

Research on the Creation of National Unity and Progress from the Perspective of Chinese National Community Consciousness

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ABSTRACT

The report of the 20th CPC National Congress provides insightful explanations and scientific judgments, pointing out the correct path in ethnic work, calling on the entire party and the people of the whole country to "unite and strive for the comprehensive construction of a socialist modernized country and the comprehensive promotion of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation". The creation of national unity and progress is an important way to strengthen the construction of the Chinese national community consciousness. This article aims to strengthen the Chinese national community consciousness, analyze the relationship between the Chinese national community consciousness and the creation of national unity and progress, showcase the vivid practice of urban ethnic work, and propose some inspirations for the creation of national unity and progress.

Keywords: *The spirit of the 20th CPC National Congress, Chinese national community consciousness, Creation of national unity and progress, Inspiration.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Strengthening national unity has been a fundamental cause of China's primary construction since the establishment of New China. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the Sixth Commendation of the National Unity and Progress in 2014: "To do a good job in ethnic work, the most crucial thing is to improve ethnic unity" [1]. Especially after the 18th CPC National Congress, the Party Central Committee, with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core, has attached great importance to the cause of ethnic unity and progress. The report of the 19th CPC National Congress in 2017 clearly proposed the historical mission of ethnic unity in the new era: to deepen education on ethnic unity and progress, to forge a sense of Chinese ethnic community, to strengthen exchanges and interactions among ethnic groups, and to promote ethnic groups to cling together like pomegranate seeds, uniting and striving for common prosperity and development [2]. In August 2021, at the

Central Working Conference about Nationality Affairs, it repeatedly mentioned the "Chinese ethnic community consciousness", advocated that "All ethnic groups should understand, respect, tolerate, appreciate, learn from, help, and cling together like pomegranate seeds", and called for "maximum unity and reliance on the masses of all ethnic groups, so that every ethnic group and every citizen could contribute to the realization of the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and share the fruits of the prosperity and development of the motherland", and that "Ethnic unity is the lifeline of the Chinese people of all ethnic groups, and the Chinese ethnic community consciousness is the foundation of ethnic unity" [3].

2. CHINESE NATIONAL COMMUNITY CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE "OUTLINE" OF THE CREATION OF NATIONAL UNITY AND PROGRESS

General Secretary Xi Jinping's classic discourse on forging the Chinese national community consciousness has received widespread academic attention since the 18th CPC National Congress and has been categorized into four directions in terms of research content. First, it traces the ideological roots of the Chinese national community consciousness in the context of the classical theories of Marx and Engels, as well as Mao Zedong Thought and Deng Xiaoping Theory, and in the context of the theory of nationality embedded in the traditional culture of the Chinese nation. Second, it explains the connotation of Chinese national community consciousness through its role, formation, requirements, and significance. For example, in terms of role, Chinese national community consciousness is regarded as a strategy for national governance; in terms of formation, Chinese national community consciousness is regarded as a psychological and consciousness process; in terms of requirements, Chinese national community consciousness is regarded as "Five Identities"; in terms of significance, Chinese national community consciousness is regarded as the core of national unity work. Third, it elaborates on the internal logic of the Chinese national community consciousness from the perspectives of theoretical logic, practical logic, and historical logic, believing that the past, present, and future are the three dimensions of the Chinese national community consciousness. Fourth, it explores its practical path based on the reality of the Chinese national community consciousness. For example, it enhances the strength of the Chinese national community consciousness by strengthening ethnic communication and "embedded" living environment, constructs a common awareness of the Chinese nation through the "Five Identities", and ensures the formation of the Chinese national community consciousness through institutional and educational environments. The research results and content on the Chinese national community consciousness have guiding and directional significance and role in the specific practice of creating national unity and progress. Taking forging a strong Chinese national community consciousness as an effective means, promoting the significant development of national unity and progress has

become a key aspect of China's ethnic work. In summary, the Chinese national community consciousness is not only the core of China's national unity work, but also the guiding principle. It is the source of strength and soul of national unity. To achieve unity and progress among all ethnic groups, it is necessary to adhere to the main line of casting a strong Chinese national community consciousness. In the context of the new era, the Party Central Committee has customized regulations for the cause of national unity and progress from the perspectives of guiding ideology, basic principles, overall goals, work tasks, and guarantee measures. In 2019, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council officially issued the document "Ideas on Continually Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress in a Comprehensive and In-depth Manner and Strengthening the Ideology of a Shared Chinese Community".

Combining practical results, the creation of national unity and progress has a great promoting effect on the formation and strengthening of the Chinese national community consciousness, and is a practical carrier of the Chinese national community consciousness. On the one hand, the creation of national unity and progress attaches great importance to education and publicity, which can effectively consolidate the ideological foundation of the Chinese national community consciousness and promote the strengthening of the cognition of the "Five Identities" among all ethnic groups. On the other hand, ethnic regions were once the difficulty and focus of China's poverty eradication. The work of creating ethnic unity and progress advocates for common prosperity, pays attention to poverty alleviation and prosperity in underdeveloped areas of ethnic minorities, and shapes a solid material foundation for the Chinese national community consciousness.

3. THE FOUNDATION FOR THE CREATION OF NATIONAL UNITY AND PROGRESS IN CHINA

The Chinese national community consciousness is the emotional bond of national identity and national integration, and the ideological basis of the reunification of the motherland and national unity. People should focus on common unity and struggle, common prosperity and development, and keep in mind the idea of "Three Inseparable". It is necessary to promote extensive communication, exchange, and integration among all ethnic groups,

promote unity in ideals, beliefs, emotions, and culture among all ethnic groups, and take forging a strong Chinese national community consciousness as an effective means to promote the continuous development of national unity and progress, becoming a key content of Chinese ethnic work.

3.1 Patriotic Tradition and Cultural Tradition of Diversity and Inclusion

It is pointed out by Xi Jinping that "The spirit of patriotism is deeply rooted in the hearts of the Chinese nation and is the spiritual gene of the Chinese nation, which maintains the unity of various ethnic groups on the land of China and inspires generations of Chinese people to tirelessly strive for the development and prosperity of the motherland" [5]. The Chinese nation has a long tradition of patriotism, which is rooted in deep history, and has gone through a historical process of continuous development with the concept of the "Chinese nation". Tradition, in terms of its temporal dimension, has modernity. It not only refers to the past, but also to the current state and future expectations. Patriotism in the new era is to strengthen the recognition of the great motherland, the Chinese nation, the Chinese culture, the CPC, and socialism with Chinese characteristics, so as to consolidate the strong cohesion of the Chinese nation. Since modern times, patriotism has first been manifested as the formation of a community of shared destiny among all Chinese ethnic groups and the motherland, which shares weal and woe, honor and disgrace, life and death, and fate and destiny, being bound together for good or ill. The main theme of Chinese national patriotism is closely related to the tradition of national unity and diverse and inclusive cultural traditions formed in Chinese history.

China is a unified multi-ethnic country, and the mixed residence and flower arrangement-style distribution of various ethnic groups have always been a norm in the distribution of Chinese ethnic groups. Various ethnic groups are intertwined and engaged in trade and intermarriage in a pattern of "large-scale mixed residence and small-scale settlement", which is also a normal feature of ethnic relations. All ethnic groups coexist for a long time, and no matter which ethnic group, they can integrate into the local mainstream society. The historical exchange and integration of various ethnic groups in China is the humanistic foundation of the unity in diversity pattern of the Chinese nation, and it is also a true portrayal of it. In major

cities, ethnic minorities live together in scattered communities. Although there are differences in historical origins among different ethnic groups, due to economic development and cultural integration, in a common living environment, whether it is the original residents of large cities or the new residents who have moved in since the reform and opening up, all ethnic groups have a sense of pride as "protagonists", which not only injects vitality into the rapid development of urban economy, but also continues to write a new chapter for the exchange and integration of various ethnic groups. In big cities, ethnic cultures and customs vary, but they can coexist harmoniously and maintain a tolerant attitude towards other ethnic cultures.

3.2 The "Pattern" of Ethnic Embeddedness

In the long history of living together, various ethnic groups have interacted and blended with each other, forming an embedded pattern of 'you have me' and 'I have you'. This has laid a solid foundation for the unity and harmony of ethnic relations among all ethnic groups in the city. The historical trend of multi-ethnic integration in China indicates that in a unified multi-ethnic country with a long history, members of all ethnic groups will form a higher level of identity and a sense of community with a shared future based on extensive exchanges, comprehensive exchanges, and deep integration. At present, the multi-ethnic embedded social structure and community environment in major cities in China are constantly taking shape, and the trend of communication and integration among members of various ethnic groups is deepening. Various basic conditions and infrastructure of material level, spiritual connotation, social conditions, and institutional system for building a Chinese national community and strengthening the Chinese national community consciousness are constantly improved and strengthened. Therefore, on the one hand, the mutually embedded residential pattern builds an important social foundation for national unity and the Chinese national community consciousness; on the other hand, the cultural customs and living habits that are embedded and integrated with each other have built an important emotional foundation for the creation of national unity and progress.

Residential space is the foundation of people's lives and an important living condition, and the embedded residential pattern of various ethnic

groups is an important idea of the differentiation of ethnic space in China. The population distribution pattern of ethnic groups in China, characterized by large-scale mixed residence, small-scale settlement, and mixed residence, is constantly deepening, presenting new characteristics of large mobility and large integration. The country has taken a series of measures that are conducive to the integration of ethnic minority floating population into urban society, and more and more ethnic minority people are better integrated into the city in an embedded social structure. In the atmosphere where all ethnic groups live, learn, work, and enjoy together, the national consciousness, civic consciousness, and rule of law consciousness of the people of all ethnic groups continue to strengthen. In the process of communication and integration, all ethnic groups continuously firmly cultivate the Chinese national community consciousness. In the practice of ethnic mixed living in major cities, the spatial living pattern of mixed living among different ethnic groups provides an objective basis for the creation of ethnic unity and progress, effectively promoting communication, exchange, and integration among ethnic groups.

The blending and embedding of emotions is another form of ethnic embeddedness pattern. Among the tens of millions of people in major cities, various ethnic groups have formed strong emotional embedding in their daily lives. In the "mutual embedding" of emotions, daily dietary habits and various entertainment activities are the key "fields" and contents of mutual communication among different ethnic groups. They are the results and important manifestations of emotional integration among different ethnic groups and can best reflect the closeness of national unity. The integration and embedding of emotions plays a significant role in promoting national unity and progress. Communities in large cities attach great importance to organizing various cultural activities, such as cultural exhibitions and cultural gatherings, to promote the learning and understanding of traditional Chinese culture, festivals, and customs among ethnic minorities. Besides, various departments pay attention to significant cultural value and cultural connotations of festivals, solar terms, and other time nodes related to the Chinese nation. By carrying out these festival activities, enriching community cultural resources, and promoting mutual learning, understanding, respect, and appreciation among different ethnic groups, they provide a good environment for communication and integration between ethnic

groups. All ethnic groups eat Zongzi together on the Dragon Boat Festival, eat moon cakes together on the Mid-Autumn Festival, and pay a New Year call to each other on the Spring Festival and the Corban Festival. Every activity adds more warmth, more understanding and less misunderstanding to society. Similarly, this is also a microcosm of the big family of Chinese nations.

3.3 The Language Foundation of Mutual Communication

Within major urban areas, the communication of languages among ethnic groups is the foundation for mutual learning and integration, and the learning of Mandarin among ethnic groups has typical autonomy. In a survey of daily language usage among ethnic minorities in Guangzhou, the authors found that some ethnic minorities not only use their own language and Mandarin for communication, but also have the phenomenon of using multiple other languages. For example, ethnic minority workers and businessmen in Guangzhou not only speak their own language, but also Mandarin, simple Cantonese, and some even speak multiple languages such as English and Russian. Among the numerous interviewees, many speak two or more languages. The reason for this phenomenon of multi-ethnic language exchange is that coastal cities are a region where multiple ethnic groups coexist. The language used by each ethnic group in daily life depends on their objective needs in social communication and often has autonomy. Mandarin, as the "official language" of all ethnic groups, is the basis for the unity and harmonious development of all ethnic groups in major cities, and plays an important role in deepening ethnic exchanges and improving the awareness of national community.

4. THE MAIN PRACTICE OF CREATING URBAN ETHNIC UNITY AND PROGRESS

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, promoting patriotism, adhering to the unity of all ethnic groups, and achieving the rise of the Chinese nation have become the main tone of today's society, and are also the guarantee that the Party Central Committee leads the people of the whole country to achieve the prosperity of the motherland. The Party Central Committee, with comrade Xi Jinping at its core, should organically combine personal vision, family happiness, the future of the motherland, and national dreams, emphasizing that

every person and every family are a part of the motherland and should contribute their own strength to the great cause of the nation, rooting the spirit of patriotism in the Chinese national culture.

4.1 Widely Carrying out the "Love for Country and Hometown" Series of Literary and Artistic Activities

Major cities have deeply integrated patriotic propaganda and education into mass cultural activities, with the theme of "love for country and hometown", carrying out a series of literary and artistic activities to cultivate the patriotism of people of all ethnic groups and achieve national unity. China started the "National Unity Education Month" in May 1982. Every year, various forms and distinctive ethnic unity and progress promotion activities are held throughout the country. For example, September of each year is Guangdong Province National Unity and Progress Promotion and Education Month. Guangdong Province held a themed practice activity titled "One Family of the Chinese Nation Plants Trees for the Future with One Heart" — Guangzhou Haizhu District Strengthens the Chinese National Community Consciousness, the painting, singing, dancing, and other artistic creations, performances, and exhibition activities with the theme of "Me and My Motherland", the singing of the "Guangzhou Voice of Loving the Party, Country, and Family" Competition, as well as a series of patriotic practical education activities such as "Children's Heart Towards the Party, Celebrating the National Day" at the Children's Palace in Guangzhou. In addition to the "love for country and hometown" activities organized by government departments, there were also folk art groups that expressed their patriotic feelings in their own way, such as Tai Chi and sword dance Chinese traditional cultural activities. Especially under the guidance of government departments, ethnic minority workers and businessmen voluntarily carried out charitable activities such as "sending warmth and offering love" to comfort nursing homes and sanitation workers. These activities not only bring springtime warmth to local residents, support public welfare undertakings, contribute love through practical actions, give back to society, strengthen communication and integration between ethnic minorities and local citizen homes, and promote ethnic unity, but also promote traditional Chinese virtues and social integrity. The "love for country and hometown" activities are not only to stimulate citizens' patriotism, but also an important way to

achieve national unity and progress, and strengthen the Chinese national community consciousness. Therefore, the rich and colorful urban ethnic cultural activities have been listed as normalized municipal work to promote, effectively promoting the creation of ethnic unity and progress.

4.2 Consolidating and Developing a Mutually Embedded Social "Pattern"

Each major city strengthens the embedded social pattern and interaction among different ethnic groups, and on the basis of inheriting the traditional culture of each ethnic group, achieves national unity, progress, co-construction, and sharing, and promotes the continuous integration of various ethnic cultures. In recent years, while working and studying in Guangzhou, the authors have paid more attention to the creation of ethnic unity and progress in Guangzhou, one of the important cities in the Pearl River Delta. As the forefront of reform and opening up, after nearly 40 years of development, the number of floating population in Guangzhou, an international metropolis, has exceeded the registered population. The large floating population has promoted the economic development of Guangzhou on the one hand. Guangzhou has summarized a unique urban ethnic work model with local characteristics through decades of urban ethnic work — the "Guangzhou Model"[6]. In 2020, Guangzhou issued the Implementation Plan for Comprehensively, Deeply and Persistently Carrying out the Creation of National Unity and Progress to Strengthen the Chinese national community consciousness and formulated specific implementation plans. In terms of the living space of all ethnic groups, Guangzhou, taking advantage of the urban-rural integration pattern, requires that all ethnic groups should adopt the mutually embedded residential model, and should effectively regulate and control the reconstruction and placement of shantytowns, public rental housing, allocation of houses built on the funds collected by the buyers, to guide and construct the construction of ethnic embedded communities. Since the 1980s, ethnic groups from various streets in Guangzhou have spontaneously organized ethnic contact groups, continuously enhancing understanding and friendship among different ethnic groups through family visits, and creating an "ethnic home". The relevant departments of Guangzhou have responded to the demands of the people and the needs of the situation, promptly paid attention to the development of ethnic friendship organizations,

helped ethnic groups to do well in their own construction, and led spontaneously-organized ethnic friendship groups onto the normal management track of civil organizations, transforming ethnic friendship groups into friendship associations. Under the leadership and guidance of the Party and government, these ethnic community organizations actively carry out various forms of social activities that are beneficial to national unity and progress, with the aim of promoting the Party's various laws and ethnic policies, strengthening unity among ethnic groups, and maintaining social stability.

5. CONCLUSION

Major cities in China have the characteristics of multi-ethnic settlement and multi-culture inclusiveness, which is a typical example of China's efforts to create "unity in diversity" ethnic unity and progress. Combining the practical experience of creating ethnic unity and progress in major cities, two inspirations can be drawn. To promote the creation of national unity and progress, it is necessary to take the "Chinese national community consciousness" as the guiding principle. The core essence of the Chinese national community consciousness is the "Five Identities", which are the fundamental driving force and spiritual soul for promoting national unity and progress. The inclusiveness of Chinese culture has created a historical foundation for national unity work, and the patriotic culture formed in the historical development process of major city cultures is the core of their multicultural inclusiveness. Under the spirit of patriotism, various ethnic groups are mutually inclusive, jointly forming the current embedded model of Chinese ethnic emotions. Through various forms of mass cultural activities, it can inherit inclusive traditional culture, promote the recognition and identification of Chinese national culture and urban culture among people of all ethnic groups in the city, continuously enhance the strengthening of Chinese national community consciousness, and form a common spiritual pursuit among all ethnic groups.

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