

# Analysis on the Implementation Path of Integrating Modern Local Historical Resources into Educational Work in Colleges and Universities — Taking Nanjing as an Example

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## Abstract

Historical and cultural education is the inevitable requirement of “three-round education”. Modern local historical resources are an important part of China’s historical treasure house, and it is of great significance to integrate local historical resources into the education work in colleges and universities. Based on the investigation of the present situation of historical and cultural education in some colleges and universities in Nanjing, this paper analyzes the new requirements of historical and cultural education for college teachers, and then puts forward five suggestions on how to integrate local historical resources into college education since modern times.

**Keywords:** Nanjing, local historical resources, three-way education, implementation path

## 1. Introduction

The 5,000-year history of civilization is the pride of the Chinese nation. It bears the national blood and feelings and has a unique cultural charm. Historical literacy is an important part of humanistic literacy and the cornerstone of ideals and beliefs. It is of great significance to excavate historical resources and deeply understand the profound history and culture for college students to inherit excellent quality, inspire national spirit and establish socialist core values.

The Communist Party of China (CPC) has always attached great importance to the history education of teenagers. In June 2010, *the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China’s Opinions on Strengthening and Improving the Work of Party History under the New Situation* (The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, 2010) pointed out that it is necessary to “take Party History as an important part of ideological and political courses in schools at all levels and carry out various forms of education on the party’s historical knowledge, glorious tradition, fine style and heroic exemplary deeds”.

At the National Party History Work Conference in 2021, President Xi Jinping stressed that it is necessary to do a good job in young people’s study and education, so that the red gene and revolution can be passed down from generation to generation. Today’s China was born out of modern China. China’s modern history is full of suffering, sadness and glory, and it is a natural educational resource. On the centenary of the founding of the Party in 2021, the whole party should thoroughly study the spirit of President Xi Jinping’s “July 1st” important speech, and take the study and education of Party history and national history as an important starting point for colleges and universities to implement the fundamental task of cultivating people in Lide, and educate and guide the vast number of young people to cultivate their feelings about home and country, study hard, exercise their skills and develop in an all-round way. This is not only the requirement of the times, but also the mission of colleges and universities. Local history is a part of China’s historical treasure and a valuable resource for

educating people in colleges and universities. Proper integration of local history in the process of educating people can make educational activities more vivid. It is conducive to enhancing students' interest in learning, helping college students to quickly resonate with the location of colleges and universities, and cultivating patriotism and love for the party. It is a very meaningful subject to constantly tap local historical resources, especially modern history resources, and deeply explore the role and realization path of modern history education in the process of educating people in colleges and universities. Many scholars have studied this subject, such as Zhang (2018), Huang and Xue (2018), Liu (2021), Niu (2021), Fan (2023) and so on. Based on the investigation of five universities in Nanjing Xianlin University Town, this paper discusses the important role and implementation path of local modern historical resources in the education of colleges and universities, combining with the unique historical and cultural resources in Nanjing.

## **2. Overview of Nanjing's Historical Resources Since Modern Times**

In 1842, the Qing government and Britain signed "Treaty of Nanking", which marked the beginning of China's semi-colonial and semi-feudal society, and Nanjing witnessed the beginning of China's modern history. In April 1949, the People's Liberation Army liberated Nanjing, which marked that communist party overthrew the reactionary rule of the National Government, and Nanjing witnessed the rebirth of China. The modern history of China has left many precious historical heritages in this great city.

### *2.1 The Period of the Old Democratic Revolution: From the Opium War to the May 4th Movement (1840-1919)*

During this period, Nanjing experienced and witnessed the profound disaster of the country. Here are the ruins of the treaty of Nanking, such as Jinghai Temple; There are peasant war sites such as the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom History Museum; There are also the former site of Jinling Machinery Bureau and the site of Westernization Movement such as Jiangnan Naval Academy.

### *2.2 The Period of New Democratic Revolution: From the May 4th Movement to the Founding of New China (1919-1949)*

During this period, Nanjing experienced and witnessed the difficult rebirth of the country. During this period, Nanjing experienced major historical events such as the founding of the Republic of China, the rule of the National Government, the civil war between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party, Japan's invasion of China, and the epidemic of crossing the river. The famous historical sites include the Presidential Palace, the Yuhuatai Martyrs Monument, the Memorial Hall for Victims of the Nanjing Massacre, the former site of the Eighth Route Army's Beijing office, and the Victory Memorial Hall of crossing the river.

### *2.3 Stage of Socialist Construction: Since the Founding of New China (1949-Present)*

During this period, Nanjing experienced and witnessed the difficult exploration before the country's reform and opening up and the striding forward after the reform and opening up. The important historical resources in the early stage of socialist construction mainly include: Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge, Purple Mountain Observatory, East China Electron Tube Factory, Nanjing Automobile Factory, Nanjing Jinling Shipyard, Wutaishan Gymnasium, etc. The important historical resources since the reform and opening up mainly include Jinling Hotel, Nanjing Yangtze River Fourth Bridge, Nanjing Lukou International Airport, Nanjing South Railway Station and Nanjing Olympic Sports Center.

## **3. The Local Historical and Cultural Resources into the "Three-Round Education" Status Survey**

In this paper, the integration of local historical and cultural resources into the "three-round education" in colleges and universities was investigated (the investigation time was June 2023), and five colleges and universities in Xianlin University Town were taken as the research samples. The investigation was carried out by means of questionnaire, random interview and field visit. This paper mainly investigates the degree and ways of college students' understanding of Nanjing local history. A total of 600 questionnaires were distributed in this survey, and 595 questionnaires were recovered. After screening and analysis, 592 valid questionnaires were obtained, with an effective recovery rate of 99.50%. The investigation found that the function of local history and culture in the process of "three-round education" has not been fully exerted, and there are mainly the following problems.

### *3.1 College Students Do Not Have a Deep Understanding of Local Modern History*

According to the survey of 592 college students, it is found that the average number of local modern history relics that college students know is 5.52, and they are mainly famous scenic spots such as Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, Presidential Palace and Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge. Although this can't fully explain the degree of college students' understanding of modern history, it also shows that college students' understanding of local modern history is not deep enough from one side. More students (45.45%) mainly pay attention to local entertainment and leisure places, and lack understanding of the historical allusions and cultural features of the city. This not only reflects the influence of the pan-entertainment tendency of contemporary society on the

university campus, but also shows that the cultural guidance of colleges and universities in the process of talent training needs to be strengthened.

### *3.2 The Initiative of Colleges and Universities to Use Local History to Educate People Is Insufficient*

The main ways for college students to learn about local historical sites through classroom and campus publicity are self-visit, Internet, newspapers and magazines, radio and television, classroom and campus activities, accounting for 37.60%, 18.34%, 14.38%, 13.13%, 9.78% and 6.70% respectively. Obviously, the most important way for college students to know about Nanjing's modern local historical sites is to visit them by themselves and focus on famous tourist attractions; The proportion of local historical and cultural education exposed through classroom and campus activities is obviously low, which reflects that the initiative of colleges and universities to use local history to educate people needs to be strengthened.

### *3.3 The Effect of Classroom Ideological and Political Education Needs to be Improved*

The vast majority of students (89.40%) can recognize the importance of ideological and political course, but at the same time they also admit that they have burnout psychology in ideological and political class and often play mobile phones. The main reasons are that the combination of theory and practice is weak, the ability to explain life is not enough, there are too many theoretical sermons and fewer actual cases. There are not only the reasons why the teachers are not familiar with local history, but also the reasons why colleges and universities don't pay enough attention to educating people in history. The students surveyed generally hope to add local history content to classroom and campus activities. I hope that when teachers explain modern history, they can combine it with local historical events and learn more about Nanjing, an ancient and young city.

## **4. The Implementation Path of Integrating Local Historical and Cultural Resources into "Three-Round Education"**

In 2017, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council issued "Opinions on Strengthening and Improving Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities under the New Situation" (The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the State Council, 2017), which requires colleges and universities to take moral education, cultural knowledge education and social practice education as their fundamental task, and form a long-term mechanism for multi-faceted education. Standing on the starting point and foothold of "three-round education", historical and cultural education has put forward higher requirements for universities and teachers, and the exploration of the realization path is endless.

### *4.1 The New Requirements of Historical and Cultural Education Under the Background of "Three-Round Education"*

It is a systematic project to carry out the "three-round education". The key lies in integrating all the work of the school, tapping all the resources inside and outside the school, and creating an all-round and three-dimensional education environment. The role of history and culture in educating people can not be ignored, and it also puts forward new requirements for teachers' quality. The new requirements of historical and cultural education under the background of "three-round education".

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**(1) Historical and cultural education requirements for teachers.** Teachers of the "Two Courses" should have a historical height and profound vision, analyze the tortuous road that modern China has taken, and inspire students to support the Communist Party of China (CPC)'s leadership and socialist system from the bottom of their hearts. To understand history is to understand our own roots. The more we understand history, the more patriotic we are. On the basis of being familiar with historical anecdotes, it is possible for teachers of the "two courses" to interweave theory with practice, flow freely and come easily.

In addition to daily teaching, teachers should also do scientific research and improve humanistic quality including historical quality. Only in this way can the class be better. It is found that some teachers rely too much on PPT courseware and have insufficient communication with students. Teachers should constantly improve their teaching level through communication with students. Some teachers talk too much about the results, too little about the process and too little about the historical background. This situation needs to be reversed. All courses can't impart knowledge without the background, but must be related to the historical and cultural background of the lectures.

**(2) The requirements of historical and cultural education for the students and workers.** In the moral education of college students, the team of students and workers plays a vital role. To do a good job in historical and cultural education, there are the following requirements. First of all, to do a good job in the construction of

the student work team, it is necessary to clarify the working mechanism of the student work team, promote the professional construction of this team with the mechanism, let the student work team identify with the concept of educating people with history and culture, establish the consciousness of educating people with history and culture, and deeply understand the party's cultural education policy, which is a long-term mechanism for doing a good job in educating people with morality in colleges and universities. Secondly, it is necessary to provide a broader display platform and learning opportunities for the students and workers, constantly improve their own cultural cultivation, and be familiar with local history and off-campus educational resources. Third, attach importance to the specialized business training of the student workers' team, improve their organizational planning ability, reasonably arrange students to visit historical sites, guide students to investigate and study historical issues, and forge a student workers' team that students can trust, things can be done, and schools can rest assured.

#### *4.2 The Promotion Path of Local Historical and Cultural Education Under the Background of "Three-Round Education"*

In the new era, how to further integrate local history and culture into the process of educating people, enhance the attraction and leading power of the classroom, and strengthen the function of historical education has become a new topic of cultural education in colleges and universities.

**(1) Give play to the role of the main channel and integrate local history into teaching.** Classroom teaching is an important channel for historical culture to play its educational function. In classroom teaching, teachers can introduce local modern historical figures and their important deeds in time to enhance the appeal and persuasiveness of the classroom.

For example, when teaching Westernization Movement, you can introduce Jiangnan Naval Academy in Nanjing. It originated from the military school set up by the government in the Westernization Movement in the late Qing Dynasty. Lin Jianzhang, the navy chief of the Republic of China, Du Shigui, the navy chief and acting prime minister, and Zhao Sheng, the leader of Huanghuagang Uprising, were all well-known alumni of Jiangnan Naval Academy. Let students know that the Westernization Movement was an improved movement of the Qing government to save the country and survive, which objectively promoted the development of capitalism in China, but did not make China embark on the road of prosperity. In semi-colonial and semi-feudal China, where Chinese and foreign ruling forces are very strong, the reform movement can't work, and only the democratic revolution led by the Communist Party of China (CPC) can revitalize ancient China.

For example, when teaching the great achievements of socialist construction, we can take Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge as an example. It was opened to traffic in 1968. It is the first double-deck railway and highway bridge on the Yangtze River designed and built by China. It enjoys a high reputation in the history of bridges in the world. It is the embodiment of economic construction achievements and has great political, strategic and economic significance. It carries the special feelings and memories of several generations in China.

It can be more flexible in teaching methods and assessment methods. For example, students can be organized to visit representative Nanjing modern historical sites in combination with the teaching content, write research reports, and report and give speeches in class. You can also organize students to visit historical sites, and then compile dramas and micro-movies to perform and play on appropriate occasions, so as to vividly reproduce history and deeply understand the hard-won victory of the China revolution.

**(2) Take the opportunity of social practice to visit historical and cultural sites.** The survey found that social practice in winter and summer vacations is one of the largest practical activities in colleges and universities at present. This paper holds that we should take this opportunity to organize students to visit local historical sites, pursue the footprints and exciting deeds of martyrs' predecessors, and inspire college students' patriotic enthusiasm. For example, organize a visit to Yuhuatai Martyrs Memorial Hall, learn about the great sacrifices made by Yuhua heroes on the road of rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, be edified by communist party people's lofty spirit, and inspire college students to study for the rise of China. In addition, the College Students' Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition is a national influential competition. Colleges and universities can set up special funds to cultivate innovative and entrepreneurial projects related to historical themes, guide students to form their experiences and research reports through their understanding of the life stories of historical figures and the feelings generated by field visits, or shoot micro-movies according to the stories of historical figures. Teachers should carefully guide, refine and sublimate the practical achievements submitted by students.

**(3) Strengthen the construction of campus culture and create a historical and cultural atmosphere.** University campus is the main place for college students to study and live. It is necessary to promote the close combination of campus cultural construction and off-campus historical and cultural resources and create a cultural atmosphere of all-round education. According to the needs, the school excavates rich historical and cultural resources such as historical figures and events, and organizes relevant commemorative activities. First,

organize some students to visit memorial halls and look for monuments. For example, on Zhou Enlai's birthday, organize students to visit Nanjing Meiyuan New Village Memorial Hall. Zhou Enlai, Dong Biwu and other members of the CPC delegation have lived here for nearly 10 months to negotiate with the Kuomintang. Then an essay contest, deeds speech, drama editing and so on will be held. You can also get in touch with the community and associations in the school and cooperate in commemorative activities. These campus cultural constructions are interactive, which can stimulate college students' enthusiasm for participation, inspire them to Do not forget your initiative mind, remember their mission, contribute to society and achieve themselves in the great journey of realizing the Chinese dream.

**(4) With the help of excellent literary works, interspersed with historical and cultural knowledge.**

Traditional ideological education is mainly concentrated in the classroom, which is limited in time and space, and the actual effect is also limited simultaneously. At present, ideological education must constantly innovate means to achieve fundamental improvement. Literary works are colorful and have powerful educational functions, including literary reading, film and television works, music, drama, calligraphy, poetry, dance, paper-cutting, photography, painting and so on. In the process of educating people, we can combine these cultural works with local historical resources. For example, we can create a drama "Little Hero Crossing the River", which reflects the great moment when millions of heroes crossed the river from the description of little people. Carry out the micro-film competition "Hundred Years of Westernization" with the theme of Westernization Movement, and edit past clips to reflect the magnificent history; Encourage organizations to send paper-cutting, painting, calligraphy and other works that reflect the theme of local history at the campus cultural festival; Instruct students to take notes in summer, and read excellent works reflecting Nanjing local characteristics, such as Nanjing Red Imprint (1921-1949) (Propaganda Department of CPC Nanjing Municipal Committee, 2018); Organize calligraphy competitions near important anniversaries and so on. "Sneaking into the night with the wind, moistening things silently", excellent literary works have important educational effects, and literary works with local historical themes are important educational carriers.

**(5) Innovating information dissemination methods and creating special publicity columns.** New media, such as websites and WeChat official account, have already become important positions for ideological propaganda and cultural education in colleges and universities. However, the publicity of local history in these new media is generally less, and the phenomenon of fragmentation is obvious. Colleges and universities will only push the content of historical themes on major anniversaries such as the National Day of the National Holiday for the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre. Colleges and universities can deeply explore the humanistic spirit, artistic aesthetics and values contained in local historical resources, and set up local historical and cultural columns through WeChat official account in a form that college students love. You can hire people inside and outside the school who have in-depth research on local history as column consultants, specializing in promoting local history, school history and local culture, creating a column brand full of history, rich ink fragrance and life breath, talking about the past of old Nanjing and talking about the story of new Nanjing. Organize research and competition activities, such as knowledge contest and research report contest, around the cooperation of local history columns, school propaganda agencies, party and youth league departments and mass organizations, so as to create a campus culture with local characteristics. These activities will certainly help contemporary college students to mold excellent moral character, cultivate patriotic sentiments and improve humanistic quality, and will certainly help to realize the educational function of local history in a subtle way.

## **5. Conclusion**

Local historical and cultural heritage is a valuable resource for educating people in colleges and universities. Making good use of these resources is conducive to the cultivation of talents on the one hand and the inheritance of history and culture on the other. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China's talent cultivation concept of "three-round education" also highlights the importance of historical and cultural education, and also puts forward new historical requirements for college educators. In this paper, according to the current situation of historical and cultural education in colleges and universities, five colleges and universities in Nanjing Xianlin University City were investigated, and the results showed the shortcomings of the current historical and cultural education work. Then this paper analyzes the requirements of historical and cultural education for college educators. Finally, this paper discusses the promotion path of historical and cultural education from many aspects and gives specific methods and suggestions. These research results have important reference value for promoting cultural education.

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