

# The 100 Years' History of Education Policy of the CPC—A History of Innovation and Development of Marxist Educational Thought in China\*

Tianping Yang, Weifeng Di  
Zhejiang Normal University, Zhejiang, China

In the past 100 years, the Communist Party of China (CPC)'s educational policy has experienced four major historical leaps. Taking 1949 as the boundary, education policy of the CPC has gone through two “zigzag” sections in its course of development. In the 28 years before the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), it had gone through the one “zigzag” from the general policy of Communist culture and education to the general policy of new democratic culture and education. In the 72 years after the founding of the PRC, it had gone through the other “zigzag” from education policy in the early stage of socialist construction to education policy in the new period of the construction of socialism. The two “zigzag” sections supplement each other in one continuous line, although with many twists and turns, embodying the dialectical unity of class and people, science and times, standardization and guidance, subjectivity and objectivity, historicity and development and resulting in China's localization practice of the Marxism theories. Standing on the historical commanding height of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation in the new era, we should adhere to the strategic position of giving priority to the development of education, adhere to the party's leadership over education, adhere to the socialist direction of running schools, implement the fundamental task of building morality and cultivating people, and focus on solving the problems of “for whom to train people”, “how to train people”, and “what kind of people to train”, thus promoting the all-round development of human beings and the all-round progress of society.

*Keywords:* the CPC, the general policy of culture and education, education policy, the 100 years' development

## Introduction

Education policy of the Communist Party of China (CPC), called the general policy of culture and education before the founding of China and education policy after it, refers to the common programme of the CPC on the development of education and the general provisions of the CPC on education quality, direction, purpose, task, function, and its way of realization, in various historical stages including the time after 1921 (the founding of the CPC), 1931 (the founding of the Temporary Central Government of the Soviet Republic of

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Tianping Yang, doctor, professor, College of Teachers Education, Zhejiang Normal University.

Weifeng Di, Ph.D. candidate, associate professor, College of Teachers Education, Zhejiang Normal University.

China), 1949 (the founding of the People's Republic of China [PRC]), and 1978 (the reform and opening-up)<sup>1</sup>. The general policy of culture and education before the founding of the PRC refers to the general guiding ideology and principle of culture and education, which is publicly declared by the supreme leadership organs of the CPC and the Central Committee, the people's political power under the leadership of the CPC and leaders of the CPC. Education policy after the founding of China refers to the general guideline of the development of education prescribed by the supreme leadership organs of the CPC and the Central Committee, the top leadership body of the CPC and the Standing Committee, the Central People's Government and the Education Department under the leadership of the CPC, or the guideline of education work proposed by the leaders of the CPC on behalf of the CPC and the government.

### **The 100 Years' Evolution and Development of Education Policy of the CPC**

Combing the 100 years' evolution track of education policy of the CPC, we can see that it has undergone four major fundamental changes and achieved four great historic leaps. The first is from the general policy of Communist culture and education after the founding of the CPC to the one of the new democracy after the War of Resistance Against Japan. The second is from education policy of the new democracy after 1949 to the one of the socialism after 1957. The third is from education policy before the socialist construction to the one in the socialist construction period, and the fourth is from education policy released in Education Law in 1995 to the one revised and promulgated in Education Law in 2015. The four big changes and leaps not only mark the CPC continues to deepen the understanding of education policy and education law, but also characterize the inheritance and development of Marx's theory of education in the practice of Chinese education policy.

#### **From the General Policy of Communist Culture and Education After the Founding of the CPC to the One of the New Democracy After the War of Resistance Against Japan**

From 1921 to 1949, based on the development of the social situation, the CPC properly made the policy and guiding principle of culture and education work in various periods, and implemented it effectively. Education policy mainly goes through the three historical stages of development including the construction of the CPC, government, and State.

From July 1921, when the CPC was founded, to November 1931, when the Temporary Central Government of the Soviet Republic of China was founded, the education principle and its practice of the First National Congress of the CPC to the Sixth National Congress of the CPC were regarded as the first stage. From November 1931, when the Soviet Regime was founded in Jiangxi, to January 1940, when Mao Zedong published *On the New Democracy*, the general policy and its practice of culture and education announced by the Soviet and border governments under the leadership of the CPC were the second stage. From January 1940,

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<sup>1</sup> The historical data show that as early as 1915, Chen Duxiu published *Today's Education Policy*, putting forward "four doctrines" of education policy including "realism", "individualism", "occupationalism", "barbarism", and so on. In May 1925, the Second National Labor Congress of China adopted *Resolution on Education of Workers*, which proposed the concept of "our education policy" for the first time. Its content is to pay attention to workers' needs in their daily life, and arouse their consciousness of classes. Subsequently, both in August 1930 and February 1931, the Culture and Education Planning Committee of the Western Soviet Government successively put forward the concepts of "teaching policy" and "policy of social education". With the revolution, the CPC regards education and culture as a whole. In September 1931, Provinces Hunan, Hubei, and Jiangxi issued *Guideline of Soviet Culture Work*, the education policy being included in it. In May 1932, the First Congress of the Workers, Peasants, and Soldiers in Jiangxi adopted *Resolution on Culture and Education Work*, putting forward the general policy of culture and education work. Since then, the concept of "the general policy of culture and education" has been used until the founding of new China and still afterwards.

when *On the New Democracy* was published, to October 1949, when the PRC was founded, the “national, scientific, and popular” policy of culture and education of the new democracy put forward by the CPC and its educational practice which extended to the end of 1956 were the third stage:

1. In July 1921, *The First Resolution on the Task of the CPC* in the First National Congress of the CPC pointed out: “The basic policy of schools is to raise the awareness of workers” (Song, 2000, p. 156);

2. In July 1922, *The Declaration of the Second National Congress of the CPC* put forward: “To improve the education system and popularize the education”<sup>2</sup>;

3. In June 1923, *Constitution of the CPC (Draft)* in the Third National Congress of the CPC pointed out: “To implement the compulsory education, education and religion shall be in absolute separation” (Central Archives, 1982, p. 113).

In January 1925, *Resolution on the Youth Movement (Draft)* in the Fourth Congress of the CPC put forward:

civilian education ... we shall exceedingly pay attention to, the rural education ... we shall pay most attention to. (Song, 2000, p. 160)

*Resolution on the Work of the Communist Youth League* adopted in the Fifth National Congress of the CPC in May 1927 put forward that the Communist Youth League shall carry out “the communist revolutionary education of the youth proletariat” (Song, 2000, p. 162).

In July 1928, *The Political Resolution* adopted in the Sixth National Congress of the CPC put forward “the need to intensify the education of members and the masses of the CPC” (Song, 2000, p. 163).

Under the guidance of the educational programs in the First National Congress of the CPC to the Six National Congress of the CPC, education of workers and peasants of the CPC, cadre education, youth education, rural education, and soon have all been developed.

In November 1931, the CPC held the First National Congress of the Chinese Soviet in Ruijin, Jiangxi. The 12th article of *The Outline for Constitution of the Soviet Republic of China* adopted in it stipulated:

The Soviet regime ensures that workers and peasants have the right to being educated ..., carries out completely free universal education. (Central Institute of Educational Sciences, 1981, p. 28)

In January 1934, the CPC held the Second National Congress of the Chinese Soviet in Ruijin, Jiangxi. Mao Zedong (1958) put forward in the opening address:

Where is the general policy of Soviet culture and education? It lies in the spirit of Communism to educate the laboring people, to make culture and education serve the revolution and class struggle, to combine education with labor, so that the vast Chinese population can become the people who can enjoy happiness. (p. 15)

Under the guidance of the general principle of Soviet culture and education, the Soviet Red Army education, cadre education, social education, culture education, primary school education have greatly developed, both popularized and improved, so the system of the service of revolutionary war, the production and construction, and the working people is formed, relatively independent, unified, and perfect. However, because the general policy of Soviet culture and education was born in the specific war time and the new-built People's Regime, in cognitive terms of educational nature, objectives and tasks, it copies the experience of the

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<sup>2</sup> *Declaration of the second National Congress of the Communist Party of China* (EB/OL). Retrieved January 19, 2003, from [http://news.xinhuanet.com/ziliao/2003-01/19/content\\_695991.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/ziliao/2003-01/19/content_695991.htm).

Soviet education, and completely implements the Communist education. Therefore, after the Chinese Red Army of Workers and Peasants arrived in Northern Shaanxi, it was reviewed. Accordingly the national liberation movement was proposed as the basic content of education, the elimination of illiteracy and the improvement of mass cultural and political level as the core standard of education.

In May 1939, Mao Zedong (1939) pointed out:

We shall pay attention to the principle and methods of national education, and now the national education policy is democratic. In the past, the national education policy in the Central Soviet area was Communist, and the guideline laid down by the government for culture was Communist, and neither of them was correct. (as cited in Literature Research Center of the CPC Central Committee, 1993, p. 124)

In December that year, Mao Zedong (1939) stressed once again that,

Education policy of the border area shall be democratic, and shall be publicizing the current task of the democracy, and at the same time the Communist ideological system. (as cited in Literature Research Center of the CPC Central Committee, 1993, p. 149)

In January 1940, Mao Zedong published *On The New Democracy*, which not only divides Chinese revolution history into two different courses of democratic revolution and socialist revolution, clarifies the theory, line, principle, and policy of the CPC in the period of democratic revolution, but also puts forward the policy of culture and education of the democratic revolution in a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society. It is worded the way that the peoples' counter-imperialist and counter-feudal cultural education, under the guidance of the Communist ideology and the leadership of the proletariat, is a national, scientific, popular, and completely new type of cultural education. Under the guidance of this general guideline, the Government of Shaanxi, Gansu, and Ningxia Border Region and the Counter-Japanese bases under the leadership of the CPC actively carry out cadre education, adult education and primary school education, strengthen the Counter-Japanese construction of culture and education of the United Front, and creatively develop the people's education to serve the War of Resistance Against Japan and the New Democratic Revolution.

In April 1945, the CPC held the Seventh National Congress in Yan'an. Mao Zedong published *On Coalition Government*, which pointed out that in the new democratic system,

Chinese national culture and education shall aim to be new democratic, that is to say, China shall establish its own national, scientific, and the masses' new culture and education. (Yang & Huang, 2015, p. 52)

Subsequently, each liberated area shall take resolute steps to eliminate feudal fascist culture and education, rapidly recover, rectify, transform, and develop all types of education, educate and arm children and adolescents and the masses of the people with the new democratic revolution ideas in liberated areas, improve the people's political consciousness and level of culture and education, cultivate and train the cadres at all levels who assisted the Liberation War until the liberation of the whole country.

The development of policy of culture and education of the CPC from 1921 to 1949 is essentially a tortuous and rich evolutionary course of culture and education undertakings of the New Democracy. It is exercised out of hard struggle, which experiences a process of practice, cognition, repractice, and recognition out of a spiral, "zigzag" road, therefore to form the 28 years' culture and education policy's theory and practice before the founding of the country, and promote the vigorous development of the period of the democratic revolution under the leadership of the CPC's cultural and educational undertakings.

### **From Education Policy by the New Democracy After 1949 to the One of Socialism After 1957**

In September 1949, the first session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference was held in Peiping (now Beijing), *Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference* functioning as the interim constitution adopted. The 41st article of the fifth chapter *Policy of Culture and Education* stipulated:

The culture education of the PRC is the education of the New Democracy, namely national, scientific, and popular culture education. The culture and education work of the People's Government shall be centred on raising the people's cultural level, training the talents of national construction, eliminating feudal, compradore, fascist ideas, and serving the people<sup>3</sup>.

Under the guidance of the general policy of culture and education, the CPC and the government promulgated education policy at all levels during the period when the PRC was founded in October 1949 and the CPC relatively completed the socialist transformation at the end of 1956.

In December 1949, the Ministry of Education held the First National Conference on Education in Beijing, in which the general policy of education was adopted:

The education of the PRC is the new democratic education. Its main task is to improve the people's cultural level, cultivate talents for state construction, clear up feudal, compradore and fascist ideology, and develop the idea of serving the people. The new education is a national, scientific, and popular education, and its method is theory shall be in line with practice. It aims at serving the people, the workers, peasants, and soldiers first, and the current revolutionary struggle and construction (Gu, 1994, p. 1490). Education shall serve the construction of the state. And schools shall serve the workers and peasants. (Central Institute of Educational Sciences, 1984, p. 8)

In May 1950, Qian Junrui, Party Secretary of Ministry of Education, published *Education Policy for Current Construction* in the opening issue of *People's Education*:

to serve the workers and peasants and to serve the production and construction are the central policy to currently implement the new democratic education. (Yang, 2020, p. 326)

In March 1951, Ma Xulun, Minister of Ministry of Education put forward in the National Secondary Education Conference:

The objectives and educational goals of ordinary secondary schools shall conform to the principle of all-round development. Therefore, the young generation will gain an all-round development in intelligence, morality, physique, and art, to become an active and conscious member of the new democratic society. (He, 1998, pp. 87-88)

In March 1952, the Ministry of Education announced the interim regulations (draft) for middle schools and the interim regulations (draft) for primary schools, stipulating in both primary and middle schools:

To implement all-round development in intelligence, morality, physique, and art. (He, 1998, p. 142)

In February 1954, Zhou Enlai, Premier of the Government Administration Council, pointed out at the government meeting:

We advance to socialism and communism, and everyone shall develop in a balanced way in terms of morality, intelligence, physique and art. (Liu, 1993, p. 3)

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<sup>3</sup> Common Program of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, adopted at the first plenary session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference on September 29, 1949. Retrieved from <http://baike.baidu.com/view/428031.htm>.

In September 1954, the first session of the First National People's Congress adopted, and Presidium of the First National People's Congress announced *Constitution of the People's Republic of China*, the 94th article of the third chapter *The Rights and Obligations of Citizens* stipulated:

Citizens of the PRC have the right to being educated. ... The state pays special attention to the physical and intellectual development of young people<sup>4</sup>.

From May to June in 1955, the national work conference of culture and education put forward:

In order to improve the quality of education in primary and secondary schools, we shall implement the policy of all-round development, pay attention to the students' education of intelligence, morality, physique, and art, at the same time, implement the basic production technology education step by step. (He, 1998, p. 294)

In September 1956, the Eighth National Congress of the CPC was held in Beijing, which proposed that after relatively completing the socialist transformation, the state entered the period of socialist construction. The main task is to develop social productive forces and realize industrialization, and to gradually meet the people's growing material and cultural needs. Thus, the new journey of socialist education policy has been started.

In February 1957, in the eleventh session (enlarged) of the Supreme State Conference, Mao Zedong clearly pointed out:

Our educational policy shall enable everyone who receives an education to develop morally, intellectually and physically and become a worker with both socialist consciousness and culture. (Central Institute of Educational Sciences, 1984, p. 784)

Although the socialist transformation has been relatively completed, the class struggle is not over,

We need to strengthen the ideological and political work ..., No correct political point of view is equal to no soul. (Teng, 1993, pp. 292-293)

In the Spring of 1958, Mao Zedong once again proposed, “

Education shall serve the proletarian politics and shall be combined with production and labor. The working people shall be educated and the intellectuals shall be labored. (Mao, 1977, p. 408)

In August of the same year, when reviewing Director of the Propaganda Department of the CPC Central Committee and leader of the culture and education group of the CPC Central Committee Lu Dingyi's *Education Shall Be Combined With Production and Labor*, Mao Zedong deliberately wrote another two paragraphs:

Children shall develop their bodies, which is sound. Children shall develop the Communist sentiment, style and collective heroism, which is the moral education of our times. The two are linked with the intellectual education and are related to labor, so the principle of combining education with labor shall not be altered. Summing up the above, the overall development we advocate is to enable students to get more thorough and extensive knowledge, develop a sound body and the morality of Communism. We shall combine the universal truth of the Marx doctrine with the concrete realities of China to determine China's education policy, education principle, education system, education method, etc. with the help of our own characteristics. (Mao, 2008, p. 291)

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<sup>4</sup> Constitution of the People's Republic of China, adopted at the first session of the First National People's Congress on September 20, 1954, issued by the Chairman Group of the first session of the National People's Congress on September 20, 1954. Retrieved from [http://www.law-lib.com/law/law\\_view.asp?id=343215](http://www.law-lib.com/law/law_view.asp?id=343215).

In June 1957, Zhou Enlai pointed out:

Our future education policy shall satisfy the needs of training workers with socialist consciousness, culture, and health in *The Government Work Report* of the first session of the National People's Congress. (Yang & Huang, 2015, p. 98)

In September 1958, Lu Dingyi, Director of Propaganda Department of the Communist Party of China, and Leader of Central Culture and Education Group published *Education Shall Be Combined With Production And Labor* in the magazine *Red Flag*, and pointed out:

Education policy of the CPC has always been—Education shall serve the politics of the working class and education shall be combined with production and labor. In order to achieve it, we shall uphold leadership by the CPC. (Yang & Huang, 2015, p. 99)

In the same month, the Central Committee of the CPC and the State Council issued *The Instructions to Education*, which further stipulated:

Educational work policy of the CPC is as follows. Education shall serve the proletarian politics and shall be combined with production and labor. In order to achieve it, we shall uphold leadership by the CPC. The purpose of education is to train workers with socialist consciousness and culture. (Mao & Shen, 1989, p. 273)

At this point, education policy of the CPC in the period of socialist construction was formally established. The statement “Education shall serve the proletarian politics” embodies the socialist nature and direction of education in a particular historical period. The statement “Education shall be combined with production and labor” reflects Marx's education philosophy and methodological principle. The statement “Education work shall enable everyone who receives an education to develop morally, intellectually and physically and become a worker with both socialist consciousness and culture” embodies the idea of all-round development by the Marx doctrine and the socialist education objective.

### **From Education Policy Before the Socialist Construction to the One in the Socialist Construction Period**

In June 1961, Deng Xiaoping presided over the meeting of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee to discuss revising Examination of *the Interim Work Regulations of Colleges and Universities Directly Under Ministry of Education (Draft)*. In September of the same year, it is trialed, approved by the CPC Central Committee, “the secondary school sixty” for short. Afterwards, in March 1963, the CPC Central Committee approved and released *Interim Regulations on the Work of a Full-time Secondary School (Draft)* and *Interim Regulations on the Work of a Full-time Primary School (Draft)*, the “The Secondary School Fifty” and “The Primary School Forty” for short respectively.

The first article of the first chapter *General Provisions* in all these regulations stipulated:

We shall implement education policy that education shall serve the proletarian politics and education shall be combined with production and labor, and We shall stipulate the objective and goal of primary, secondary schools and universities according to Comrade Mao Zedong's proposal “Our educational policy shall enable everyone who receives an education to develop morally, intellectually and physically and become a worker with both socialist consciousness and culture”<sup>5</sup>.

In July 1963, in the meeting of Graduates of Higher Education From Beijing, Zhou Enlai addressed the

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<sup>5</sup> For details, refer to the relevant articles in *Interim Work Regulations of Institutions of Higher Education Directly Under Ministry of Education (Draft)*, *Interim Work Regulations of Full-time Secondary Schools (Draft)*, and *Interim Work Regulations of Full-time Primary Schools (Draft)*.

report of *All-round Development, to Become a Worker With Socialist Consciousness and Culture* and pointed out:

“Beijing organizes this meeting today. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the socialist education policy. In 1957, Chairman Mao said in *On the Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People*: “Our educational policy shall enable everyone who receives an education to develop morally, intellectually, and physically and become a worker with both socialist consciousness and culture”. In 1958, the Central Committee of the CPC further formulated the policy that education shall serve the proletarian politics and be combined with production and labor. By “Education shall serve the proletarian politics”, we mean we shall enable everyone who receives an education to be socialistically conscious and to be willing to serve socialism. By “Education shall be combined with production and labor”, we mean we shall enable everyone who receives an education to develop morally, intellectually and physically and become a worker with both socialist consciousness and culture. (Central Institute of Education, pp. 206-207)

In February 1964, Mao Zedong pointed out at the Spring Festival Forum at the Great Hall of the People:

The education guideline is correct, but it is not in the right way. I think education needs to change, and the present one is not feasible. (Yang, 2020, p. 315)

In August 1966, the 11th plenary session of the 8th CPC Central Committee adopted *Decision on the Proletarian Cultural Revolution of the Central Committee of the CPC*. The 10th article *Teaching Reform* put forward:

We shall completely implement Mao Zedong’s education policy—Education shall serve the proletarian politics. Education shall be combined with production and labor. And education shall enable everyone who receives an education to develop morally, intellectually and physically and become a worker with both socialist consciousness and culture. (Central Institute of Educational Sciences, 1984, p. 405)

In January 1975, the first session of the Fourth National People’s Congress adopted *Constitution of the People’s Republic of China*. The 12th article of the first chapter *General Provisions* stipulated:

Culture and education, literature and art, physics and health, and scientific research shall serve the proletarian politics, serve the workers, peasants, and soldiers, and be combined with production and labor<sup>6</sup>.

In March 1978, the first session of the Fifth National People’s Congress adopted *Constitution of the People’s Republic of China*. The thirteenth article of the first chapter *General Provisions* stipulated:

Education shall serve the proletarian politics, and be combined with production and labor to enable everyone who receives an education to develop morally, intellectually, and physically and become a worker with both socialist consciousness and culture<sup>7</sup>.

At this point, education policy of the CPC has been written into the fundamental law of the state.

In April 1978, Deng Xiaoping (1978) pointed out at the National Conference on Education:

“The key point here is how, in the new historical conditions, to further implement the fundamental principle ‘Education shall serve the proletarian politics, and shall be combined with production and labor’ by Chairman Mao”; “to improve the quality of education, improve the teaching level of science and culture, and better serve the proletarian politics”; “to build China into a modern socialist country, ... We must cultivate the workers with a high scientific and cultural level. And we must bring up great working-class intellectuals with both socialist minds and professional

<sup>6</sup> Constitution of the People’s Republic of China, adopted at the first session of the *Fourth National People’s Congress* on January 17, 1975. Retrieved from [http://www.law-lib.com/law/law\\_view.asp?id=343216](http://www.law-lib.com/law/law_view.asp?id=343216).

<sup>7</sup> Constitution of the People’s Republic of China, adopted at the first session of the *Fifth National People’s Congress* on March 5, 1978. Retrieved from [http://www.law-lib.com/law/law\\_view.asp?id=343217](http://www.law-lib.com/law/law_view.asp?id=343217).

competence. These requirements themselves are serving the proletarian politics"; and "to do a good job of education revolution, fully and correctly implementing education policy in which education shall serve the proletarian politics, and be combined with production and labor" (pp. 1-3).

Observing education policy's evolution and practice from 1957 to 1978, the CPC and the government centered on the "education revolution" to carry out a series of exploration in training objectives, combination of education with labor, education regulations, education system, length of schooling, examination system, political and ideological education, teaching content and method, education management system, and so on. In the context of "the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution" from May 1966, the Ninth National Congress of the CPC in April 1969, the Tenth National Congress of the CPC in August 1973, and the Eleventh National Congress of the CPC in August 1977 following the theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletarian politics, China highlights the proletarian politics, emphasizes the class struggle, makes serious mistakes in education guideline and goes through the tortuous development.

In December 1978, the CPC held the third plenary meeting of the Eleventh Central Committee in Beijing, which is historic. It is determined to stop the slogan of taking the "class struggle" as the guiding line, deny the "continuing revolution under the dictatorship of the proletarian theory", establish the general policy of taking economic construction as the center, adhering to the Four Cardinal Principles (Si Xiang Ji Ben Yuan Ze, to keep to the socialist road and to uphold the people's democratic dictatorship, leadership by the CPC and Maxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought) and carrying out the reform and opening-up, and therefore not only to open a new era of socialist construction, but also to promote the liberation of educational thoughts, and to trigger a heated discussion and great transformation in education policy.

In June 1981, the sixth plenary meeting of the Eleventh CPC Central Committee discussed and adopted *Resolution on Several Issues in the History of the CPC Since the Founding of China*:

To adhere to education policy—The all-round development in the aspect of morality, intelligence, and physique, with a socialist mind and professional competence, intellectuals, workers and peasants combined and mental labor and labor force combined. (Editorial Department of China Yearbook of Education, 1984, p. 22)

In December of 1981, the fourth session of the fifth session of the National People's Congress discussed and adopted *Government Work Report* which stressed:

Our basic education principle is clear, which is to enable everyone who receives an education to develop morally, intellectually, and physically and become a worker with socialist consciousness and culture, and a talent with a socialist mind and professional competence, to adhere to the combination of physics and mind, and the combination of intellectuals, workers and peasants<sup>8</sup>.

In September 1982, at the *12th National Congress* of the CPC, Deng Xiaoping proposed the great epoch proposition of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

In December of the same year, the fifth meeting of the fifth session of the National People's Congress discussed and adopted *Constitution of the People's Republic of China*. The 46th article of the second chapter *Basic Rights and Duties of Citizens* stipulated:

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<sup>8</sup> The current economic situation and the principles for economic construction in the future, adopted at the fourth session of the *Fifth National People's Congress* on December 13, 1981. Retrieved from <http://www.wenku1.com/view/2487BDDAAA3B29D1.html>.

The state will train children and young people to gain an all-round development in morality, intelligence, and physique<sup>9</sup>.

In July 1983, *Deng Xiaoping's Selections (1975-1982)* were published and his speech at the National Conference on education in April 22, 1978 included. In reviewing the final version, Deng Xiaoping made a major revision to the wording of education policy:

The first is to completely delete "Education shall serve the proletarian politics"; The second is to revise "to better serve the proletarian politics" into "to better serve the socialist construction"; and The third is to revise "These requirements themselves are to serve the proletarian politics" into "These requirements themselves are the political requirements by the proletariat".

In October 1983, Deng Xiaoping inscribed for Beijing Jingshan School:

Education shall be geared to the needs of modernization, of the world and of the future. (Yang, 2020, p. 374)

In May 1985, *Decision on the Reform of Education System of the CPC Central Committee* put forward,

Education shall serve the socialist construction, and socialist construction shall rely on education. ... Being geared to the needs of modernization, of the world, and of the future<sup>10</sup>.

In April 1986, the fourth meeting of the sixth session of the National People's Congress adopted *Compulsory Education Law of the People's Republic of China*. Its third article stipulated:

Compulsory education shall implement the national education policy; strive to improve the quality of education, so that children and young people will gain an all-round development in morality, intelligence, and physique to lay a foundation to improve the quality of the whole nation, to cultivate talents of socialist construction with the ideal, morality, culture, and discipline<sup>11</sup>.

In October 1987, the Thirteenth National of the CPC expounded the theory and the basic line in the primary stage of socialism, made the strategic "Three-Step Development" (San Bu Zou, a plan for boosting the economy by hitting three major targets over three different time spans) plan for the socialist modernization construction of our country, and stressed the need to adhere to the policy of education serving the construction of socialism.

In November 1989, Li Peng met with the Chinese and foreign representatives in *International Symposium on Education Towards Twenty-first Century*. He pointed out:

Chinese education policy is summed up in the following three points: Education shall be geared to the needs of modernization, of the world and of the future; emphasis on the all-round development in morality, intelligence and

<sup>9</sup> Constitution of the People's Republic of China, adopted at the fifth session of the *Fifth National People's Congress* on December 4, 1982. Retrieved from <http://bbs1.people.com.cn/post/60/1/2/143740565.html>. PS: since then, *Constitution Amendment of the People's Republic of China* adopted at the first meeting of the Seventh National People's Congress on April 12, 1988, *Constitution Amendment of the People's Republic of China* adopted at the first meeting of the Eighth National People's Congress on March 29, 1993, *Constitution Amendment of the People's Republic of China* adopted at the second meeting of the ninth national people's Congress on March 15, 1999 and *Constitution Amendment of the People's Republic of China* adopted at the second meeting of the Tenth National People's Congress on March 14, 2004 all follow this statement.

<sup>10</sup> Deng Xiaoping. Education being geared to the needs of modernization, of the world, and of the future, people.cn. Retrieved from <http://www.people.com.cn/GB/shizheng/252/5303/5304/20010625/496628.html>. PS: On May 26, 1980, Deng Xiaoping gave an inscription to *China Youth Daily* and *Counselor Magazine*: "Hoping our children is determined to be the person with ideals, morality, culture and discipline, and contribute to the people, the motherland and the mankind". Since then, it has been expressed or reflected in the speeches of leaders of the CPC and state, as well as relevant laws and regulations.

<sup>11</sup> *Decision on the reform of education system of the Central Committee of the CPC*. Retrieved May 27, 1985, from [http://www.moe.edu.cn/publicfiles/business/htmlfiles/moe/moe\\_177/200407/2482.html](http://www.moe.edu.cn/publicfiles/business/htmlfiles/moe/moe_177/200407/2482.html).

physique; and education shall serve the socialist construction and socialist construction shall rely on education<sup>12</sup>.

In December 1990, the 7th plenary meeting of the 13th CPC Central Committee adopted *The Ten-year and "85" Plan Suggestions on National Economic and Social Development by the CPC Central Committee*, which proposed

to continue to implement education policy—Education shall serve socialist modernization, be combined with production and labor, and satisfy the needs of training constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence and physique<sup>13</sup>.

In October 1992, the Fourteenth National Congress of the CPC established Deng Xiaoping's building socialism with Chinese characteristics as a guiding theory, emphasizing

All types of schools at all levels shall fully implement education policy of the CPC, and improve the overall quality of education<sup>14</sup>.

In February 1993, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued *The National Outline for Education Reform and Development*. According to China's "Three-Step Development" strategy in the construction of socialist modernization, it put forward the main principle—the construction of socialist education system with Chinese characteristics: "First, education is the foundation of the construction of socialist modernization. We shall give priority to the development of education in a strategic position. Second, the CPC shall adhere to the leadership of education work, the socialist direction of education, training constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence and physique. Third, we shall adhere to the principle that education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization and be combined with production and labor, ... Fifth, we shall fully implement education policy of the CPC and the State....". "All types of schools at all levels shall conscientiously implement the principle 'Education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization, be combined with production and labor, and satisfy the needs of training constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, and physique'"<sup>15</sup>.

In June 1994, in the National Education Working Conference Jiang Zemin pointed out:

"All types of schools at all levels shall fully implement education policy of the CPC, adhere to the socialist orientation in running schools, and strive to train the students to be builders and successors with ideals, morals, talents, and self-discipline ("Si You" Xin Ren) for socialist undertakings or causes<sup>16</sup>.

In March 1995, the third session of the Eighth National People's Congress reviewed and adopted the first *Education Law of the People's Republic of China* in the history of new China. The fifth article of the first

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<sup>12</sup> Li Peng talks about Chinese education. Retrieved from [http://61.gqt.org.cn/wzx/ddgh\\_1/qt/1984/200905/t20090509\\_237711.htm](http://61.gqt.org.cn/wzx/ddgh_1/qt/1984/200905/t20090509_237711.htm).

<sup>13</sup> *The Ten-year and "85" Plan Suggestions on National Economic and Social Development by the CPC Central Committee*. Retrieved from <http://sifaku.com/falvfagui/110/8p6pfza6cze0.html>.

<sup>14</sup> The report "To accelerate the pace of reform and opening up and construction of modernization, and to seek for a greater victory in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics" by Jiang Zemin, in the *Fourteenth National Congress* of the CPC. Retrieved October 12, 1992, from [http://news.xinhuanet.com/zhengfu/2004-04/29/content\\_1447497.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/zhengfu/2004-04/29/content_1447497.htm).

<sup>15</sup> *The national outline for education reform and development*, issued by the Central Committee of the CPC and the State Council on February 13, 1993 (China issued [1993] No. 3). Retrieved from <http://ggw.mnkjxy.com/article/59.html>.

<sup>16</sup> Jiang Zemin. *The speech in the national education working conference, June 14, 1994, source: Chinese Education News Network—Chinese education newspaper*. Retrieved February 20, 2006, from [http://www.jyb.cn/info/jyzck/200602/t20060220\\_10762.html](http://www.jyb.cn/info/jyzck/200602/t20060220_10762.html).

chapter *General Provisions* stipulated:

Education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization, be combined with production and labor, and satisfy the needs of training constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence and physique for the socialist cause<sup>17</sup>.

So far, after 17 years' repeated discussions and exploration, the CPC and the state have formally established education policy in the new period of socialist construction: The statement "Education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization" is not only the inheritance and development of the policy "Education shall serve the proletarian politics", but also the fundamental generalizations of the function and task of education in the new period; The statement "Education shall be combined with production and labor." is the basic way to achieve the training objectives of socialism; and The statement "Education shall satisfy the needs of training constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, and physique for the socialist cause" is not only the general goal of education of all types of education at all levels, but also the basic objective and requirements of socialist education in the new historical stage.

### **From Education Policy Released in Education Law in 1995 to the One Revised and Promulgated in Education Law in 2015**

After *the Education Law of the People's Republic of China* promulgated the education policy for the new period in 1995, in September 1997, the Fifteenth National Congress of the CPC held the great banner of Deng Xiaoping Theory and stressed the need

to conscientiously implement education policy of the CPC, attach great importance to improving the quality of the educated people, and train constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, and physique for the socialist cause<sup>18</sup>.

In August 1998, the fourth meeting of the ninth session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress discussed and adopted *Higher Education Law of the People's Republic of China*. The fourth article stipulated:

Higher education shall be conducted in adherence to the educational principle of the State, in the service of the socialist modernization drive and in combination with productive labour, in order that the educatees shall become builders and successors for the socialist cause, who are developed in an all-around way—morally, intellectually, and physically<sup>19</sup>.

In June 1999, *Decision on Deepening Education Reform and Promoting Quality Education by the CPC Central Committee and the State Council* put forward,

To fully implement education policy of the CPC, aim at improving the quality of the whole nationality, emphasize on training students to be creatively-spirited, and practically-abled constructors and successors with "ideals, morals, talents, and self-discipline" and all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique and art for socialist undertakings or causes. ... to be geared to the needs of modernization, of the world and of the future, ... We shall organically unite moral

<sup>17</sup> Education Law of the People's Republic of China, adopted at the third session of *the Eighth National People's Congress* on March 18, 1995, effective as of September 1, 1995. Retrieved from [http://www.law-lib.com/law/law\\_view.asp?id=11220](http://www.law-lib.com/law/law_view.asp?id=11220).

<sup>18</sup> "To hold high the great banner of Deng Xiaoping Theory, pushing the cause of building socialism with Chinese characteristics into the twenty-first Century in an all-round way", the report of Jiang Zemin at *the Fifteenth National Congress of the CPC*, September 12, 1997. Retrieved from [http://blog.sina.com.cn/s/blog\\_b04dd5c60102wn3y.html](http://blog.sina.com.cn/s/blog_b04dd5c60102wn3y.html).

<sup>19</sup> Higher Education Law of the People's Republic of China, adopted by *the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Ninth National People's Congress* on August 29, 1998, effective as of January 1, 1999. Retrieved from [http://www.law-lib.com/law/law\\_view.asp?id=412](http://www.law-lib.com/law/law_view.asp?id=412).

education, intellectual education, physical education and artistic education into all the educational activities .... Combination of education with production and labor is an important way to train talents of all-round development<sup>20</sup>.

In the same month, in the National Education Working Conference Jiang Zemin once again pointed out:

We shall fully implement education policy of the CPC, adhering to the principle—Education shall serve socialism and the people, and education shall be combined with social practice, aiming at improving the quality of the whole nationality, and emphasizing on training students to be creatively-spirited, and practically-abled constructors and successors with “ideals, morals, talents, and self-discipline” and all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, and art for socialist undertakings or causes<sup>21</sup>.

In February 2000, Jiang Zemin published *Talks on Education*. He pointed out:

In our country, all types of schools at all levels shall conscientiously implement education policy that education shall serve the socialist cause, and education shall be combined with social practice<sup>22</sup>.

In November 2002, in the Sixteenth National Congress of the CPC, Jiang Zemin put forward the important thought of “Three Represents” (San Ge Dai Biao, Shorthand for the call that the CPC provides insight and leadership for economic and cultural progress, and commit itself to public good), requiring

to fully implement education policy of the CPC, adhering to the principle—Education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization, the people, and education shall be combined with production, labor and social practice, and satisfy the needs of training constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, and art for the socialist cause<sup>23</sup>.

In May 2004, in the National Working Conference on strengthening and improving the ideological and moral construction of the minors, Hu Jintao pointed out

We shall adhere to cultivating people as the foundation, promote the all-round development of the minors, and strive to cultivate the students to be constructors and successors with ideals, morals, talents and self-discipline, and all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique and art for socialist undertakings or causes with Chinese characteristics, geared to the needs of modernization, of the world and of the future.<sup>24</sup>

In June 2006, the 26nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the Tenth National People's Congress revised and adopted *Compulsory Education Law of the People's Republic of China*. Its third article stipulated:

Compulsory education shall implement education policy of the State and quality education, improve the quality of education, and ensure that school-age children and young people develop in an all-round way in morality, intelligence and

<sup>20</sup> Decision on deepening education reform and promoting quality education by the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, June 13, 1999. Retrieved from <http://www.chinasfa.net/zcfg/zyzc/shjygg.htm>.

<sup>21</sup> Jiang Zemin delivered an important speech at the National Education Working Conference, June 15, 1999, Chinese News Agency. Retrieved from <http://dailynews.sina.com.cn>, <http://news.sina.com.cn/china/9906/061588.html>.

<sup>22</sup> Jiang Zemin's talk on education. Retrieved February 1, 2000, from <http://www.people.com.cn/GB/shizheng/8198/28774/28793/1970535.html>.

<sup>23</sup> Jiang Zemin. The report “the comprehensive construction of a well-off society and the creation of the new situation of socialism with Chinese characteristics” in the Sixteenth National Congress of the CPC on November 8, 2002. Retrieved from [http://www.china.com.cn/zyjy/2009-07/13/content\\_18122614.htm](http://www.china.com.cn/zyjy/2009-07/13/content_18122614.htm).

<sup>24</sup> Hu Jintao. The speech “to further strengthen and improve the ideological and moral construction of the minors” in the State's working conference on strengthening and improving the ideological and moral construction of the minors on May 10, 2004. Retrieved from [http://www.wenming.cn/ziliao/zhongyaolunshu/hujintao/201203/t20120315\\_562623.shtml](http://www.wenming.cn/ziliao/zhongyaolunshu/hujintao/201203/t20120315_562623.shtml).

physique to lay a foundation to train constructors and successors with ideals, morality, culture, and discipline<sup>25</sup>.

In August 2006, in the 34th collective study at the 16th session of Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Hu Jintao pointed out:

We shall adhere to education policy of the CPC, guiding education in our country with the scientific outlook on development, and the principle: Education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization, and the people with the full implementation of quality education .... We shall adhere to cultivating people as the foundation of education, giving top priority to moral education, and taking "Moral Education" as the basic task of Chinese education to train constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, and art for the socialist cause<sup>26</sup>.

In August 2007, in the *National Outstanding Teacher Representatives' Symposium*, Hu Jintao pointed out:

to fully implement education policy of the CPC, and to adhere to the principle—Education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization and the people, making joint efforts to run education to the utmost satisfaction of the people ... We shall adhere to cultivating people as the foundation of education, giving top priority to moral education, and taking 'Moral Education' as the basic task of Chinese education to train constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, and art for the socialist cause<sup>27</sup>.

In October 2007, in the 17th National Congress of the CPC, Hu Jintao expounded fully Scientific Outlook on Development, stressing the need

to fully implement education policy of the CPC, adhere to cultivating people as the foundation, and giving top priority to moral education to implement the education of quality, improve the level of education modernization, and train constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, and art for the socialist cause to the utmost satisfaction of the people<sup>28</sup>.

In July, 2010, in the first National Working Conference on Education, Hu Jintao pointed out:

We shall fully implement education policy of the CPC and adhere to the principle—Education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization and the people. And education shall be combined with production and labor, and social practice and satisfy the needs of training constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, and art for the socialist cause<sup>29</sup>.

In the same month, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council adopted *The National Outline for Medium and Long-term Education Reform and Development (2010-2020)*. The first article of the first chapter *Guiding Line and Working Principle* of the first part *Overall Strategy* clearly defined:

to fully implement the CPC's education policy, adhering to the principle—Education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization and the people. And education shall be combined with production and labor, and social practice, and satisfy the needs of training constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence,

<sup>25</sup> Compulsory Education Law of the People's Republic of China (amended in 2006), adopted at the fourth meeting of the Sixth National People's Congress on April 12, 1986, revised at the 22nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the Tenth National People's Congress. Retrieved June 29, 2006, from [http://www.edu.cn/jiao\\_yu\\_fa\\_lv\\_766/20060901/t20060901\\_194390.shtml](http://www.edu.cn/jiao_yu_fa_lv_766/20060901/t20060901_194390.shtml).

<sup>26</sup> Hu Jintao. Speech abstract of "to adhere to giving priority to and placing education in a strategic position" in a collective study in the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Retrieved August 29, 2006, from [http://www.moe.edu.cn/publicfiles/business/htmlfiles/moe/moe\\_176/201001/77498.html](http://www.moe.edu.cn/publicfiles/business/htmlfiles/moe/moe_176/201001/77498.html).

<sup>27</sup> Hu Jintao delivered a speech in the National Outstanding Teacher Representatives' Symposium. Retrieved August 31, 2007, from [http://www.wenming.cn/ziliao/zhongyaolunshu/hujintao/201206/t20120604\\_689332.shtml](http://www.wenming.cn/ziliao/zhongyaolunshu/hujintao/201206/t20120604_689332.shtml).

<sup>28</sup> Hu Jintao. The report "To hold high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics to strive to build a well-off society in China in an all-round way" in the Seventeenth National Congress of the CPC. Retrieved October 15, 2007, from <http://news.cntv.cn/china/20120917/103613.shtml>.

<sup>29</sup> Hu Jintao. *Speech at the National Education Working Conference*, July 13, 2010. Retrieved from [http://www.gov.cn/ldhd/2010-09/08/content\\_1698579.htm](http://www.gov.cn/ldhd/2010-09/08/content_1698579.htm).

physique, and art for the socialist cause to the utmost satisfaction of the people<sup>30</sup>.

In November 2012, in the 18th National Congress of the CPC, Hu Jintao put forward emphatically:

to give priority to the development of education and to fully implement education policy of the CPC, adhering to the principle—Education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization and the people, cultivating people as the foundation of education to train constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, and art for the socialist cause to the utmost satisfaction of the people<sup>31</sup>.

In September 2014, in the speech to celebrate the 13th Teachers' Day in China, Xi Jinping pointed out:

Our education shall serve the people, socialism with Chinese characteristics, reform and opening-up, and the construction of socialist modernization. The CPC and the people shall train constructors and successors for the socialist cause<sup>32</sup>.

In April 2015, the 14th meeting of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress amended and adopted *Compulsory Education Law of the People's Republic of China*. The third article stipulated:

In compulsory education, the State policy on education shall be implemented and quality-oriented education shall be carried out to improve the quality of education and enable children and adolescents to achieve all-round development in morality, intelligence and physique so as to lay a foundation to cultivate well-educated and self-disciplined builders of socialism with high ideals and moral integrity<sup>33</sup>.

In August 2015, in the 15th meeting of Deepening Reform Group of the CPC Central Committee, Xi Jinping pointed out:

to fully implement education policy of the CPC, following law of education, "Moral Education" being the fundamental basis in order to cultivate first-class talents, and make first-class achievements<sup>34</sup>.

In December 2015, the 18th session of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress adopted the revised *Education Law of the People's Republic of China*. The fifth article stipulated:

Education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization, be combined with production and labour, and social practice, and satisfy the needs of training constructors and successors with all round development of morality, intelligence,

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<sup>30</sup> The National Outline for Medium and Long-term Education Reform and Development (2010-2020), July 30, 2010, Xinhua news agency. Retrieved from <http://www.moe.edu.cn/edoas/website18/30/info1280446539090830.htm>.

<sup>31</sup> Hu Jintao. The report "to go forward unswervingly along the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics to strive to build a well-off society" in the 18th National Congress of the CPC. Retrieved November 8, 2012, from [http://news.china.com.cn/politics/2012-11/20/content\\_27165856.htm](http://news.china.com.cn/politics/2012-11/20/content_27165856.htm).

<sup>32</sup> Xi Jinping. To be a good teacher to the CPC's and the people's satisfaction—A speech to teachers and students' representatives from Beijing Normal University. Retrieved September 9, 2014, from <http://politics.people.com.cn/n/2014/0910/c70731-25629093.html>.

<sup>33</sup> Compulsory Education Law of the People's Republic of China (amended in 2015), adopted at the fourth meeting of the Sixth National People's Congress on April 12, 1986; revised at the 22nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the 10th National People's Congress on June 29, 2006; revised according to *Decision on the Revision of the Five Laws Including Compulsory Education Law of the People's Republic of China* at the 14th meeting of the Standing Committee of the 12th National Congress on April 24, 2015. Retrieved from <http://law1.law-star.com/lawfn=chl523s826.txt&titles=&contents=&dbt=chl>.

<sup>34</sup> The meeting of Deepening Reform Group of the CPC Central Committee adopted the plan to promote the construction of world-class universities, Xinhua Net, August 19, 2015. Retrieved from [http://www.edu.cn/zhong\\_guo\\_jiao\\_yu/gao\\_deng/gao\\_jiao\\_news/201508/t20150819\\_1304774.shtml](http://www.edu.cn/zhong_guo_jiao_yu/gao_deng/gao_jiao_news/201508/t20150819_1304774.shtml).

physique, and art for the socialist cause<sup>35</sup>.

On the same day, the 18th meeting of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress adopted the revised *Higher Education Law of the People's Republic of China*. The fourth article stipulated:

Higher education shall be conducted in adherence to the educational principle of the state, in the service of the socialist modernization drive and the people, and in combination with productive labour and social practice, in order that the educatees shall become builders and successors for the socialist cause, who are developed in an all-around way—morally, intellectually, physically, and artistically<sup>36</sup>.

At this point, after 20 years' exploration, the CPC and the state amended and promulgated education policy in the new era of socialist construction.

In September 2016, Xi Jinping pointed out that education determines the today of mankind, and also the future when he was observing Beijing Bayi School. Elementary education is the career of "Moral Education", playing a fundamental and leading role in the national education system. We shall set its position correctly, fully implementing education policy of the CPC, unequivocally strengthening the ideological, political, and moral education, strengthening the education of socialist core values, and guiding the students to be self-esteeming, self-confident, self-dependent, and self-reliant<sup>37</sup>.

In December 2016, at the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities, Xi Jinping made an address:

Ideological and political work in colleges and universities is concerned with the basic issue—What kind of people shall be trained in universities, how to train and for whom to train. We shall be centered on 'Moral Education'. The ideological and political work shall run the length of education and teaching, achieving the goal of educating people all the way and all-round ..., therefore the students will become the talents with both ability and integrity and all-round development<sup>38</sup>.

In October 2017, Xi Jinping made a report in the nineteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China "winning the battle to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects and winning the great victory of socialism with China's characteristics in the new era", and further put forward:

We must implement the party's education policy in an all-round way, carry out the fundamental task of Building Morality and cultivating people, develop quality education, promote education equity, and to train constructors and

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<sup>35</sup> Education Law of the People's Republic of China, adopted by the third session of the Eighth National People's Congress on March 18, 1995, revised for the first time according to *Decision on Revising Part of the Law* at the 10th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the 11th National People's Congress on August 27, 2009, revised for the second time according to *Decision on Revising Education Law of the People's Republic of China* at the eighteenth session of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress on December 27, 2015, effective as of June 1, 2016, xinhuanet.com on December 28, 2015. Retrieved from <http://zz.mnw.cn/edu/1068644.html>.

<sup>36</sup> Higher Education Law of the People's Republic of China, adopted by the fourth meeting of the Standing Committee of the Ninth National People's Congress on August 29, 1998, revised according to *Decision on Revising Higher Education Law of the People's Republic of China* at the eighteenth meeting of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress on December 27, 2015. Retrieved from [http://blog.sina.com.cn/s/blog\\_7b8ee4e90102vxfv.html](http://blog.sina.com.cn/s/blog_7b8ee4e90102vxfv.html).

<sup>37</sup> Xi Jinping. To fully implement education policy of the CPC, and strive to run China's basic education in a better and better way, Xinhua news agency, Beijing, September 9, Reporter Huo Xiaoguang & Zhang Xiaosong.

<sup>38</sup> Xi Jinping emphasized the ideological and political work throughout the whole process of education and teaching in the National University Ideological and Political Work Conference, and opened up a new prospect for the development of higher education in China, 2016-12-08. Retrieved from [http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2016-12/08/c\\_1120082577.html](http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2016-12/08/c_1120082577.html).

successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, and art for the socialist cause<sup>39</sup>.

In September 2018, Xi Jinping stressed at The National Education Conference that,

Education is a major plan for the country and a major plan for the party. Under the strong leadership of the party, we should fully implement the party's education policy, adhere to the guiding position of Marxism, adhere to the road of socialist education development with Chinese characteristics, adhere to the direction of socialist school running, and train constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, art, and labor for the socialist cause<sup>40</sup>.

In February 2019, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued Education modernization in China 2035, which clearly requires:

under the strong leadership of the party, we should fully implement the party's education policy, adhere to the principle that education serves the people, the CPC's governance, the consolidation and development of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics, the reform and opening up and socialist modernization, and train constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, art, and labor for the socialist cause<sup>41</sup>.

In March 2019, Xi Jinping held a Forum on Teachers' Ideological and Political Theory Course, and stressed that,

The most fundamental thing to do well in ideological and political theory courses is to fully implement the party's educational policy and solve the fundamental problem of what kind of people to train, how to train people, and for whom to train people. To implement the party's educational policy in the new era, we should adhere to the guiding position of Marxism, implement the thought of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, adhere to the direction of socialist school running, implement the fundamental task of Building Morality and cultivating people, and adhere to the principle that education serves the people, the party's governance, the consolidation and development of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics, reform and opening up, and socialist modernization construction. It combines with productive labor and social practice, taking root in China to run education. It speeds up the modernization of education, builds a powerful country in education, and runs education to the satisfaction of the people. It strives to cultivate new people of the times who are responsible for the national rejuvenation, and train constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, art and labor for the socialist cause<sup>42</sup>.

In November 2020, Xi Jinping chaired the Sixteenth Meeting of the Central Committee for Deepening the Reform. He stressed that,

During the "14th Five-Year" period, we should continue to deepen the comprehensive reform in the field of education, implement the party's educational policy in an all-round way, closely implement the basic task of Building Morality and cultivating people, deepen education reform, and strive to build a comprehensive education system of morality,

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<sup>39</sup> Xi Jinping, China, xinhuanet.com, winning the battle of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and winning the great victory of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era—The report at the nineteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China, October 18, 2017, Source: Xinhua. Retrieved from [http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/19cpcnc/2017-10/18/c\\_1121822489.html](http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/19cpcnc/2017-10/18/c_1121822489.html).

<sup>40</sup> Xi Jinping: adhere to the road of socialist education with Chinese characteristics and cultivate socialist builders and successors who are fully developed by virtue, intelligence, and physical culture. 09, 11 2018, Source: People's Daily Online—People's daily. Retrieved from <http://edu.people.com.cn/n1/2018/0911/c1053-30286253.html>.

<sup>41</sup> The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China. The CPC Central Committee and the State Council printed and issued "China's education modernization 2035" [EB/OL]. (February 23, 2019) Retrieved November 19, 2020, from [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2019-02/23/content\\_5367987.html](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2019-02/23/content_5367987.html).

<sup>42</sup> Xi Jinping: Cultivate people with the spirit of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, implement the party's educational policy, and implement the fundamental task of Building Morality and cultivating people. Source: People's Daily (March 19, 2019, 01 Edition) Online. Retrieved from <http://dangjian.people.com.cn/GB/n1/2019/0319/c117092-30983808.html>.

intelligence, physique, art and labor education<sup>43</sup>.

From “Education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization” (one serve) to “Education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization and the people” (two serves), from “Education shall be combined with production and labor” (one combination) to “Education shall be combined with production and labor, and social practice” (two combinations), from “to satisfy the needs of training constructors and successors with all round development of morality, intelligence and physique for the socialist cause” to “to satisfy the needs of training socialist constructors and successors with all round development of morality, intelligence, physique, and art”, education policy of the CPC is more careful in thinking, more perfect in content, consistent in structure before and after, and basically the same in form, which is now commonly summarized into three basic elements “for whom to train people, what kind of people to train and how to train people”, not only historically presenting the formation and development of education policy in the new era, but also fully reflecting the development and innovation of the socialist pedagogy with Chinese characteristics, embodying the educational will of the Chinese Communists and representing the latest achievements of the localization of Marxist educational theory.

### **Summary of and Reflection on the 100 Years' Education Policy of the CPC**

The 100 years' evolution of education policy of the CPC, from unstandard to gradually standardized, and from imperfect to gradually perfected, has both valuable experience and profound lessons. It is truly a course of development in which we are seeking to incorporate the Marx's doctrine of education into Chinese education practice, constantly exploring and following law of education, and determining the general policy of education according to the general line of the CPC in each period of history.

First of all, looking back on the theory and practice of the CPC's education policy for 100 years, whether it is the party's general policy of culture and education during the new democratic revolution or the party's education policy during the socialist construction period, it always centers on the party's central work and obeys and serves the Party's basic route. Take the founding of the PRC in 1949 as the boundary, in the journey education policy of the CPC has gone through two “zigzag” sections. In the 28 years before the founding of the PRC, it had gone through the one “zigzag” from the general policy of Communist culture and education to the general policy of new democratic culture and education. In the 72 years after the founding of the PRC, it had gone through the other “zigzag” from education policy in the early stage of socialist construction to education policy in the new period of the construction of the socialism. The two “zigzag” sections supplemented each other in one continuous line, although with many twists and turns. Without the former—the exploration of the general Communist policy of culture and education, there will be no the latter—the scientific theory and practice of the general education policy of the new democratic culture and education; Without the former—the exploration of education policy in the early period of the socialist construction, there will be no the latter—the scientific theory and practice of education policy in the new period of socialist construction; and Without the former—the exploration of the policy of culture and education in the 28 years before the founding of China, there will be no the innovation and development of education policy in the 72 years after the founding of new China. Any unilateral negation or affirmation of the former or the latter's statements and practice is contrary to

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<sup>43</sup> Ministry of Education organ service center. Comprehensively implement the spirit of the Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, promote the deep integration and efficient linkage of reform and development [EB/OL]. (2020-11-4) Retrieved November 19, 2020, from [http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx\\_xxttd/202011/t20201104\\_498248.html](http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_xxttd/202011/t20201104_498248.html).

historical facts and historical materialism, and is not objective, unscientific or inaccurate. This is the basic understanding of the 100 years' evolution of education policy of the CPC.

Secondly, looking back on the theory and practice of the CPC's education policy for 100 years, each formulation, revision, and promulgation of the CPC's education policy has experienced the organization and legislative process from the party's policy to the laws and regulations of the national government. From the educational program established after the founding of the party in July 1921 to the inclusion of cultural and educational policies in the outline of the constitution of the Soviet Republic of China by the Provisional Central Government of the Soviet Union of China in November 1931, from the general policy of cultural and educational development of new democracy put forward by Mao Zedong in January 1940 to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in September 1949 recording it into *The Common Program of the Political Consultative Conference*. In February 1957 and the Spring of 1958, Mao Zedong put forward the educational policy of "Two Musts plus one purpose". In September 1958, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council included it in the instruction on educational work, and then in March 1978, the first session of the Fifth National People's Congress included it in the constitution of the PRC; in March 1995, the third session of the Eighth National People's Congress put forward the education policy in the new period of reform and opening up, which was included in the education law of the PRC; in November 2002, the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China put forward the education policy in the new era of socialist construction; and in December 2015, the 18th session of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress put it into the revised and approved education law of the PRC. According to the Education Law of the PRC, the party's education policy is always first proposed and promulgated by the party's supreme leader or the party's highest leading organ, and then released after deliberation and discussion by the state power organ, so as to upgrade the party's education policy to the national education policy or the education policy of the party and the state, and upgrade the party's education will to the education will of the state and the whole people. This is the basic procedure of the typical Chinese education policy, and also the basic paradigm of the party's 100 years' evolution of education policy.

Thirdly, looking back on the theory and practice of the CPC's education policy for 100 years, from "Culture education shall serve revolution and class struggle" to "Education shall serve the people, the workers, peasants and soldiers first, and the revolutionary struggle and construction in the present stage", to "Education shall serve the proletarian politics", then to "Education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization", and even to "Education shall serve the construction of socialist modernization and the people"; from "Education shall be combined with labor" to "Education shall be combined with production and labor", and then to "Education shall be combined with production and labor, and social practice"; from "to make the vast Chinese population become the people who can enjoy happiness", to "to make the educatees to develop morally, intellectually and physically and become a worker with both socialist consciousness and culture", then to "to train constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, and physique for the socialist cause", further to "to train constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, and art for the socialist cause", and finally to "to train constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, art, and labor for the socialist cause". Which not only clearly presents the course of the development and evolution of the 100 years' education policy of the CPC, but also gives a perfect expression of the organic unity of education policy—the unity of nature of class and people, nature of science and times, and nature of norm and orientation. This is the basic characteristic of

the 100 years' evolution of education policy of the CPC.

Fourthly, looking back on the theory and practice of the CPC's education policy for 100 years, by analyzing the party's educational policy as a unity of ideology, concept, and system in modern China, we can clearly see that it is subject to and reflects the party's general line and its general requirements for educational work in a certain period of time, not only reflecting the guiding ideology and value orientation of education of the CPC in different periods of time, but also represents the subjective will of the CPC and the fundamental purpose in education serving the state and society to cultivate talents, which shows that education policy of the CPC is subjectively-intentioned. At the same time, as a kind of value behavior norm or instruction, the party's education policy came into being and was modified in a specific historical era. It is not only the norm and guide to guide the formulation and implementation of all kinds of education policies at all levels, but also its content setting and its scope are always changing with the changes of the times. The education policy of the CPC was generated and amended in a specific historical era, being dependent on and actively reflect the dynamic development of the productive forces at each level and its relations of production, being dependent on and actively reflect the economic foundation at each age and its superstructure, being dependent on and actively reflect the social system at each age and its education system, and finally being dependent on and actively reflect law of the development of education itself, showing the nature of the objective restriction without being changed by the subjective will. The combination of subjectivity and objectivity, and historical and developmental dialectics, are the basic law of the 100 years' evolution of education policy of the CPC.

Fifthly, looking back on the theory and practice of the CPC's education policy for 100 years, it is not difficult to find that the party's leadership is the greatest advantage to lead China's education from the new democratic education to the socialist education, especially the socialist education with Chinese characteristics, and also to run the modern education with Chinese characteristics and world level well, being the fundamental guarantee of education. Our country is a socialist country under the leadership of the party. Comprehensively strengthening the party's leadership over education is not only the inevitable choice of history, but also the inevitable requirement of the times. At the same time, our education is a socialist education with Chinese characteristics, and our school is a socialist school with Chinese characteristics. The socialist attribute is the fundamental characteristic of our education and the most essential difference between our education and western education. Therefore, we should adhere to the strategic position of giving priority to the development of education, adhere to the guiding position of Marxism, adhere to the socialist direction of running a school, implement the thought of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, speed up the modernization of education, build a powerful education country, take root in China, and do a good job in education that people are satisfied with, and strive to build an education system that comprehensively cultivates morality, intelligence, physique, art and labor, so as to form a more harmonious higher level personnel training system, so as to implement the fundamental task of moral education, promoting education for the party and education for the country. This is not only the fundamental way of China's education development, but also the basic conclusion of the 100 years' evolution of the party's education policy.

Sixthly, looking back on the theory and practice of the CPC's education policy for 100 years, profoundly understanding, interpreting, and implementing the current education policy of the CPC, scientifically standardizing, guiding, and promoting the healthy development of China's education undertakings will push forward the great cause of constructing the education of socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics. Firstly, we shall adhere to the development direction "Education shall serve the construction of socialist

modernization and the people”, combining education “to serve the society” and education “to serve the people”. We should adhere to the principle that education serves the people, the CPC’s governance of the country, the consolidation and development of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics, and the reform, opening up and socialist modernization drive, and focusing on solving the issue of “for whom to train people”. Secondly, we shall adhere to the methodology principle “Education shall be combined with production and labor, and social practice”, applying the basic educational principles of Marxism and its localization theory to integrate “Education shall be combined with production and labor” and “Education shall be combined with social practice”, continuing to explore new ways and methods, focusing on solving the issue of “how to train people”. Thirdly, we shall adhere to the educational purpose “to train constructors and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, art, and labor for the socialist cause”, integrating training constructors and successors organically, training generation after generation of people who support the leadership of the CPC and China’s socialist system, and are determined to fight for socialism with Chinese characteristics for life, and strive to shoulder the great responsibility of national rejuvenation, focusing on solving the issue of “What kind of people to train”. This is not only the theoretical summary of the party leading the people to explore the educational practice, but also the basic experience of the party’s 100 years’ evolution of educational policy.

To sum up, the 100 years of the CPC’s educational policy is an encyclopedic history of the evolution of educational policy, and also a complete history of the innovation and development of Marxist educational thought in China. Standing at the new historical commanding height of realizing the modernization of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, we should organically integrate the political sensitivity with the regularity of education, the appropriateness of the times with the authenticity of history, the feasibility of practice with the scientific nature of theory, systematically summarize and sort out the 100 years’ development path of the CPC’s educational policy, so as to provide a comprehensive understanding and guidance to carry out the current educational policy of the party and the state, to provide rich academic research support, and then to scientifically regulate, guide, and promote the healthy development of China’s education.

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