

A Brief Discussion on the Contemporary Relevance of “On the Cultivation of the Communist Party Members”

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Abstract: *“On the Cultivation of Communist Party Members” written by Liu Shaoqi is a textbook for Chinese Communists to carry out self-party spirit cultivation and training, improve their ideological and moral qualities, and enhance their political immunity. It expounds the importance of Party spirit cultivation for Communists, and focuses on the theoretical cultivation of Marxism-Leninism, the cultivation of proletarian ideological consciousness and moral qualities, etc., making a detailed discussion on the connotation of Party spirit cultivation, and making a profound analysis of the methods of Party spirit cultivation. This method has not become obsolete in the contemporary era but has burst out with new vitality and vigor, and still has important significance for us to strengthen Party building and enhance the cultivation of Party members in the contemporary era.*

Keywords: “On the Cultivation of Communist Party Members”; Party spirit cultivation; Advanced nature of Party members; Party building.

In order to solve from the Communists themselves the “most essential contradiction” and “the most important problem” in the Party’s ideological construction, that is, the contradiction between proletarian ideology and non-proletarian ideology, especially the ideology of peasants and petty-bourgeoisie [1], Liu Shaoqi wrote “On the Cultivation of Communist Party Members” in 1939, which inspired the revolutionary will and dedication spirit of many young Party members. In the revolutionary war era, some young Party members, through reading, came to know and understand what Marxism is and what communism is, firmly believed in the communist ideal and faith, went to the battlefield and became heroes. In the peaceful era, some young Party members, through reading, enhanced their Party spirit and the sense of purpose of serving the people. China has entered a new era. While our Party has led the Chinese people to achieve great achievements, it also faces many risks and challenges. This requires every Communist Party member to strengthen their own cultivation and continuously enhance their ability of self-purification, self-improvement, self-innovation and self-improvement.

Party spirit is the root and soul of Communist Party members. Losing Party spirit means losing the last spiritual strength. In “On the Cultivation of Communist Party Members”, Party spirit cultivation runs through the whole text. It systematically answers a series of major questions about strengthening the Party spirit cultivation of Communist Party members in the revolutionary era for the first time, and forms a scientific and complete theoretical system of Party spirit cultivation of Communist Party members under the guidance of Marxism-Leninism, that is, “one should have the cultivation of Marxism-Leninism theory, the cultivation of using the stand, viewpoint and method of Marxism-Leninism to study and deal with various problems; the cultivation of proletarian revolutionary strategy and tactics; the cultivation of proletarian ideological consciousness and moral qualities; the cultivation of upholding intra-Party unity, carrying out criticism and self-criticism, and observing discipline; the cultivation of the working style of hard work; the cultivation of being good at contacting the masses, as well as the cultivation of various scientific knowledge, etc.” [2] Liu Shaoqi believed that these seven kinds of cultivation are what all Communist Party members without exception need to carry out.

First of all, Liu Shaoqi believed that Communist Party members “should regard themselves as needing and being able to be transformed” [3]. Starting from the necessity and possibility of Communist Party members strengthening their Party spirit cultivation, he revealed the important significance of strengthening the cultivation of Communist Party members. We should realize that Party members need to be transformed and can be transformed. Liu Shaoqi used the class analysis method and the principle of the dialectical relationship between productive forces and production relations, and between social existence and social consciousness in historical materialism to analyze the necessity of Party spirit cultivation. Starting from the relationship between man and nature, he explained that it is precisely in the process of struggling with nature that man transforms nature and at the same time transforms himself and the social relations between people. On the other hand, he pointed out that due to the influence of internal and external factors, Party members will hold different attitudes, stands and

understandings towards revolutionary practice. It is precisely because people's ideological consciousness will be influenced by social existence, and backward social consciousness will hinder people's development, so people must be transformed. This is the requirement of the objective law of social development. Communist Party members are not immutable and perfect, and there is the possibility of transforming and improving themselves.

Secondly, Liu Shaoqi also focused on expounding the correct attitude towards Marxist-Leninist theoretical cultivation in "On the Cultivation of Communist Party Members". One is to resolutely oppose the learning attitude of dogmatism and book worship. The practice of learning Marxism-Leninism "being satisfied with memorizing individual principles and conclusions and even regarding oneself as a 'real' Marxist-Leninist" [4] is completely contrary to Marxism-Leninism. He criticized the dogmatic theoretical learning and believed that only by being familiar with the classics of Marxism-Leninism and being able to apply them to practice to analyze and solve problems, and combining the universal truth of Marxism with the actual situation of the Chinese revolution, is the correct learning attitude. The other is to advocate the attitude of learning Marxism-Leninism in combination with the actual situation of the Chinese revolution. This attitude emphasizes "combining the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism with specific revolutionary practice" [5], and "making Marxism specific in China and making it bear the necessary Chinese characteristics in each of its manifestations" [6]. He emphasized that Party members should carry out cultivation and training in the revolutionary practice of the people, and the only goal of this process of improving self-cultivation and strengthening self-training is for the people. That is to say, it is necessary to truly apply the results of theoretical learning to the revolutionary practice of the people and integrate them with the words and deeds, life and work of Party members themselves.

Party spirit cultivation is not innate to Party members nor easily formed, but is formed through long-term learning and practical training. In "On the Cultivation of Communist Party Members", Liu Shaoqi put forward and discussed a series of effective methods for how Communist Party members carry out Party spirit cultivation and training, which still have positive guiding significance for us to enhance Party spirit cultivation today.

First of all, it is necessary to strengthen the ideal and belief, strengthen the cultivation of proletarian consciousness, and maintain the true qualities of Communists. The most fundamental characteristic of Chinese Communists lies in the revolutionary nature of the proletariat and in the unremitting pursuit of the communist ideal and belief. In the new era, all-round and strict governance of the Party has achieved remarkable results, and the Party's style has generally improved, but the "four winds" problem still exists. The emergence of these problems is essentially due to the weak ideological consciousness cultivation of Party members. Therefore, strengthening the ideal and belief is an important content of improving Party spirit cultivation in the new era. Liu Shaoqi believed that whether it is a Communist Party member who has just joined the revolution or one who has joined the revolution for a long time, if he lacks the training of long-term revolutionary struggle and cannot exercise himself in various difficult and hardship environments and summarize practical experience to improve his Party spirit cultivation and ideological ability, he cannot grow into a high-quality and politically mature revolutionary. At present, the international situation, national conditions and the situation of the Party have changed profoundly, and the challenges faced by Party members themselves are more arduous. This requires Party members to always stand on the firm stand of Marxism-Leninism, build a solid line of defense against corruption and degeneration in ideological and moral terms, and resolutely fight against various tendencies of spiritual slackness, inability, divorce from the masses and negative corruption in practice, and enhance the ability of self-purification, self-improvement, self-innovation and self-improvement.

Secondly, it is necessary to cultivate the ability of Party members to combine theory with practice and implement the "cultivation of Communist Party members" from books to work. Since its founding, our Party has been a party that attaches great importance to theoretical learning and applies theory to practice, and has always regarded theoretical learning as a strategic task of the Party. The Party Constitution is the concentrated embodiment of Party spirit. The general program of the "Constitution of the Communist Party of China" stipulates that "the Communist Party of China takes Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important thought of 'Three Represents', the Scientific Outlook on Development, and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as its guiding ideology." [7] Therefore, Communist Party members should attach importance to theoretical accumulation, internalize the stand, viewpoint and method of Marxism into their own cultivation, and thus become conscious ways of thinking, working methods and action guidelines. At the same time, it is also necessary to refine the learning methods, transform the theoretical weapon into a huge driving force for promoting the all-round construction of a modern socialist country, and explore the fundamental path and scientific laws for the liberation of the proletariat and even all mankind. At present, the international environment is complex and changeable, and the mission and tasks are arduous. If Communists lack the armament of Marxist

theory, it is difficult to overcome various risks and challenges and difficult to shoulder the historical responsibility of national rejuvenation.

The centennial history of the Party spirit cultivation of the Communist Party of China has gone through the arduous new democratic revolution period, the magnificent socialist revolution and construction period, the ever-changing reform and opening up and socialist modernization construction new period, and the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics that draws a new blueprint. Reviewing “On the Cultivation of Communist Party Members” is not only helpful for Communist Party members in the new era to deeply understand the original aspiration and mission of the Party, practice the “three imperatives”, strengthen theoretical cultivation, adhere to self-revolution, and firm up political positions, but also has important theoretical and practical significance for Party building work. In the new era, to enhance the theoretical cultivation of Communist Party members, it is necessary to inherit and carry forward the Party spirit principles and work styles tempered by our Party, and also keep pace with the times, combine Party building and the Party spirit cultivation of Party members with the development of the times, so as to truly meet the new requirements for the Party spirit cultivation of Party members under the new development model in the new era.

REFERENCES

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