

Exploring Pathways for Integrating Socialist Core Values into Social Practice in the New Era

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ABSTRACT

In the developmental tide of the new era, the Core Socialist Values (hereafter "the Values") serve as a guiding beacon illuminating the nation's forward trajectory and charting the course for societal progress. As the concentrated embodiment of contemporary Chinese ethos, they profoundly coalesce the shared value pursuits of all citizens, constituting a crucial cornerstone for modernizing China's governance system and capabilities. It is emphasized that "core values represent the spiritual bond sustaining a nation and the common ideological-moral foundation of a country." Against the backdrop of deepening globalization and clashing social ideologies, the imperative to effectively integrate these Values into social life and achieve their "worldly manifestation" has become an urgent issue demanding thorough investigation and resolution. This endeavor not only correlates with enhancing national cultural soft power and strengthening ethnic cohesion but also bears directly on the successful advancement of socialist modernization and the realization of the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation. A profound analysis of the Values' contemporary connotations, clarification of their necessity for societal integration, and active exploration of practical implementation pathways hold immense significance for propelling the vigorous development of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

KEYWORDS

Core Socialist Values; Legislation; Judicature; Law Enforcement.

1. THE EPOCHAL MEANING OF VALUES

Values encompass three levels: national, societal, and individual, with rich content and profound significance. In the 21st century, China's societal transformation has accelerated at an unprecedented pace, with ideologies becoming more diverse, value connotations growing deeper, and value choices more varied. Faced with new situations, challenges, and tasks, the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China proposed advocating prosperity, democracy, civility, harmony, freedom, equality, justice, rule of law, patriotism, dedication, integrity, and friendliness, and actively cultivating and practicing socialist core values.[1] This reflects the "greatest common divisor" of values jointly recognized by people of all ethnic groups across the country.[2]

The prosperity, democracy, civility, and harmony advocated at the national level outline a grand blueprint for China's socialist modernization. Prosperity, as the material foundation for the nation's prosperity and strength, has been persistently pursued by China from ancient glorious times to today's rapid economic take-off, fully demonstrating an unwavering pursuit of prosperity. Prosperity is not merely economic affluence, but also reflects strength in fields like science, technology, and military, and is a concentrated embodiment of comprehensive national power. Democracy guarantees people's right to be masters of their own country, and with the continuous optimization of China's democratic system, people's participation in political life has continuously increased. The essence of democracy

lies in people being able to truly participate in the management of state affairs and fully express their own wishes. Civility is a sign of comprehensive social progress, covering aspects such as material civilization, spiritual civilization, and political civilization. Harmony is committed to building harmonious symbiotic relationships between people and people, people and nature, and people and society. From the practice of building harmonious communities to the concept of developing ecological civilization, the value pursuit of harmony is vividly interpreted.

The freedom, equality, justice, and rule of law emphasized at the societal level are important value criteria for modern society. Freedom is not unconstrained indulgence, but rather the space for development enjoyed by citizens within the framework of laws and morality, the autonomous choice under the constraints of rules. Equality pursues the equal status of citizens before the law, as well as fairness and justice in the distribution of social resources and access to opportunities. Rawls mentioned in *A Theory of Justice*: "All social values—liberty and opportunity, income and wealth, and the social bases of self-respect—are to be distributed equally unless an unequal distribution of any, or all, of these goods is to everyone's advantage".[3] Justice, as the cornerstone of the social system, ensures that fairness and justice are realized at all levels of society. From the concrete practice of judicial justice to the fairness of social welfare distribution, the value of justice is demonstrated. The rule of law, as the basic approach to governing the country and administering state affairs, relies on sound laws and regulations to standardize social behavior and provides a solid guarantee for social stability and development.

The patriotism, dedication, integrity, and friendliness advocated at the individual level are the basic moral qualities that citizens should possess. Patriotism manifests as citizens' deep feelings and strong sense of responsibility towards the motherland. Throughout history, countless people of noble character have spared no effort and even sacrificed their lives for the interests and dignity of the country. Patriotism is a lofty moral sentiment that motivates people to strive for the prosperity and strength of the country. Dedication requires people to be highly responsible for and fully committed to their work, and dedicated workers in all sectors contribute vital strength to social development. The spirit of dedication is not only the core driving force for personal career development, but also a key factor in promoting social progress. Integrity is the basic norm for interpersonal interactions and socio-economic activities, and upholding the principles of operating with integrity and keeping promises is an important guarantee for maintaining social harmony. Friendliness advocates mutual care and assistance among people. From daily help between neighbors to the extensive development of social welfare activities, the spirit of friendliness is demonstrated everywhere.

Socialist core values are the fundamental and dominant values in the socialist value system, while values are the conceptual reflection and theoretical expression of these fundamental and dominant values.[4] They align with the development needs of the new era and provide important value guidance for solving various problems in social development. Values are a powerful weapon to deal with many challenges in the transitional period of society, and can build consensus among all sectors of society and promote social harmony and stability. In the current period of rapid economic development, some individuals may become solely profit-driven and ignore social responsibility. However, values like integrity and dedication can guide people to establish correct values and promote the healthy and orderly development of the economy. In terms of social relations, when conflicts and contradictions arise, values such as justice and friendliness can help promote mutual understanding and inclusiveness among people, thereby building harmonious social relations.

2. THE NECESSITY OF VALUES TAKING ROOT IN SOCIETY

When values are integrated into social life, they can provide strong spiritual motivation for social development. In today's society, people face many challenges such as job competition and life pressure, and can easily fall into spiritual confusion and value perplexity. Values can inspire people's fighting spirit, encouraging them to actively contribute to social development while pursuing their

personal dreams. Professor Cui Jiaxin pointed out that values can stimulate people's inner potential and promote continuous social progress in the process of realizing personal values.[5] When people uphold the values of patriotism and dedication, they will engage more proactively in work and go all out for the development of the country.

Values taking root is the key to enhancing national cohesion. In the context of globalization, as various cultures interact and collide, people's ideas are becoming increasingly diverse. Values can coalesce the consensus of all the people, uniting everyone under a common value pursuit to form strong national cohesion. Core values are an important source of national cohesion and can closely connect all the people. When facing difficulties such as natural disasters and international competition, all the people can work together under the guidance of values to jointly meet challenges.

Values taking root is of great significance for promoting social harmony and stability. In the period of social transformation, various interest relationships are complex and can easily lead to social contradictions. Values such as justice and rule of law can regulate people's behavior, mediate social relations, effectively resolve social contradictions, and maintain social harmony and stability. Promoting values can alleviate social contradictions and advance the harmonious development of society. By establishing a fair system and relying on the rule of law as a guarantee, people can truly feel fairness and justice, reducing the occurrence of social contradictions.

3. THE INTEGRATION OF VALUES INTO THE RULE OF LAW

If there is no guidance from values, the operation of the law will lose direction, or lose the legitimacy of judgment. The construction of the rule of law can never be disassociated from values, and the construction of the rule of law in China also needs to be carried out in tandem with the practice of values.[6] In December 2016, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China issued the "Guiding Opinions on Further Integrating Values into the Construction of Rule of Law", clearly proposing to integrate values into the construction of the rule of law.[7] This article believes that the integration of values can be carried out from the three aspects of legislation, law enforcement, and justice.

(1) Integration into Legislation

Since ancient times, "integrating emotions and reason into law" and "integrating morality into law" have always been the basic rules of legislation in China. Promoting the integration of values into laws and regulations, reflecting the requirements of values in the Constitution, laws, administrative regulations, departmental rules and public policies, transforming them into legal provisions with rigid binding force, not only conforms to the scientific requirements of legislation, but also concentrates the will of the people.[8]

In the legislative process, values should be used as an important value orientation throughout. From the formulation, revision to improvement of laws, all links should fully reflect the requirements of values. Legislation is not only the standardization of real social relations, but also the guidance of social value orientation. When formulating relevant laws and regulations, it is necessary to conduct in-depth research on the actual social situation, extensively solicit opinions and suggestions from all sectors of society, to ensure that laws and regulations can not only reflect people's interest demands, but also fully embody the connotations of values. For example, when formulating environmental protection laws and regulations, the concept of harmony should be integrated to promote the harmonious coexistence of humans and nature; when formulating labor laws and regulations, the values of equality and justice should be highlighted to effectively safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of workers.

Values provide a solid moral foundation for lawmaking. Law is the bottom line of morality, and values contain rich moral connotations. There is a close value connection between morality and law, so it is very important to correctly handle the relationship between governing the country according

to law and governing the country by virtue. Only by adhering to the combination of governing the country according to law and governing the country by virtue, and adhering to using governance by virtue to guide the healthy development of governance by law, can we better exert the joint governance effect of governing the country according to law and governing the country by virtue in state governance and social governance, and improve the modernization capacity and level of state and social governance.[9]

At present, many of China's laws and regulations can fully demonstrate the concepts of values. The provisions of the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China on principles like honesty, credibility, public order and good customs fully embody values such as integrity and harmony. In the process of contract signing and performance, parties are required to abide by the principle of honesty and credibility, which plays a positive role in maintaining the order of the market economy and promoting harmonious social development.

(2) Integration into the Judiciary

There is a legal maxim: Justice speaks from the bench. On the foundation of the new round of judicial reform "adhering to judicial laws", [10] the judicial application of values can only be advanced with the thinking and methods of the rule of law, in order to achieve judicial justice in a tangible way. [11]

In judicial practice, judicial personnel should deeply grasp the connotations of values and integrate them into the judicial adjudication process. By way of fair judicial judgments, promote values and lead good social trends. Judicial adjudication is not only the application of legal provisions, but also the manifestation of social values. When hearing cases, judicial personnel should comprehensively consider the case facts, legal provisions, and the requirements of values to make fair and reasonable rulings. When trying civil tort cases, the values of fairness and justice should be upheld to effectively protect the lawful rights and interests of victims and safeguard social fairness and justice.

At present, values play a crucial guiding role in China's judicial adjudications. Take the "elevator dissuasion smoking sudden death case" as an example. The court's judgment fully considered the values of fairness and justice, determining that the behavior of the person who dissuaded smoking was rightful dissuasion and they did not need to bear tort liability. This ruling upheld social fairness and justice, promoted positive energy in society, and guides people to dare to stand up and dissuade bad behavior when facing it. It is a concrete application of values in judicial practice and provides a beneficial reference for the judgment of similar cases. Additionally, judicial organs can clarify the specific application of values in judicial practice by issuing guiding cases, etc., providing a reference for judicial personnel while conveying the correct value orientation to society. Some of the guiding cases released by the Supreme People's Court have important guiding significance for the trial of similar cases, and also enable the public to more clearly understand the embodiment and application of values in judicial practice.

(3) Integration into Law Enforcement

Integrating values into law enforcement is conducive to strengthening the value orientation of social governance, standardizing law enforcement behavior, promoting the construction of a harmonious social order, and advancing the modernization of the national governance system and governance capabilities. [12]

In the process of law enforcement, law enforcement personnel should strictly abide by the principle of administration according to law, achieve fair law enforcement, and fully reflect the spirit of the rule of law in values. At the same time, attention should be paid to humane law enforcement, demonstrating the values of friendliness and harmony. Some scholars have proposed that law enforcement should not only be carried out strictly in accordance with the law, but also attend to humanistic care, realizing the organic unity of legal and social effects. When dealing with traffic violations, law enforcement personnel should not only punish according to laws and regulations, but

also focus on educating and guiding the violators, fully reflecting the concept of humane law enforcement.

Law enforcement departments can integrate values into law enforcement publicity work through various forms of outreach activities. By publicizing values, the legal awareness and moral standards of the public can be raised, enhancing the public's understanding and support for law enforcement work. Some studies believe that law enforcement publicity is an important channel for spreading values and can strengthen the public's awareness of rule of law and morality. When carrying out traffic safety publicity, not only should traffic laws and regulations be promoted, but also values such as civilized travel and caring for others, guiding the public to establish correct traffic concepts.

In existing law enforcement practices, values can be effectively put into practice. For example, in urban management law enforcement, law enforcement departments focus on communication and consultation with merchants, adopting flexible enforcement methods and helping merchants solve practical difficulties. This fully reflects the values of friendliness and harmony, improves the effects of law enforcement, and effectively promotes social harmony and stability.

4. CONCLUSION

Values have profound connotations of the times, and their integration into society is crucial for social development, enhancing national cohesion, and social harmony and stability. Through multiple paths such as legislation, the judiciary, and law enforcement, values can be effectively integrated into social life. Actively promoting the integration of values into local legislation can ensure that every local regulation both conforms to mainstream value requirements and fully reflects the will of the people, gaining the people's heartfelt support and laying a solid foundation for improving the legal norm system and legislative quality.[13] In the judicial process, values guide judicial judgments and promote positive energy in society. In law enforcement practice, the spirit of values is reflected, achieving fair and humane law enforcement. In future development, we should continue to improve these paths of integration, deeply advance the integration of values into all aspects of social life, making them the common value adherence of all the people, and provide strong spiritual motivation and value support for realizing the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. We must constantly summarize experiences, strengthen institutional development, enhance the awareness and practice of values in the whole of society, and let values shine ever more brightly in the new era.

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