

Youth-Oriented Interpretation of the Holistic Approach to National Security: A Multidimensional Evaluation Study

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Abstract

National security is an essential prerequisite for the stable development of a country. Whether young people can accurately understand and firmly practice the holistic approach to national security is related not only to their own growth and development, but also to the future direction of the country. Based on the subject, content, methods, channels and effects of youth-oriented interpretation, this paper constructs an evaluation framework for the youth-oriented interpretation of the holistic approach to national security. It then uses this framework to examine the current status of related interpretation and communication work. The study argues that such work should be promoted through professional interpreting subjects, targeted content, diversified methods, integrated channels and practice-oriented effects, so as to enhance young people's rational understanding, emotional identification and practical commitment to safeguarding national security.

Keywords

Holistic approach to national security, youth-oriented interpretation, evaluation framework, national security education, ideological and political education.

1. Introduction

Young people are the future of a country and the hope of a nation. To cultivate the new era's great young generation, a generation with ideals, a sense of responsibility, grit and dedication, the primary task is to arm young people with the Party's scientific theories. At present, the internal and external factors affecting national security have undergone profound changes. Conflicts and contradictions are intertwined, and risks and challenges are increasing [1]. The holistic approach to national security is a major theoretical innovation of the Communist Party of China Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core in the field of national security theory. Official English discourse has rendered this idea as the holistic approach to national security and has emphasized its significance for national security work in the new era. Young people are a vital force for realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and an important supporting force for safeguarding national security. Only by continuously improving the youth-oriented interpretation of this approach can society cultivate socialist builders and successors with firm political convictions and inject sustained youthful vitality into national rejuvenation.

A review of existing research shows that studies on the holistic approach to national security have become increasingly diversified and localized. Scholars have gradually clarified its connotations, features and practical implications. However, research specifically addressing the youth-oriented interpretation of the holistic approach to national security remains relatively limited. As government agencies, educational institutions and social organizations pay increasing attention to the publicity, interpretation and communication of national security education, it is necessary to construct an evaluation framework for youth-oriented

interpretation. Such a framework can help assess whether interpretation work is professional, targeted, diversified, well-channelled and effective in practice. Organization of the Text

2. Conceptual Definition of Youth-Oriented Interpretation of the Holistic Approach to National Security

In April 2014, at the first plenary meeting of the Central National Security Commission, General Secretary Xi Jinping first put forward the major strategic thinking of the holistic approach to national security and stressed the need to adhere to it. This approach embodies the CPC Central Committee's overall understanding and profound thinking on national security issues [2]. It provides important theoretical guidance for China's national security work in the new era and offers a Chinese perspective for addressing international security issues and promoting world peace. Its external-facing expression is also consistent with the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security advocated in China's official diplomatic discourse.

Youth-oriented interpretation refers to explaining a theory in language familiar to young people and through forms that are attractive to them, so that they can develop theoretical identification, firm conviction and conscious practice. In this paper, the youth-oriented interpretation of the holistic approach to national security means explaining clearly, thoroughly and vividly the main content, historical background, developmental logic and practical significance of this approach on the basis of an accurate understanding of the laws of youth development. It aims to guide young people to understand the current situation and tasks in the field of national security, strengthen their confidence and determination to safeguard national security, and help them grow into qualified builders of and reliable successors to the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

3. An Evaluation Framework for Youth-Oriented Interpretation

This paper constructs an evaluation framework around five core questions: who interprets the theory, what is interpreted, how it is interpreted, through which channels it is interpreted, and how effective the interpretation is. Accordingly, the framework covers five dimensions: the subjects, content, methods, channels and effects of youth-oriented interpretation of the holistic approach to national security.

3.1. Interpreting Subjects: Professionalism

Youth-oriented interpretation of the holistic approach to national security requires a professional team with rich knowledge reserves, strong theoretical communication skills and a high degree of initiative. Each member of the interpreting team must accurately understand the basic connotations and major significance of the holistic approach to national security, so as to convey information comprehensively and accurately in the process of interpretation. Interpreters should be skilled in applying scientific methods, using language that young people can understand and are willing to listen to, and carrying out systematic, in-depth and comprehensive interpretation work.

At the same time, interpreting subjects should give full play to their initiative by reaching young people directly. They should be able to make flexible use of cases closely related to young people's lives and develop interpretation work in ways that match youth characteristics. They should also remain sensitive to frontier information in the various fields covered by national security, and introduce hot events related to national security into the educational process in a timely manner.

3.2. Interpreting Content: Targeted Relevance

When carrying out youth-oriented interpretation, it is essential to identify the security fields most closely related to young people. For example, for young students who are in the period of forming their worldviews, outlooks on life and values, cyberspace security education should be strengthened. This group often has a strong need for interpersonal communication, but may be reluctant to share inner feelings with family members or nearby friends and may instead prefer online interaction [3]. However, students immersed in online information may have weak information-identification ability and limited personal security awareness, making them vulnerable to online fraud or even traps carefully designed by online espionage actors.

Therefore, when interpreting the holistic approach to national security for these young people, attention should be paid to strengthening cyberspace security education and rule-of-law education. Efforts should be made to improve their ability to identify information and enhance their political discernment. In this way, the content of interpretation can better match the real risks and growth needs faced by young people.

3.3. Interpreting Methods: Diversity

In the process of youth-oriented interpretation, a single and rigid method can hardly achieve broad coverage or strong effectiveness. Interpreting teams should employ diversified methods that conform to the characteristics of different youth groups and enjoy a high level of acceptance among them. Methods such as exemplary demonstration and positive-and-negative motivation can meet young people's cognitive needs by helping them understand heroic deeds in safeguarding national interests, maintain respect for heroic figures who safeguard national security, and encourage each young person to consciously shoulder the responsibility of safeguarding national security in the new era.

For young people in schools, interpretation should not remain at the level of theoretical explanation alone. Heuristic and guiding methods should be adopted to stimulate inquiry, discussion and reflection. Through questions, cases, scenarios and problem-oriented learning, young people can move from passive reception to active understanding, thereby deepening their identification with the theory.

3.4. Interpreting Channels: Richness

Rich and diversified channels can open new paths for the youth-oriented interpretation of the holistic approach to national security. On the one hand, different youth groups are exposed to different channels of interpretation. Young students are more likely to understand and learn the holistic approach to national security through school courses and theoretical teaching, while young people in society often obtain related knowledge through traditional media and online new media. Therefore, the selection of channels should not be single or fixed; rather, effective channels should be selected according to youth characteristics and practical conditions.

For example, for young people working in Party and government organs, relevant content may be integrated into routine meetings or work assessments. On the other hand, for young people who are digital natives, online new media are more attractive than theoretical lectures or legal publicity alone. It is therefore necessary to make good use of platforms frequently used by young people, including WeChat short-video functions, Weibo and Douyin, to carry out youth-oriented interpretation of the holistic approach to national security.

3.5. Interpreting Effects: Practical Effectiveness

Whether the holistic approach to national security can lead to rational understanding, emotional identification and practical action among young people is the key criterion for assessing the effectiveness of youth-oriented interpretation. On the one hand, young people

should understand the systematic knowledge of the holistic approach to national security and be able to use relevant theories to objectively analyze the current domestic and international security situation. They should recognize the increasingly complex security environment at home and abroad [4] and remain highly vigilant against hostile forces inside and outside the country.

On the other hand, the effectiveness of youth-oriented interpretation should also be reflected in young people's practical actions. Externalized action should become a solid line of defense for safeguarding national security. Young people should have the courage to struggle against various acts that endanger national security in real life, strengthen their ideals and convictions, and devote themselves to making achievements in the historical process of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

4. Practical Reflections on Youth-Oriented Interpretation

4.1. Improving the Professionalism of Interpreting Subjects

Interpreting teams are the main subjects and the leading force in youth-oriented interpretation. Building sound and professional teams is a necessary condition for ensuring that interpretation work is solid and effective. At present, teams responsible for youth-oriented interpretation of the holistic approach to national security are often insufficient in number and limited in professional capacity. In schools, enterprises, Party and government organs and other settings, interpretation is usually undertaken concurrently by teachers of ideological and political theory courses, security departments, armed forces departments and related personnel. A high-quality professional team has not yet been fully formed.

Moreover, some personnel responsible for interpreting national security content have not mastered the relevant theories in a systematic way, and their language may be rigid or insufficiently youth-oriented. This makes it difficult for them to assume the important task of youth-oriented interpretation. In addition, schools, families, enterprises and other actors play roles at different stages of youth development, but they have not yet formed an integrated force. Insufficient coordination among these subjects leads to fragmented educational resources and weakens the effectiveness of youth-oriented interpretation.

4.2. Enriching the Content of Interpretation

The importance of interpreting content is self-evident, yet current content selection sometimes fails to conform to young people's physical and psychological characteristics and does not sufficiently consider differences among young people in different occupations. First, young people at different stages vary in psychological characteristics and learning abilities. Current interpretation work has not always provided targeted explanations according to individual differences, which is not conducive to young people's mastery of the holistic approach to national security or to their movement from theoretical cognition to practical action.

Second, young people distributed across different sectors of society do not have identical concerns about national affairs. Current interpretation work is often not organized according to occupational characteristics, nor does it place higher requirements on sectors closely related to national security. Third, cultural resources across China are diverse in form and distinctive in character [5]. However, during the youth-oriented interpretation of the holistic approach to national security, integration between interpretation content and these resources remains inadequate. This is not conducive to fully stimulating local young people's patriotic enthusiasm and sense of responsibility for safeguarding national security.

4.3. Innovating Interpretation Methods

Regardless of the method adopted, innovation must be emphasized in youth-oriented interpretation. First, the scientific nature and appropriate vividness of language can enhance the attractiveness of interpretation. The holistic approach to national security itself has a rigorous internal logic. Interpretation should respect its scientific connotations, be evidence-based and reasonable, and avoid empty slogans. At the same time, vivid and accessible language can be used to interpret the theory, enabling young people to appreciate its intellectual appeal and retain a lasting impression of its deeper meaning.

Second, there is a serious case deficit in current youth-oriented interpretation. This deficit is reflected both in the insufficient exploration of cases and in the inability of some cases to adapt to current realities. Existing cases are mainly concentrated in areas such as economic security and cyberspace security, while cases in areas such as polar security and outer space security are relatively limited. Moreover, some cases are dated and cannot easily arouse emotional resonance among young people. Third, emerging technologies have not been widely used in interpretation. Innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence and augmented reality should be introduced more actively to improve young people's immersive experience and participatory learning.

4.4. Strengthening the Integration of Interpretation Channels

From the perspective of current channels, problems remain, including an overemphasis on theoretical teaching and insufficient practical experience, a stronger reliance on traditional media than on emerging technologies, and a focus on existing channels rather than channel integration. First, youth-oriented interpretation of the holistic approach to national security still relies mainly on theoretical lectures. This is particularly evident among school-aged young people. Because field visits may be difficult and costly, learning about national security often remains confined to textbooks, which is not conducive to understanding the major significance of the holistic approach to national security.

Second, mainstream media have attracted some young people to learn about this approach, but they do not cover youth groups comprehensively or deeply enough. Therefore, it is necessary to promote high-quality, professional and authoritative content on new media platforms. Finally, integrated channels can allow different channels to complement one another and form a joint force. Classroom teaching, practical education, mainstream media, social media and community-based activities should be coordinated to create a multi-level communication system.

4.5. Strengthening Practical Effectiveness

The effectiveness of interpretation work is reflected in whether young people internalize the holistic approach to national security in their minds and externalize it in their actions. In reality, some young people lack initiative and self-consciousness in learning this approach. Some are indifferent to hot events in fields related to national security and believe that national security is only loosely connected with their personal development. Current interpretation work should therefore focus on fostering a favorable atmosphere in which everyone pays attention to national affairs.

At the same time, young people may recognize the importance of national security to a certain extent, but their understanding often remains superficial. For instance, their grasp of relevant national security theories may be vague, making it difficult for them to safeguard national security in a reasoned and evidence-based manner. Schools should therefore strengthen education on national security concepts. Finally, young people's ability to safeguard national security through practical action remains relatively weak. Most young people understand that national security is also their responsibility, but when facing incidents that endanger national

security, they may not know how to act. It is therefore essential to cultivate their capacity for action.

5. Conclusion

The youth-oriented interpretation of the holistic approach to national security is not a simple process of translating theoretical discourse into popular language. It is a systematic educational and communicative practice that connects theory, cognition, emotion and action. Based on the five dimensions of interpreting subjects, content, methods, channels and effects, this paper proposes a multidimensional evaluation framework for assessing and improving such interpretation work. The framework shows that effective youth-oriented interpretation requires professional teams, content closely related to young people's growth and social roles, diverse and innovative methods, integrated communication channels and clear practical outcomes.

In future practice, relevant institutions should strengthen coordination among schools, families, enterprises, communities and media organizations, and should make full use of official discourse resources, local cultural resources and digital technologies. By improving the quality of interpretation and strengthening young people's ability to understand, identify with and practice the holistic approach to national security, national security education can better contribute to the cultivation of qualified builders of and reliable successors to the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

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