

On Deng Xiaoping's Youth Goal Incentive Thought and Its Enlightenment on the Realization of the Chinese Dream

DAI Haoyun^{[a],*}

^[a]Doctor of the college of Marxism, Southwest University, lecturer of Yangtze Normal University, Chongqing, China.

*Corresponding author.

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Abstract

Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought derives from the Marxist world outlook and methodology and results from the historical background of reform and opening up, contains scientific connotations: an accurate understanding of the youth is the premise; scientific goal setting is the core; education and guidance to young people is the key and to inspire the incentive of young people is the essence. It has effectively promoted the development of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the growth of young talents. Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought unifies the goal of the party and the goal of the youth and it has provided valuable insights to lead contemporary youth to actively devote into the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of China, that is to grasp the characteristics of contemporary youth to provide power for the Chinese dream, to scientifically develop goals to gather power for the Chinese dream, to strengthen the education and guidance of young people to devote to the Chinese dream and to stimulate the main role of the youth to force the Chinese dream.

Key words: De Xiaoping; Youth goal incentive thought; Chinese dream; Enlightenment

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INTRODUCTION

Deng Xiaoping, as a predecessor of proletarian revolution, is always concerned about the youth and care about the youth. He has left many valuable thoughts on youth education. Goal incentive inspires people to achieve the desired dreams and goals by setting and establishing dreams and goals (Zheng, 1999, p.150). Deng Xiaoping combines the grand goal to construct socialism of Chinese characteristics with the growth and success of the youth and encourages young people to forge ahead. His thoughts have a far-reaching impact. Recalling Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought, the author finds that it has significant instructive meaning for gathering the force of the youth to achieve the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of China.

1. THE THEORETICAL ORIGIN AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF DENG XIAOPING'S YOUTH GOAL INCENTIVE THOUGHT

Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought derives from the Marxist world outlook and methodology and results from the historical background of reform and opening up. It follows the law of the growth and progress of the youth and complies with the trend of social development.

1.1 The Theoretical Origin of Deng Xiaoping's Youth Goal Incentive Thought

Engels points out that, "The impact of outside world on people manifests in the mind of men and becomes feeling, thought, motivation and will. In short, it becomes the 'ideal intent' and then becomes 'ideal force' through this form. (*Selected Works of Marx and Engels (Vol. 4)*, 1956, p.228) "Our party is a party of future and future belongs to the youth. Our party is the party of the innovators and the youth are always more willing to go along with the innovators." (Tao & Jiang, 1999) Mao Zedong has pointed out that: Everything has to be done by people... In order to do something, there must be someone who proposes plans, principles, policies, strategies and tactics according to objective facts and then things can be done well. The young are most willing to learn and seldom have conservative thoughts. They are the most active and vigorous force in society and this is especially true in the era of socialism. He once said this to Chinese students in Moscow:

The world is yours as well as ours, but in the final analysis it is yours. You young people are vibrant and are in the prosperous period, like the sun at eight or nine o'clock in the morning. Hopes are pinned on you. The world belongs to you and China's future also belongs to you. (*Works of Mao Zedong (Vol.6)*, 1999, p.276)

He also requires to concern the characteristics of the youth when conducting work related to the youth... These thoughts have pointed out the direction to guide the youth to go firmly with the party and become the theoretical origin of Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought.

1.2 The Historical Background of Deng Xiaoping's Youth Goal Incentive Thought

Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought was born in the background of the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Party breaking the ideological barriers of the "Two Whatever's" and leading the national people to start to reform and opening up. On December 6, 1979, when Deng Xiaoping met with the Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ōhira, he proposed the goal of "Chinese-style modernization". In September 1982 in the 12th Party Congress, Deng Xiaoping clearly stated to go our own way and proposed the grand goals and strategic procedures of constructing socialism with Chinese characteristics for the first time. On April 30, 1987, when Deng Xiaoping met with the Deputy Prime Minister of Spain Granada, he elaborated the "three-step" strategies and officially presented this in the 13th Party Congress. While developing ambitious goals, Deng Xiaoping always pays attention to the youth and navigates for the healthy growth of the youth. On May 4, 1983, he called on the nation's youth to learn from Zhang Haidi to become communist new comers with lofty ideals, moral integrity, good education and a strong sense of discipline. In March 1985, in the national conference on science and technology, he stressed to "educate the national people to

become persons with lofty ideals, moral integrity, good education and a strong sense of discipline." (*Works of Deng Xiaoping (Vol.3)*, 1993, p.110) The new generation of people with lofty ideals, moral integrity, good education and a strong sense of discipline has become the new coordinate of the youth's growth and encouraged them to forge ahead along the "three-step" strategic deployment and to consciously assume the historical mission of the socialism with Chinese characteristics.

2. THE SCIENTIFIC CONNOTATIONS OF DENG XIAOPING'S YOUTH GOAL INCENTIVE THOUGHT

Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought contains scientific connotations: An accurate understanding of the youth is the premise; scientific goal setting is the core; education is the key to guide young people and to inspire the incentive for young people is fundamental.

2.1 Young People Are the Future of the Country, the Successors of All Causes and the Pioneers in the Cause of Socialist Construction

An accurate understanding of the youth is the premise of Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought. In order to conduct effective goal incentive, we need to accurately grasp the characteristics of the incentive objects and objectively understand the incentive objects. Deng Xiaoping speaks highly of young people and has the full confidence of the youth. He believes the youth is "the future of the country", "the successors of all causes" and "the pioneers in the cause of socialist construction". He once pointed out that, "Numerous facts show that the youth of new China is courageous to look ahead, vibrant, boundlessly enthusiastic about socialism and are strongly self-motivated." (Deng Xiaoping on the Youth, para. 4, 1992, p.1) At the same time, he is very well aware of the fact that: the young generation who grows in times of peace and social and living conditions continues to improve, although vigorous, have obvious weaknesses. Some young people tend to see things too easy, are afraid of difficulties and hardship and in excessive pursuit of material enjoyment. He warns all young people must not be arrogant and must learn from the experienced and knowledgeable older generation and learn from the masses. He requires educating all young people to promote the righteousness of hard work and oppose the selfish and unhealthy trend. It is the accurate understanding of the youth in different time background that makes Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought targeted.

2.2 To Do Things, We Need a Goal and It Is Very Important to Have a Goal

Scientific goal setting is the core of Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought. Deng Xiaoping always

emphasizes that: "When we do things, we need a goal." (*Works of Deng Xiaoping (Vol.2)*, 1994, p.387) "It is very important to have a goal." (*Works of Deng Xiaoping (Vol.3)*, 1993, p.179) He combines the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism and the concrete realities of China and in the 12th Party Congress, he expressly pointed out the grand goal to "construct the socialism with Chinese characteristics". In October 1987, the 13th Party Congress proposed the "three-step" strategic plan. The "three-step" strategic plan, starting from solving the food and clothing issue of more than a billion people to become better off, and then to basically achieve modernization, reflects the objective laws of progress. It emphasizes the target and reality of phased goal and it can better unite consensus of the youth. Meanwhile, from the strategic height to ensure the successors of socialism with Chinese characteristics, Deng Xiaoping hopes the youth becomes socialist newcomers with lofty ideals, moral integrity, good education and a strong sense of discipline. The "four qualifications" stresses the combination of ideological and political qualities and scientific and cultural qualities. They not only reflect the society's general requirements to the youth, but also highlight the inherent logic of the growth and success of the youth, reflecting the dialectical unity of the purpose and regularity and indicating the direction of the growth of the youth.

2.3 To Further Improve the Ideological Education Work for Young People and to Well Educate Them

Emphasis on education and guidance is the key of Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought. Deng Xiaoping knows that the grand goal of socialism with Chinese characteristics definitely cannot be achieved overnight and we must educate the youth to recognize the history, face reality and firm their beliefs. He requires "further improving the ideological education work for young people and clearly tell them the realities of our country and the only way to achieve a better future." (*Works of Deng Xiaoping (Vol.1)*, 1994, p.278) "It is important to understand one's own history. The young do not know the history and we need to use history to educate them." (*Works of Deng Xiaoping (Vol.3)*, 1993, p.206) He repeatedly stresses that, it is the Chinese Communist Party that has united and led all nationalities, through 28 years' bloody fights to overthrow the three big mountains of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism and eventually have the Chinese people stand up. Deng Xiaoping resolutely opposes the poison of bourgeois liberalization to the youth and points out that: The youth does not know what capitalism is and what socialism is; therefore they need to be educated and clearly know the truth. He has always stressed the state policy of the four cardinal principles and requires educating the youth to establish lofty ideals of communism and not become the captives of the decadent thoughts of capitalism. In March 1989, when talking to the central responsible comrades,

he said in earnest that "for decades, our biggest mistake is in education. We have not done enough in the ideological and political education for the youth." (*Works of Deng Xiaoping (Vol.3)*, 1993, p.287) In the Southern tour in 1992, he still did not forget to point out that: "Imperialists promote peaceful revolution and put their hopes on our future generations...therefore, we need to educate our team well and educate our people and the youth well." (*Works of Deng Xiaoping (Vol.3)*, 1993, p.380)

2.4 When the Young Grow Up and Become Mature, We Can Rest Assured

To inspire the incentive for young people is fundamental for Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought. The essence of goal incentive is to enhance people's conscious initiative. (Zheng, 1999, p.150) He realizes that, in order to play the role of the youth, we need to combine the strategic goals with the realization of their won value. He follows "revolutionary, young, educated and professional" standards, boldly uses young cadres and spares no effort to create a good environment for young officers to start up their career. He takes the youth as the decisive factors in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics and with visionary points out that: whether the cause of China can be done well, whether socialism and reform and opening up can be insisted, whether the economy can be developed and whether the country can be lasting peace and stability depend on people. "Help with their education and help more young people grow up. When they grow up and become mature, we can rest assured." (*Works of Deng Xiaoping (Vol.3)*, 1993, p.381) In order to dispel the concerns of many people, he admits that "at the end of 1927, when I first became the Secretary-General of the Central, I was 23 years old. That was a high-ranking official. I did not know much, but I still did a good job." (*Works of Deng Xiaoping (Vol. 3)*, 1993, pp.92-93) He pays great attention to inspire the pioneering and innovative spirit of young people. He says "If they do not have the adventurous spirit, they cannot make a good path and then they cannot create a new career." (*Works of Deng Xiaoping (Vol.3)*, 1993, p.372) With his loving care, the whole society has formed a good atmosphere of caring for the youth. Deng Xiaoping firmly believes the growth of the young generation is our hope to develop our career.

3. THE PRACTICAL VALUE OF DENG XIAOPING'S YOUTH INCENTIVE THOUGHT

Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought has combined the goal of the party with the growth of the young together. It follows the laws of the growth of the youth, complies with the trend of the times, and plays an important role in practice.

3.1 To Unite the Youth Force for the Construction of Socialism With Chinese Characteristics

Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought closely connects the youth growth and success with the future and destiny of the motherland and it unites the youth force for the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Under the incentive of ambitious goals, the young confirm their ideals and work hard to achieve their life values in various industries and they have become the main force for the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In 1980s, the popular song *Meet after Twenty Years* depicted the booming situation then: No time to wait, no time to indulge. The young heart facing the sun pursues the hope. We meet with wishes once again, so make time to witness and make the time experience whether we have no regrets. In another twenty years, let's meet... then the scenery must be beautiful...then the fruit must be fascinating! ...In another twenty years, let's meet again... then our motherland will certainly be more beautiful...then the achievements must be gratifying! ...The new generation crossing a century, let's meet again! It is the motivation of the young people that promotes the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics flourishing and thriving. Since the reform and opening up, we have not only solved the problem of food and clothing for over one billion people, but also step firmly on the road ahead for the reinforcement of the foundation of the realization of the third further strategic plan.

3.2 To Promote the Growth and Success of the Youth

Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought focuses on the unification of collective values and individual values and promotes the growth of young talents. After the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Party, the young people completely get rid of the chaos of the Cultural Revolution. Under the guidance of a new goal, as the "three-step" strategy gradually becomes a reality in the hands of young people, a grand blueprint for the socialist cause with Chinese characteristics gradually renders. Meanwhile, the enabling environment for young people to create their business has gradually formed and young people's initiative has been fully excited. Socialist newcomers with lofty ideals, moral integrity, good education and a strong sense of discipline have become their conscious pursuit. In 1977, college entrance examination system which had been interrupted for a decade was restored, which realizes the university dream of a generation of young people and completely changes the fate of countless young people. Batches of young students carry dreams studying abroad. Many people become pillars of the nation after they finish school abroad and return home. A lot of young talents stand out and more and

more young energetic people go to leadership positions at all levels. Many young people with knowledge of management become the backbone in many industries. "Going into business" has become a new fashion...The young people confirm their ideals and faith, study hard, with the pioneering spirit, commit to reform, and have become a proud and memorable "a new generation in the 1980s". In the 35th anniversary of the National Day in the masses parade, students from Peking University spontaneously erected the banner reading "Hello, Xiaoping!" to express the gratitude and admiration of Deng Xiaoping, which highlights the pulsation of the times of the youth's growth and progress.

4. THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF DENG XIAOPING'S YOUTH GOAL INCENTIVE THOUGHT ON THE REALIZATION OF THE CHINESE DREAM

Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought derives from the Marxist world outlook and methodology. Practice has proved that it is a valuable asset to promote social progress and the healthy growth of the youth and it has deep enlightenments on the realization of the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of China.

4.1 To Grasp the Characteristics of Contemporary Youth to Provide Power for the Chinese Dream

Contemporary youth grow in the background of rapid transformation of society and their values become increasingly diverse. A lot of people are indifferent about ideals and beliefs and lack of social responsibilities and have deficient spirit to overcome hardship. With the influence of unhealthy social trends, Westernization and differentiation, some people are even afraid that they are the "beat generation". At the same time, they have a strong sense of self, advocate freedom, and reject authority, hoping to be understood and respected and to realize their own value in the trend of social progress. During the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, millions of young volunteers became a beautiful landscape, showing the time image of the Chinese youth. When the Olympic torch was passing in Europe, overseas students spontaneously organized themselves to protect the torch. Li Huan's speech in Paris was very touch: "I am Chinese. When I am in a foreign country, I am more patriotic. I would let myself be aggrieved rather let the motherland be aggrieved", which make people cannot help but think of poet Ai Qing's famous phrase, "Why do I often have tears in my eyes? Because I deeply love the land!" In the Diaoyu Islands incident, young people consciously initiated the "Diaoyu Islands Protection" initiatives and fight with Japanese right-wing forces and conduct rational and restrained struggle to safeguard the

national interest...Many facts prove that contemporary youth can always be together with the nation at crucial moments and they are the source of strength worth trust and dependence for the realization of the Chinese dream of the rejuvenation of China.

4.2 To Scientifically Develop Goals to Gather Power for the Chinese Dream

Scientific goals should take into account the collective values and individual values. the Chinese dream is the national dream to achieve the great rejuvenation of China and it is also the success dream of the young talents to realize the value of their lives. As Xi Jinping replied to all the students in 2009 Undergraduate Mission Branch in Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, he pointed out: The Chinese dream is not only a dream of the state, the nation's dreams, but also the dream of each Chinese including the majority of young people. He hoped that young people cherish their youth time and be enthusiastic and courageous to endeavors, blazers, and devotees to go ahead of the times, and strive to become useful talents for the construction of the motherland, and dedicate their wisdom and strength for the realization of the Chinese dream. Endeavors, blazers, devotees and useful talents have pointed out the course for the young people in the dream of a new journey in China. We should integrate it as the new coordinates for the youth to endeavor into the grand goal of the Chinese dream, making the Chinese dream vibrant because of young people and making young people ambitious due to the Chinese dream. Meanwhile, goal setting needs to focus on top-level design as well as implementation path; it requires long-term goals as well as phrased goals; it should reflect social trends as well as the realities of young people. The 18th Party Congress depicts a comprehensive blueprint to build a moderately prosperous society, sending the call to enter the era of the realization of "two hundred years" goals. At present, we should meet the actual needs of the youth to make the goal specific and living to further gather strength for the realization of the Chinese dream.

4.3 To Strengthen the Education and Guidance of Young People to Devote to the Chinese Dream

Youth is a critical period to establish ideals and beliefs. For example, the young Marx chose to work for the benefit of mankind in high school. Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping and other proletarian revolutionaries be battled at a young age with the grand ambition of national salvation and rejuvenation. These cases should be used to educate the youth with ideals and beliefs and that they should continue to struggle for the realization of the Chinese dream. Currently, in the ideological field, the struggle for the youth is very intense. We should educate and guide the young to grasp the current international situation and correctly understand constitutional

democracy, universal values, civil society, historical nihilism and other bourgeois liberalization trends. We should make the youth bear in mind of contemporary Chinese history and understand the basic laws of human social development. We should use the vivid reality of the historical lessons of the Soviet Union and the collapse of Eastern Europe as well as the failure of neoliberal in Latin America and other countries to educating the youth, helping them to see the essence of capitalism through the Occupy Wall Street, the US subprime mortgage crisis, the European debt crisis and other phenomena. We should use the great achievements of China's reform and opening up in three decades to prove to the young people the superiority of socialism, and allow young people to recognize the basic conditions that we are in the primary stage of socialism, thus enhancing the road confidence, theoretical confidence and system confidence to realize the Chinese dream.

4.4 To Stimulate the Main Role of the Youth to Force the Chinese Dream

Human consciousness is determined by the presence. To stimulate the endogenous power of the youth, we must truly care about and care for young people, serve for young people's growth and success, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of young people. With the rapid transformation of society, "survival pressure" for contemporary youth has doubled. In 2014, the number of college graduates will reach 7.27 million, which is a new record, and it will be "the most difficult season of employment in history". The thirteen suicide incident of Foxconn to a certain extent has exposed the living conditions of the new generation of migrant workers. "Ant tribe", "dwelling narrowness", and "the times of naked marriage" etc. have to reflects the real situation of some young people. This requires that we think of what young people need and care about what they want and put us at their position to care about their studies, employment, entrepreneurship, housing, marriage and family, social interaction and other practical problems, to stimulate their aggressive power. Otherwise, exciting goals for young people will become elusive. According to Maslow's theory of hierarchy of needs, the realization of human values is the highest levels of need. To stimulate the main role of the youth, we should let the youth feel the values of the era to realize the Chinese dream. We should sound the era clarion call to comprehensively deepen reform and opening up, build more platforms and channels for the youth, and inspire more young people to the stream, becoming beach-goers of the era in chasing the Chinese dream.

Only obtaining the youth can we win the future. Deng Xiaoping's youth goal incentive thought is of strategic height and with profound meaning, resulting in outstanding achievements. It reflects the great man's strategic vision and open mind and has provided value

ideological treasures to lead contemporary youth to active devote to the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of China. It is worth learning in depth.

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