realize the Chinese Dream While Not Forgetting Past Humiliations	117
7.	Protecting the Environment	123
8.	Turning the China Dream into Action	129
Chapter 4	Patriotic Education through Publicity and Activities	135
1.	Publicity—Telling Good Stories	137
2.	Activities—Engaging the Masses	151

Patriotism
Patriotism

Patriotism

Chapter One

Patriotism at Home and Abroad

1

Patriotism at Home and Abroad

The Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation points out the direction of China. It also serves as a great banner under which our 1.3 billion people rally for a better future. A great cause requires a great spirit, and a great spirit pushes forward a great cause. Without a common ideal and the united efforts on the part of the people, it is impossible to realize a rejuvenated nation of prosperity and happiness. Therefore, a powerful spirit is an imperative, and it is the spirit of patriotism. President Xi Jinping in his speech during the first plenary session of the 12th National People's Congress pointed out that "to realize the Chinese Dream, we must promote the Chinese spirit, which is the national spirit centered on patriotism, reform and innovation of our time. This kind of spirit unites and strengthens our nation. Patriotism unites the Chinese nation. Reform and innovation keeps us in pace with the times. People of all ethnic groups must promote the great spirit of our nation, and constantly enhance national unity and confidence, and energetically strive for a better future."

Patriotism is the core of the Chinese spirit and is the gene of our nation from generation to generation. It is due to patriotism embedded deep in our mind that our Chinese nation has survived for thousands of years under usually difficult and harsh circumstances. Reform and innovation is also part of patriotism. The spirit of traditional patriotism and modern-time spirit of reform and innovation are like two invisible wings that propeller our nation to go forward to realize the lofty dream of great national rejuvenation.

Patriotism is a lofty and divine idea that is pursued as a social value and constantly serves as an ideological theme by countries and civilized societies all over the world. Russia publishes *National Guidelines for Patriotism Education* every five years. Primary and high schools in Singapore hold national flag raising ceremony and sing national

anthem every school day. The Korean national anthem says, “Love our dear motherland with our determination and spirit; Devote to her our heart and loyalty, misery or joy may we face.” In national ceremonies in the United States, people would recite “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” Also well known were President Kennedy’s words “Do not ask what the country can do for you. Ask what you can do for the country.” It can be said that there is no country in the world which does not uphold patriotism.

Quotations

Patriotism exists in most parts of the world. However the elites may dislike it, most people in most nations would identify themselves as patriots.

Samuel Huntington

What is patriotism? The answer may not be as simple as it looks at first. Different people may have different answers to it owing to different perspectives and different ideas, and even the same person may give different answers under different circumstances. To put it simply, patriotism means loving one’s motherland and being loyal to it. Then, what is “motherland”? To answer this question, we must first understand the meanings of four Chinese words: “国” (state or kingdom), “家” (family), “国家” (country) and “祖国” (motherland) in the context of Chinese culture. Based on ancient Chinese texts, the word “国” (classical spelling “國”, meaning state or kingdom) was derived from the ancient Chinese character “或” which meant “state”. During the Western Zhou Dynasty, a big square was put outside the character “或”, and it became “國”,

adding the meaning that a state has boundary, within which the people live and work. So, the original meaning of “国” refers to a certain public living area. In ancient China, “国” (state or kingdom) was an area which the emperor enfeoffed his prince or duke. “家” (family) was an area the prince or duke enfeoffed his important minister or official. Later “国” and “家” were combined into one word, meaning “country”. Generally speaking, “country” includes three elements: land, people and sovereignty. That was probably how the ancient Chinese understood the meaning of “country”. In its classical spelling of the Chinese character “國” (state or kingdom), the little inside square “口” means residents; one line “一” means land; “戈” (a kind of ancient weapon) means force; the big square “口” outside means border. “祖” (ancestor) means “temple for forebears”. So, in Chinese culture, “country” originally meant “land of ancestors”. In Western cultures, a “country” has similar meanings. That is why it is called “fatherland” or “motherland”, meaning it is a place the people have lived from generation to generation. In its extended meanings, a “country” also includes its “nationality”, that is, a stable group of people sharing a common living area, language, way of life, cultural tradition and psyche.

In modern language, a “country” has three layers of meaning: natural factor, society and government. The natural factor refers to the “territory” within the border, including its land forms like soil, sea, mountains, rivers, lakes, etc. and natural resources like forests, minerals, natural products, etc. Social factor refers to the so-called “compatriots” or “nationality”, that is, the people with close blood origin or social contacts who share a common culture, like the language, customs, rituals and psyches. The “government” element refers to the political organization established to maintain social

order, national sovereignty and security. In all, a “country” is a comprehensive concept that combines factors of natural beings, political system, economy, nationality and culture into one. Specifically speaking, patriotism means loving one’s own country’s nationality, natural beings, history, culture and political system. The passion of patriotism is most expressed in one’s national esteem, confidence and pride.

Further Readings

China is our mother who gives birth to us. Don't you think she is adorable? I think you feel the same as I do, and will believe that she is really lovable. In terms of climate, China is situated in the temperate zone, so she is neither hot, nor cold, just like the mild temperature of our mother which we children feel comfortable when clinging to her. Speaking of land size, China is huge, stretching thousands of miles across, just as our tall mother, and unlike a small and thin Japanese girl. Don't you think the high mountains, long rivers and the big or small lakes resemble the beautiful and healthy body surface of our mother? The productivity of our soil is limitless; the untapped natural treasures underground are boundless; the disused natural power of our nation has unlimited potential, which signify our mother of limitless milk and boundless potential who nurtures 400 million of her children. I assume there is no other mother in the world who can raise so many children. As for the natural beauty of China, I can say that the magnificent Ermei Mountains, the enchanting West Lake, the quiet and graceful Yandang Mountains, the “best-under-the-heaven” hills and rivers of Guilin can all boast the most beautiful attractions in the world. In fact, everywhere in China is beautiful. From the countryside to the city, all the hills, valleys, rivers and lakes, with a little touch of

polish, can be turned into unforgettable scenic spots. She is just like our beautiful and graceful mother. Every part of her body is adorable. The coastline of China is long and winding. In the words of contemporary artists, "She is full of beautiful curves."

...

True, today's China is still broken, weak and poor. But, who can be sure that China does not have a bright future? Yes, China is sure to have a bright and admirable future. Long, long time ago, the Chinese constructed the Great Wall and the Grand Canal, which proved that the Chinese people have great creativity. Once China fights off the shackles of imperialists, eliminates the traitors and wins liberation and freedom, the creativity will burst out unlimitedly. Then, our China will have a completely new face. All the poverty, disasters, chaos, hatred, hunger, coldness, diseases, superstition, ignorance and the killing opium, which are the "gifts" of the imperialists, will be swept away, just like the imperialists will be. My friends, I believe, when the time comes, you will see vibrant creativity and rapid progress everywhere. Joyful singings will replace sad sighs; happy faces replacing weeping ones; prosperity, poverty; health, diseases; wisdom, ignorance; love, hatred; happy life, miserable deaths; pretty gardens, disserted land. Then, our nation will be able to stand up proudly before the whole world. And our mother, beautifully dressed up, can equally hold hands with all the mothers of the world.

Such a brilliant day will be in near future, not far away. Trust me, my friends!

—Excerpts from *Adorable China*, by Fang Zhimin

Patriotism is a lofty feeling. Lenin once said, "Patriotism is a profound feeling which was formed through hundreds of years of separations between different nations." Patriotism is not abstract. It is embodied in our simple feelings. Cicero, an ancient Roman statesman, thought that the affection for one's motherland includes all the fond feelings one has, especially the feelings towards his parents, offspring and friends. And he said that "Motherland is a parent of all the people of a nation." From above etymology of the Chinese word "motherland", it is not difficult to see that, whether in China, or in the West, people usually associate patriotic feelings with kindred feelings or feelings for one's ancestors. Since ancient times, numerous patriots have turned their kindred feelings into affection for their motherland. Lin Juemin, one of the 72 martyrs of Huanghuagang, wrote in his will that it was because he loved his wife, children and parents that he was willing to sacrifice his life for the country. In the eyes of most Chinese, motherland is mother, and mother is motherland. Just as Martyr Fang Zhimin said, "I love life. I love my mother. But I love adorable China better." Many popular songs expressed patriotic feelings as kindred feelings, which shows high uniformity between patriotism and kindred feelings. This kind of songs can usually arouse strong feelings among the people.

Further Readings

A country is within a jade circle. On the top of the family is a tile. Everybody says our country is big. Actually it is a family. A heart is filled with the country. A hand supports a family. A family is the smallest part of the country. The country is made up of millions of families. The country is the outside world. A family is under the sky. Only when one has a strong country, can one have a rich

family. The country of many families lives in the heart. Families of the country live in harmony. Country is honor. Family is happiness. Every inch of the country is every footprint of a family. When families are merged with the country, wonders are created on the earth... The country is my country. The family is my family. I love my country. I love my family. And I love my country and family.

—Lines from the song of *My Country*

Hello, motherland. Hello, motherland. Your children are praying for you. We wish everybody and every family in you live happily in sweet good days.

—Lines from the song *Hello, Motherland*

Everybody loves his mother...with a warm heart...Dear motherland, kind mother...The Yangtze and Yellow rivers are flowing strong...The profound feelings we have for you...filled with the blue sky and the vast ocean...our loyalty to you.

—Lines from the song *Motherland, Kind Mother*

Quotations

I am son of the Chinese people. I love my motherland and people deeply.

—Deng Xiaoping

I love my motherland. I love my people. Without her and them, I cannot survive.

—Ba Jin

People often associate affection for one's motherland with one's feelings towards hometown and town fellows. In English "motherland" is also called homeland, and "patriot" one's compatriot. Homeland is where one is born and grown, and is also the place one may recall from time to

time in his dreams throughout his life. It is where one starts his life, and may even be where one completes his life. Affection for one's homeland is the emotional basis of patriotism for all nationalities in the world. But, for the Chinese nationality, affection for one's homeland is particularly strong and deep, and it has become our nation's character. In Chinese history, there have been numerous poetic lines depicting this kind of special feeling: "Dusk saw a traveler missing his hometown which is still far away" from the Han Dynasty; "Looking up at the bright moon; Looking down pondering over his hometown" from the Tang Dynasty; and "Birds flow around trees at dusk; Thoughts of aged people are centered around his hometown" in the Qing Dynasty. Poet Ai Qing's lines depict contemporary Chinese peoples' emotional feelings of loving their hometowns, whether at home or abroad: "Why do I often have tears in my eyes? Because I love this land so dearly." Martin Burber, a German religious and philosophical thinker, commented, "No citizens in the world other than the Chinese are so attached to the land, pure and strong. Here, the people belong to the land, not the other way round." True, the Chinese people are deeply attached to their homeland, as evidently expressed in ordinary Chinese thinking of "ultimately residing in one's hometown, even if dead", and the overseas Chinese are inclined to "look for roots". The Chinese are reluctant to move away from their homeland. Once on foreign soil, images of his hometown will constantly appear in his dreams and he would embrace them affectionately and emotionally.

Further Readings

I Love This Land

Ai Qing

If I were a bird,

*I would sing, too, though voice hoarse :
 This storm-beating land ,
 This ever-raging river , resentful as we ,
 This ever-blowing angry wind ,
 And from forests appeared
 This ever-warm and bright dawn...
 Then, I am dead ,
 Even feather rotten on soil.
 Why do I often have tears in my eyes?
 Because I love this land so dearly...*

Further Readings

Remembering ancestors and finding an ever-resting place in hometown is a long tradition of the Chinese people. Having resided abroad for long years, many overseas Chinese still feel unsettled. Deep in their mind, they are connected with their homeland. Missing their homeland and worshipping their ancestors is a strong sentiment of overseas Chinese. Recent years have seen more and more overseas Chinese coming home to look for roots and to worship their ancestors and hometown rivers. Some of them wish that they spend their last years and then rest forever in their hometown. Even if they pass away on foreign soil, they would like to rest in Chinese cemeteries. Hence, Chinese-style cemeteries have appeared in many parts of the world.

I live on the bank of a big wide river. On both sides are fields of fragrant rice. On the river are those familiar sails, shouts of boatmen... This is my beautiful motherland, where I was born and grew up.

—Lines from the song *My Motherland*

Flag of Five-Red-Star flies high, Songs of triumph loud. We are singing for our dear motherland. She is becoming more and more prosperous...All those high mountains, great plains, wide and swift flowing Yellow and Yangtze rivers, so vast and so beautiful. This is our dear homeland.

—Lines from the song *Singing for Motherland*

Patriotism is derived from one's affection for homeland. A person who loves his hometown will naturally love his motherland country. Since ancient times, loving one's homeland has always been an important part of patriotism for the Chinese people. According to Shih Chi (Record of History), when Confucius, while residing in a foreign state, learned that Tian Chang rebelled in his home state of Lu, he called upon his disciples, saying, "The State of Lu is where our parents live and tombs of our ancestors lie. Now it is in danger. Why don't you go and help?". Then, Confucius sent his disciple Zi Gong to help Lu. To some extent, since the Opium War, all the struggles against foreign aggressors were derived from love for homeland, whether it was the fight of the Sanyuanli people against the British, the peasant uprising of the Taiping Kingdom, the Boxer Movement, or the War of Resistance against Japan. For example, during the War of Resistance against Japan, a famous song The Chorus of the Yellow River said, "Defend our home village. Defend the Yellow River. Defend the whole of China." This escalating level of calling was very effective in mobilizing the Chinese to unite and fight against Japanese invaders.

Homeland is not just a piece of land where you were born and lived a life, or an area you have your compatriots, it is also a land of your culture where you feel free to walk about. Therefore, having

confidence and recognition in one's own cultural tradition is an important feature of patriotism. Culture is the foundation, the soul and the spiritual land of a nation. From the first day a person is born, he is embraced in the arms of his mother of homeland and begins to feed on the milk of culture of his motherland. Patriotism is rooted in the soil of culture. And fine culture is the inexhaustible source of national esteem, confidence and proud.

Quotations

We love poetry of the Tang and Song dynasties because we have a Chinese heart. We love Chinese cuisine because we have a Chinese stomach. The feeling we have for our country is of heart and stomach.

——Famous writer Wang Meng

Further Readings

A Drop of Water of Tang Poetry

Zhou Can (Singapore)

A cup of water just from the tap/I was about to drink/Suddenly stopped by a man/Wait a moment/Let me give you/A drop of the poetry of the Tang Dynasty/The color of water/Turning reddish/Like full blossoms of pomegranate flowers in May/ Then yellowish/Like loquat in a garden/Then green/Like the landscape in southern China of spring time.

Patriotism also embodies safeguarding national territorial sovereignty, as well as confidence and recognition of his country's political system. If affection for one's relatives, hometown and culture is a natural feeling of patriotism, then love for one's country is rational sublimation of patriotism. Patriotism contains a political element, and is somehow displayed