

The Enlightenment of American Patriotism Education to Our Country

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Abstract: We will contribute to the cause of patriotic education in our country by drawing on the experience of patriotic education in the United States, a country with a strong comprehensive national power. American patriotic education is permeated in general education, national consciousness, ideals and beliefs, and religious education. In terms of approaches, emphasis is placed on multi-channel education, implicit education, heuristic education and process evaluation. Drawing on its experience, heuristic teaching, subjectivity, emphasis on historical facts, and carrier innovation can be studied in depth.

1. The Main Contents of American Patriotism Education

1.1. Emphasis on Liberal Education to Build the Foundation of Patriotism

Patriotism is a system of feelings that reflects the dependence of individuals on their homeland, and is a system of behavioral norms that regulate the relationship between individuals and their homeland. [1] Patriotic education is an important part of the education systems of various countries, so is the United States, and its patriotic education behind strong comprehensive national power is gradually attracting attention. So it is important to learn from the successful experience of patriotic education in the United States and draw the essence to help our patriotic education.

As an important component of school education, liberal education has been given a crucial role in stimulating the patriotic spirit of school students. The liberal education, which was first established in the United States, has developed over a long period of time and become relatively mature. Liberal education in the United States is a basic education, which aims at cultivating sound and well-rounded people and American citizens with a sense of social responsibility. According to a survey on national pride conducted by the University of Chicago, Americans have the highest sense of identification with and pride in their homeland. The vast majority of Americans believe that their nation is superior to any other nation in the world and they have a strong patriotic zeal, which lays a quite solid foundation for patriotic education in the USA. On the one hand, the school's liberal education curriculum is designed to include civic education, moral education, and legal education. Covering all areas of the humanities, sciences and society, the curriculum teaches students about the splendid achievements of milestones in the historical heritage of mankind, while emphasizing the great contribution and driving force of the United States in the progress of mankind and allowing students to develop American-driven values and worldviews. On the other hand, American schools focus on fostering students' identification with American culture and nationalism. Although the

United States does not have as long a history as China, Americans place great importance on educating students about their history and culture, particularly the history of American civilization, thereby linking the 'larger destiny' of the country to the 'smaller destiny' of its citizens. For example, during the presidencies of Clinton and Bush, history was made a core subject in schools and was made compulsory by law at all levels, inspiring strong patriotic feelings and fostering the spirit of patriotism in students through history education.

1.2. Cultivating National Consciousness and Inspiring Patriotic Feelings

National consciousness is an individual's sense of identity and belonging to the country, and a sense of responsibility and pride in carrying out the country's historical mission. Cultivating national consciousness is conducive to awakening subject consciousness and spiritual self-awareness, and stimulating patriotic feelings. The U.S. focuses on enhancing the sense of national identity through the specific achievements of the country to achieve the purpose of education, while the U.S. national consciousness education focuses on improving the personal quality of citizens, cultivating personal responsibility, stimulating personal understanding of the future and fate of the country and its status in the international arena, and stimulating the emotion of sharing the fate of the motherland. Precisely because the U.S. advocates individualism and liberalism, the cultivation of national consciousness is always done from the perspective of the individual, and thus individualism is an important feature of the cultivation of national consciousness in the United States. At the same time, national defense education and history education are important ways to cultivate national consciousness in the United States. First, American patriotic education has always implemented the idea that education and national defense are inseparable. During the Cold War period, education about military theories and ideas was prevalent, and through these military education, dedication and patriotism were emphasized to guide students to establish a correct national concept. Secondly, the United States has established a complete legal system for national defense education, which provides a strong backing for the cultivation of national consciousness. Finally, the U.S. attaches great importance to history education. For the characteristics of students at different stages of development, the United States implements specific history education. In conclusion, national defense education and history education is the U.S. promotes the education of national consciousness in the U.S. and further stimulates the patriotic feelings of individuals.

1.3. Emphasis on Ideals and Beliefs, Permeated with Patriotic Aspirations

Every student needs to be educated about ideals and beliefs, and ideals and beliefs education is an important part of patriotic education. It is necessary to strengthen ideals and convictions in study, thinking, and practice. The important way of patriotic education in the United States: to infuse patriotic consciousness into the daily life of the people and to input patriotic ideas to every citizen in a subtle way. The content of American ideal and belief education is diverse. First of all, such old and famous schools as Harvard University and Stanford University are the first to offer relevant courses to instill students with the history, culture and values of their country in the form of values education, and set strict requirements for credits to inspire college students to sharpen their patriotic spirit. In addition, the U.S. will take advantage of suitable occasions to educate students about their ideals and beliefs, such as events, celebrations and anniversaries. For example, on Independence Day, flag-related activities are held all over the country, and the Stars and Stripes, representing the glory of the United States, can be seen in the streets at any time on that day. Even in daily life, the Star Spangled Banner representing the spirit of America is hung in classrooms and hallways of schools. Whether it is a major anniversary or an ordinary date, patriotic education is always

permeated in the education of ideals and beliefs. Finally, American colleges and universities also encourage students to actively participate in various social practice activities, especially all kinds of voluntary work to serve the public, and some famous American schools also consider whether they participate in community volunteer activities as a criterion for admission. Through participating in volunteer activities, students' sense of responsibility to the country and society is strengthened, forming a unique volunteer culture and promoting the development of patriotic education.

1.4. Strengthening Religious Education and Consolidating Patriotic Acts

"Religious education is the main form of ideological and political education in American colleges and universities" [2], and it is an indispensable and crucial part of American patriotic education, and its dominant position in the American national spiritual consciousness is unshakable. Religion is, to a certain extent, a powerful weapon to maintain social stability and enhance national identity, and is an important link to promote American unity. Many well-known American universities were formerly church schools, and according to a survey, 90% of teachers and students in American high schools are of Christian faith. At a deeper level, religious faith can be understood as a major way for the United States to use religion to reflect the consciousness of the ruling class and reach social consensus, thus strengthening patriotic education. Religious education in the U.S. permeates every aspect. For example, in campus education, religious education guides students to form an independent trivial view through the integration of the Bible with American national conditions and national culture. Some schools also offer special religion courses. In addition to this, students form religious clubs, hold religious-related club activities, and provide religious services to students and faculty. In the family, parents take their children to worship services on weekends, parents' behavior influences their children by ear, and the government supports the construction of some religious places, all of which religious education contributes to a certain extent to the development of patriotic education.

2. Measures of Patriotic Education in the USA

2.1. Focus on Multi-Channel Education Rather Than Single-Channel Education

Patriotic education in the United States is multi-channeled, with schools, families and society cooperating with each other. Thanks to this, patriotic education penetrates the human spirit in all directions like a dense foam. Firstly, in terms of school education, civic education courses are commonly offered in primary and secondary schools in the United States. Through vivid and specific teaching contents, the courses enable students to grasp the national conditions of the United States in a more comprehensive manner, build up a sense of "American citizenship" and inspire love for the motherland. At the same time, schools also focus on ceremonial education, for example, American students face the flag every day and pledge, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States and to the Republic for which it stands." Secondly, socially, both the flag itself and clothes, shoes and hats etc. bearing the flag are allowed to be sold. Unlike the various household items circulating in the Chinese market, we can often find the Stars and Stripes on the packaging of American products. On average, hundreds of millions of flags of various types are sold in the United States each year, either outside houses or on cars, and some citizens even post patriotic banners on the bumpers of their cars. Thirdly, family education has become an indispensable channel for patriotic education under the influence of American pluralistic values. American parents attach importance to cultivating their children's sense of independence. They advocate individualism and emphasize their love for the country by cultivating individual responsibility.

2.2. Emphasis on Implicit Education Rather Than Explicit Education

As the name implies, implicit education means that the educated are naturally educated in a natural and relaxed learning atmosphere created by the educator through latent and indirect means. "Invisible education is hidden and permeable." [3] In the United States, patriotic education focuses on influencing citizens' ideal beliefs and value judgments by means of implicit education, and shaping patriotism in an invisible way. First, one of the important ways of implicit education is to use the public environment for propaganda. American patriotic education permeates every part of the construction of national facilities, such as art museums, memorials, cultural squares and other facilities. Many of these famous museums and memorials are mostly named after past U.S. presidents, not only to pass on American civilization, but also in the hope that U.S. citizens can look back on history, have hope for the future of the country, and further develop a deep sense of national pride. Second, implicit education is provided with the help of professors of virtue and talent. The influence of teachers is not only limited to the classroom, but is also reflected in daily life. The same is true for the cultivation of patriotism among students. Third, implicit education is provided through extracurricular activities. American colleges and universities advocate providing students with a wide world of student autonomy and freedom, and emphasizing students' main position. Through clubs, club activities, cultural and sports activities and academic activities, patriotic consciousness is attributed to them in an implicit way. Fourth, patriotic education is conducted by focusing on the integration of ideological and political education with other disciplines and social practices. For example, patriotic education is combined with other disciplines such as history and culture education, and this is used as an opportunity to carry out patriotic education.

2.3. Emphasizing Inspirational Education Rather Than Indoctrination

Influenced by America's own cultural values, under the influence of "individualism" and "liberalism", the American education model is mainly heuristic, which is also a major difference between China and the American education system. The indoctrination education in China is adapted to the requirements of test-based education, and under the influence of the "score-based" education philosophy, students passively receive knowledge, resulting in a lack of critical thinking. Heuristic education, on the other hand, encourages students to take the initiative in learning, encourages them to stick to their own ideas and choices, and gives them the right to confirm and disprove them. The two educational approaches are also very different in terms of patriotic education. The indoctrination approach makes "patriotism" concrete, so that students memorize the rules and regulations taught in class and lack the ability to think on their own, and can only understand "patriotism" based on fixed knowledge. In contrast, heuristic education does not only emphasize patriotism as an American citizen, but also focuses on the important role of inspiration and guidance in the development of values. Students are inspired to think independently about what patriotism is, why it is, and how to be patriotic, and are guided to put it into practice. Moreover, patriotic education using heuristic teaching is not formalized; teachers usually guide students first and then explore social phenomena to deepen their sense of responsibility and honor for the country. Both motivating students and imparting knowledge, this model of education in American schools is not only useful in patriotic education, but also significant in the shaping of personal values.

2.4. Focus on Process Evaluation Rather Than Outcome Evaluation

Compared to outcome assessment, process assessment is more comprehensive and specific, as well as a better test of learning effectiveness. In the United States, patriotic education implemented at the elementary and secondary levels and at the higher education level tends to be more

process-oriented. First of all, teachers in primary and secondary schools give regular feedback on students' academic performance so that parents can keep abreast of their children's learning, and the scope of evaluation is not only at the end of each semester, but also a summary evaluation of the whole semester. In their evaluation system, although exams are important, final exams do not fully determine course grades, and teaching performance assessment focuses on process assessment, so almost every course has a midterm exam, and the results of the usual exams, large and small, are included in the total final course grade. Second, American higher education upholds an open education format, which gives students a lot of freedom after school, but in fact, to get good or even excellent course grades, after-school learning during the learning process is equally important. At the same time, the U.S. advocates pragmatism, and its values education focuses on timeliness, i.e., students are required to apply what they have learned in a practical way, to experience many life experiences in different life situations, and to self-reflect and evaluate in order to form their own values. The process evaluation system requires students to give full play to their initiative in the learning process in order to ensure their subjectivity in it. Therefore, many assignments are completed in the form of group reports, and in the classroom, each group is required to make presentations, give PowerPoint speeches, exchange and discuss together, etc. This kind of independent, strong and confident character cannot be reflected in the result-based assessment system.

3. Enlightenment

3.1. Pay Attention to Inspire and Highlight the Subject Consciousness

"The purpose of heuristic education is to activate students' sense of subjectivity through the induction and enlightenment of education". [4] Under the influence of the idea of "life is education", patriotic education, which highlights penetrating education, is reflected in life all the time. In China, to "focus on infiltration heuristic teaching." [5] Schools are the main channel for implementing patriotic education, and the ideological and political theory courses are the main forum. However, despite the effectiveness of the teaching, there are still some shortcomings. Therefore, in order to penetrate patriotic education into daily life, on the one hand, China is strengthening and improving the education channel of the trinity of school, family and society. Parents, as the first teachers of students' growth, and society as an important channel for students' growth, will both contribute to the development of penetrating education. On the other hand, the integration of Civics courses in universities, schools and colleges has become a hot topic. We currently attach great importance to the integration of ideological and political education in universities, middle schools, and primary schools. "Building Heuristic Education in a Networked Environment." [6] What's more, in order to mobilize students' sense of subjectivity in learning, we are also improving the ways and means of teaching and learning. And in the classroom, students are encouraged to participate actively. Grasping the personality characteristics, learning characteristics and cognitive ability characteristics of students at all ages, we are teaching students according to their abilities, so that they can gradually become the masters of learning.

3.2. Based on the Excellent Chinese Traditional Culture, Attaching Importance to the Education of Historical Facts

American schools attach importance to history education, and although the history of the country is short, it is not formal in history education. Through a specific historical example, the dominant values of the United States are integrated with history education, and relevant regulations are made for the content of history teaching, so that students can enhance their national pride in history

learning and consciously participate in nation building. For example, in ancient Confucianism, the ideas of "great unity" and "loyalty and patriotism" emphasized the integrity and unity of the motherland and love for it. In modern times, everyone full of enthusiasm, have always thought of the country in every battle and the people in every construction. Only by thinking of the people in every battle and in every construction did they win the victory. Excellent traditional culture "conducive to enhancing cultural identity and self-confidence." [7] In the new era, we should attach importance to the excellent Chinese traditional culture, promote the study and education of the "Four Histories", absorb the cultural essence from the historical and cultural traditions, and use the Internet and new media to develop special patriotic education courses to create a strong patriotic atmosphere.

3.3. Innovate a Scientific and Effective Vehicle for Implementing Patriotic Education

"The carrier is the medium that carries and transmits educational information". [8] The carrier of patriotic education in the U.S. is in various forms, which is implemented by means of both the curriculum within the classroom and extracurricular religious activities, festivals and social practices. Our country can do it from the following perspectives. First, the use of special dates. On American Flag Day, numerous national flags are displayed. In our country, it is necessary to organize students to study the deeds of outstanding personnel against the epidemic to inspire students to be patriotic in gratitude and moving. Second, innovative forms of social practice activities. For example, on the birth anniversary of great people, we can organize students to visit his residence, read aloud his poems, write study tips and deeply appreciate the hardships and difficulties of the revolutionary war years to inspire patriotic feelings. Third, the scientific use of the news media." The news media should insist on leading the public with correct public opinion" [9], the news media is a double-edged sword, on the one hand it can quickly spread information and provide quick access to historical texts. On the other hand, the news media information is mixed, once out of control, it will have unpredictable consequences, so it needs to be used scientifically.

4. Conclusion

Through research, the content and specific ways of patriotic education in the United States were explored, and it provided experience for China. The horizontal comparison of patriotic education in different countries is conducive to cultivating a broader vision of the laboratory and is more conducive to the continuous improvement of patriotic education in China.

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