

Research on the Special Value of Nanjing Local Historical Resources to the United Front Work in Colleges and Universities

Li Tang

Graduate School, Nanjing University of Finance and Economics, Nanjing 210023, China

Abstract: *There are a large number of contemporary college students and a large number of special groups, so the United front work is essential. At present, the United front work of college students faces some problems that need to be solved urgently. How to innovate the mechanism of United front work and improve the effect of United front work is a problem worthy of in-depth consideration. The historical resources of local United front are an important carrier to promote the education work in colleges and universities, which can be integrated into classroom teaching, enrich practical activities and become a brand of United front in colleges and universities.*

Keywords: United front; Historical resources; Education work in colleges and universities.

1. INTRODUCTION

The United front is an important magic weapon for the Communist Party of China (CPC) to win the revolutionary victory, and it is also an important magic weapon for accelerating socialist modernization and realizing the Chinese nation's great rejuvenation of the Chinese dream. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Manager Zhang has attached great importance to the United front work, delivered a series of important speeches on the United front, and formed Socialism with Chinese characteristics's United front thought in the new era. The United front work of college students is an important part of ideological and political work in colleges and universities. How to play the role of United front work in the process of educating people in colleges and universities has attracted the attention of some scholars. For example, Wang (2016) put forward some suggestions such as strengthening United front propaganda in view of the new situation faced by college students in United front work. Hu and Si (2019) proposed forging a team of United front teachers and using new media technologies to build a United front platform. Zhou et al. (2020) put forward the suggestion of using United front culture to promote the construction of campus culture. Other related literatures include Liu (2016), Zhang and Li (2018), Yang (2020), Zhang et al. (2022), Han and Yao (2023), Lu and Li (2024) and so on. As far as the author knows, although the historical resources of the United Front are the noble wealth of educating people in colleges and universities, there is little research so far. This paper will discuss how to use the historical resources of United front to promote the United front work of college students and give full play to the educational function.

2. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF UNITED FRONT WORK IN EDUCATING PEOPLE IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

2.1 The United front work of college students is an important part of ideological and political education

By the end of 2019, the total scale of all kinds of higher education in China was 40.02 million, and the gross enrollment rate of higher education was 51.6%. Educated people are college students today, and tomorrow will be the backbone of all walks of life. Education-oriented, moral education first, the goal of higher education is to cultivate socialist builders and successors with all-round development in morality, intelligence, physique, beauty and labor. Therefore, the United front work in colleges and universities should start with college students, which is particularly important to strengthen the class foundation and expand the mass foundation of the party, and is of strategic significance to the consolidation and improvement of Socialism with Chinese characteristics's political system.

2.2 Strengthening the United front work of college students is an inevitable requirement to adapt to the new situation

With the improvement of China's comprehensive national strength, the number of young people from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan seeking scholars and foreign students on the mainland of China has increased year by year. It is the proper meaning of overseas United front work to educate them. In addition, with the support of policies, the number of minority students is also increasing. It is easy to understand that the customs of minority students are closely related to religion, which inevitably has an impact on other ethnic students. Education on ethnic and religious policies for college students is conducive to stimulating the national identity of ethnic minorities, maintaining social harmony and stability, and creating a campus culture of ethnic unity; It is conducive to cultivating ethnic and religious people who love the motherland and socialism in the future.

3. ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS EXISTING IN THE UNITED FRONT WORK OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

3.1 Students' attention to the United Front work is insufficient

According to the spirit of the Opinions of the United Front Work Department of the Central Committee and the Ministry of Education on Strengthening the United Front Work in Colleges and Universities (Tongfa [2004] No.62), except for students from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, college students are not included in the United Front. The main reasons include: democratic parties do not recruit members among college students, and minority college students or college students with religious beliefs rarely have high social prestige. At present, the object of United front in colleges and universities is mainly faculty and staff. There are relatively few United front activities specifically aimed at college students, and the attention is insufficient.

3.2 Students' United front work is not targeted enough

At present, most colleges and universities carry out United front education for college students, but not enough targeted work for special groups. We need to study the personality characteristics, ideological status and political needs of minority college students, college students with religious beliefs, international students and other special groups, understand their study, life, work and employment, and constantly improve the United front work concept, working mechanism and working methods of special college students.

3.3 The attraction of students' united front work is not strong

General Manager Zhang once pointed out in his speech at the Central United Front Work Conference that the United Front work should be "particular about methods". Undeniably, the current United front work of college students is not attractive enough, and the United front education mainly depends on classroom teaching. It needs to be improved in guiding students to correctly understand the general trend of development and enhancing the three-dimensional sense of United front. Some students still lack the sense of historical responsibility to contribute to the "Chinese dream", and even have negative thoughts due to information asymmetry and other reasons; Some students learn the knowledge of United front with a passive attitude of getting credits.

4. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HISTORICAL RESOURCES OF THE UNITED FRONT TO SERVE THE EDUCATIONAL WORK IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Historical resources are precious wealth for educating people in colleges and universities. We not only need to organically integrate history and culture into the "main channel" and "main position" of teaching, but also actively build a platform for co-construction of schools and places, make full use of historical resources, innovate work carriers and improve work effectiveness.

4.1 It is conducive to innovating the carrier of United front work

The purpose of United front work is to unite people's hearts, gather strength and provide strong spiritual motivation and intellectual support for promoting national construction. The new situation and new tasks require the United front work to continuously expand the field and deepen the theme, so as to enhance the United front effect and give play to its power. It is an important way to innovate the carrier of United front work to tap the historical resources of United front and build the historical brand of United front.

4.2 It is conducive to improving the effect of United front work

The United front education of college students in the new era needs multi-level three-dimensional infiltration to achieve ideal results. The participation of historical resources of the United Front in ideological and political education of college students will help college students to deeply understand the world, national conditions and social conditions, and provide more new ideas and ideas for ideological and political education. The historical resources of the United front can vividly enhance the appeal, persuasion and combat effectiveness of ideological and political education, and help deepen the understanding and recognition of college students.

5. OVERVIEW OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES OF THE UNITED FRONT IN NANJING

Nanjing, as an important historical and cultural city in China, is rich in United front resources. Taking Nanjing as an example, the historical resources of local United front are sorted out and exemplified:

5.1 The former residence of well-known United Front personages

5.1.1 Yuan Xiaoyuan's former residence

Yuan Xiaoyuan's former residence is located at No.1-2 Wutai Mountain in Nanjing. She used to be the deputy consul of the Consulate of the National Government in Kolkata, India, and was the first female diplomat in China. During the Anti-Japanese War, actively organized overseas Chinese to donate money and materials for the motherland. During the War of Liberation, she openly advocated the cooperation between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party to realize the reunification of China. In 1985, he returned to China as a member of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the Central Supervisory Committee of the Chinese Revolutionary Committee, and the president of the Beijing International Chinese Character Research Association. She founded the "Yuan Pinyin Scheme", the "Xiaoyuan Chinese Medicine Hospital" and the "Yuan Xiaoyuan Patriotic Culture Foundation", which made positive contributions to the writing reform and public welfare undertakings.

5.1.2 Rabe's former residence

Rabe's former residence is located in the Gulou campus of Nanjing University. It is a national anti-Japanese war memorial facility and site. At the end of 1937, Nanjing fell, and Mr. Rabe was also the chairman of the International Committee of Nanjing Safe Zone. He took in more than 600 refugees from China in his own residence and saved the lives of 250,000 people from China in the safety zone of less than 4 square kilometers under his responsibility. He recorded his personal experience of Japanese atrocities in more than 2,400 pages of Rabe Diary. His former residence always tells the story of this great international friend's noble spirit and brilliant humanity.

5.2 Class of important event places

5.2.1 Nanjing Jinling Hotel

Nanjing Jinling Hotel was built in 1983, which created many China firsts: the first high-speed elevator, the first high-rise revolving restaurant, and the first world-class large-scale foreign-related tourist hotel. At the same time, it also witnessed many democratic United front activities. For example, in 2005, Lien Chan and a delegation led by Mr. James Soong stayed in the hotel twice. The two visits are of great significance to promoting cross-strait economic, political and cultural exchanges, maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, and curbing the separatist plot of the "Taiwan independence" forces.

5.2.2 Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum in Nanjing

It is the tomb of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, a great statesman in modern China. Zhongshan Thought is a common asset and widely recognized by Chinese at home and abroad. In April, 2005, kmt chairman Lien Chan led a delegation of Kuomintang in China to visit Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum in Nanjing. He advocated that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait should follow in the footsteps of the revolutionary pioneers and jointly safeguard cross-strait peace. In February, 2014, Wang Yuqi, head of the Mainland Committee of Taiwan Province, and his party paid a visit to Sun

Yat-sen Mausoleum in Nanjing and presented a eulogy. In his eulogy, he said that "people on both sides of the strait belong to China" and "peaceful development will create a win-win situation".

5.3 Ethnic and religious categories

5.3.1 Ethnic groups

Nanjing is a typical multi-ethnic gathering and integration city where ethnic minorities live together. There are 52 ethnic minorities, including Hui, Manchu, Mongolian, Zhuang and Tibetan, with a resident population of 135,000 and about 43,000 ethnic minority students at school. There is a town in the city that enjoys the treatment of ethnic townships (Zhuzhen, Liuhe District); 3 ethnic villages (Hushu Community, Shinian Community and Kongzhen Village).

5.3.2 Religion

There are five major religions in Nanjing: Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism and Christianity, all of which have established municipal religious groups, and there are many religious and cultural resources.

(1) Buddhist cultural resources

Nanjing has many ancient temples and temples, and there are more than 100 Buddhist cultural relics, and at least 39 of them have been selected as cultural relics protection units at or above the municipal level. There are 62 temples in Nanjing, including Qixia Temple, one of the four famous temples in China, Jiming Temple, Linggu Temple, once the largest temple in Nanjing, and Foding Temple in Niushou Mountain in Jiangning.

(2) Taoist cultural resources

Nanjing has seen numerous generations of high-ranking officials. Modern celebrities include Changyue Wang in the Qing Dynasty, Xie Guanneng in the Republic of China and Wang Zongheng in New China. They have made great contributions to Taoism, medicine and music. There are many Taoist temples in Nanjing, including 68 temples in the city alone. At present, the more active Taoist temples include the Cave Mystery Temple in Fangshan, Jiangning, the Guanwang Temple in Gaochun District and Yuqing Palace.

(3) Other religious and cultural resources

There are four famous mosques in the main city of Nanjing, including Caoqiao Mosque, Jingjue Mosque, Jizhaoying Mosque and Taiping South Road Mosque. The Catholic churches in Nanjing include Shigu Road Catholic Church in Qinhuai District and Baguio Catholic Church in Jianye district. Well-known Christian churches include Pukou Church, Mochou Road Church and St. Paul's Church.

6. SUGGESTIONS ON THE SPECIFIC PATH OF COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNITED FRONT WORK

6.1 Based on the main position of the classroom, the United Front History is integrated into teaching

Classroom teaching is the main channel of educating people. In classroom teaching, teachers can punctuate the history of local United front in time according to actual needs to enhance the appeal and persuasiveness of the classroom.

For example, when teaching War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, we can introduce the Three People's Principles and the three major policies, which used to be the common program of the United front of the Kuomintang and the Communist Party and all levels. During the Anti-Japanese War, the Kuomintang and the Communist Party cooperated under the banner of Sun Yat-sen and achieved great victory. Today, it is even more necessary for the Chinese nation to raise the banner of Sun Yat-sen and jointly accomplish the great cause of the motherland's reunification. For example, when teaching the great achievements of socialist construction, we can take Nanjing Jinling Hotel as an example to tell its Guan Hui history. It is not only a witness of reform and opening up, but also a witness of the United front cause.

It can be flexible and diverse in teaching methods and assessment methods. For example, students are grouped to collect information, and research reports are written on the historical stories of Nanjing United Front, intercepting historical fragments and reflecting the background of the times. You can also use sitcoms, micro-movies and other forms to vividly reproduce and reflect on history, so that college students can deeply feel the important historical mission undertaken by the United front in different historical periods.

6.2 Enrich practical activities and give full play to the advantages of United front resources

In recent years, Nanjing has named a large number of "United Front Patriotism Education Bases" such as the Victory Memorial Hall of Crossing the River, Jinghai Temple and Nanjing Folk War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression Museum. Relying on the rich United front culture carried by these historical resources, we can turn rich physical historical materials into vivid educational materials and enhance the persuasiveness and appeal of college students' United front ideological education. Historians should dig deep into the historical resources of the United front, strengthen the research and propaganda of the history of the United front, learn from the history and educate people with resources; Colleges and universities should take the opportunity of social investigation and practical teaching to organize students to visit historical sites, trace the footprints and deeds of their ancestors, encourage college students to continue to carry forward the lofty demeanor of the older generation of patriots and communist party people in the same boat, and condense the powerful spirit of the Chinese nation to revive the Chinese dream. Colleges and universities can set up special funds to cultivate innovative and entrepreneurial projects related to historical themes. Students can shoot micro-movies according to the historical deeds of the United Front, and teachers can seriously guide and sublimate the practical achievements submitted by students.

6.3 Innovate the way of propaganda and create a special column of United Front

At present, new media such as websites and WeChat WeChat official account have become important positions for ideological propaganda and cultural education in colleges and universities. According to the author's understanding, Nanjing colleges and universities mainly organize publicity activities on large-scale commemorative days such as the National Day of the National Day of the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre, and the publicity of local history, especially the history of local United Front, is less targeted and fragmented.

It is suggested that colleges and universities should adopt the form that college students like to see and hear, and set up local United front history columns through new media. Experts inside and outside the school can be hired as column consultants to promote local historical knowledge of United front, build a brand of United front column, tell the historical story of compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and overseas Chinese in Nanjing, and talk about the important contributions of ethnic minority compatriots and religious believers. Around the historical theme of the United front, school propaganda agencies, party and youth league departments, mass organizations and other cooperation, organize research and competitions, such as knowledge contests, research report contests, etc., to create a campus culture with local characteristics. These activities will certainly help contemporary college students to mold excellent moral character, cultivate patriotic sentiments and improve humanistic quality, and realize the educational function of United front resources in a subtle way.

Acknowledge

This paper is supported by the special project of ideological and political work of philosophy and social science research in Jiangsu universities, "Multi-dimensional system construction and path optimization of contemporary college students' mental health education under the background of three-round education" (No.2019SJB069), and the special project of United front of Nanjing University of Finance and Economics, "Research on the guiding path of new media emerging youth participating in" micro-politics" (No.TZ202111).

REFERENCE

- [1] Han, D., Yao, X., Research on the united front work of college students. Journal of Hubei University of Technology, 2023, 38(03): 12-15
- [2] Hu Y., Si, K., Reflections on the innovative path of ideological and political education for college students from the perspective of United front, Journal of Zunyi normal University, 2019, 21(5): 112-115.
- [3] Liu, X., The United front work of college students under the influence of contemporary social thoughts. Journal of Shenyang Institute of Technology (Social Science Edition), 2016, 12(3): 377-380

- [4] Lu, S., Li, X., 2024. Innovative research on the United front work of colleges and universities to promote new social strata. *Journal of Shaanxi Institute of Socialism*, 1: 42-47.
- [5] Yang, G., The value and path of integrating red culture into the United front work in colleges and universities-Taking the practice of Guangdong Polytechnic Normal University as an example. *Modern Business Trade Industry*, 2020, 13: 144-145
- [6] Wang, Q., The new situation and countermeasures faced by college students in United front work. *Journal of China West Normal University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, 2016, 3: 89-92
- [7] Zhang, Y. Guo, D., Xu, Q., Research on the present situation of united front theory teaching in ideological and political courses in local engineering colleges. *Journal of Hubei University of Technology*, 2022, 37, 6: 22-25
- [8] Zhang, S., Li, B., Thoughts on strengthening international student work in colleges and universities from the perspective of united front. *Journal of Shanxi Institute of Socialism*, 2018, 1: 21-24
- [9] Zhou, Q., Luo, P., Chen, H., The value and path of the new era United front to participate in and serve ideological and political education in colleges and universities. *Journal of Guangxi Institute of Socialism*, 2020, 31(3): 38-44.