

# The Connotation and Requirements of Patriotism

Chunyu Gu\*

Tianjin University of Commerce Tianjin 300134, China.

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**Abstract:** patriotism is the core of our national spirit, which reflects the deep feelings of citizens for the motherland. How to understand the connotation and requirements of patriotism is particularly crucial. This paper mainly expounds the scientific connotation of patriotism and analyzes the basic requirements of patriotism from four aspects.

**Keywords:** patriotism; traditional Chinese culture; the May Fourth Movement

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On September 17, 1935, in the face of a poor and weak country, the principal Zhang Boling put forward the famous "Three Patriotic Questions" at the opening ceremony of the new school year in Nankai University. "Three Patriotic Questions" carried the Chinese people's ideal of saving the country at that time, which was shocking. No matter what period, patriotism is an eternal theme.

## 1. The connotation of patriotism

On April 30, 2019, General Secretary Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the May Fourth Movement. As General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the conference, "The core of the spirit of the May Fourth Movement is patriotism, which is the core of our national spirit and the spiritual bond for the Chinese nation to unite and strive for self-improvement." Regarding the connotation of patriotism, the definition in the key textbook "Ideological and Moral Cultivation and Legal Foundation" of the Central Marxist Theory Research and Construction Project is as follows: "Patriotism embodies people's deep feelings for their own country and reflects the individual's dependence on the country. It is the unity of people's sense of belonging, identity, dignity and honor to their homeland, nation and culture. It is the moral requirements, political principles and legal norms that regulate the relationship between individuals and the motherland, and it is also the core of the national spirit."<sup>[1]</sup> Patriotism embodies the deep feelings and dependence of citizens towards the motherland, and is manifested as a sense of identity with national spirit and national culture."<sup>[2]</sup> These expressions illustrate the relationship between the individual and the country.

## 2. The basic requirements of patriotism

### 2.1 Love the great rivers and mountains of the motherland

China is a country with a land area of 9.6 million square kilometers, and boasts a variety of beautiful natural landscapes, such as the Yangtze River, the Yellow River, Mount Tai and Mount Huang. The CCTV documentary, "Aerial Photography of China," which is now in its third season, allows us to enjoy the beautiful rivers and mountains of our motherland without leaving home. This way of presentation has attracted countless praise. Appreciating the magnificent mountains and rivers of our country and taking pride in our country's beautiful scenery enhances our national pride. "Why do I often have tears in my eyes? Because I love this land deeply..." This is a modern poem "I love this land" written by modern poet Ai Qing in 1938, which shows the poet's sincere and passionate patriotism. As a Chinese, we should maintain a passion and respect for the land where we were born and raised.

### 2.2 Love your own compatriots

China is a country with 56 ethnic groups. The people of all ethnic groups are connected and cherish each other, forming a big multi-ethnic family. All ethnic groups help each other, solidarity and friendship, and respect each other's customs and cultures. The people are the creators of history. During the fight against COVID-19, medical staff from all over the country rushed to Wuhan to help, caring people from all walks of life actively donated money, and volunteers did voluntary service without asking for returns from severe cold to intense heat. There are also amazing Chinese miracles: Huoshenshan Hospital and Leishenshan Hospital. It is the ordinary people who love this country and care about their compatriots, so they are willing to stay up all night, work hard, bite their teeth and insist on doing it. This is our love for our compatriots. Our hearts and hands are linked together to fight against the epidemic.

### 2.3 Love the splendid culture of our motherland

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China is a country with a long history. The civilization of China for five thousand years is the only one in the world that has not been interrupted and disappeared for thousands of years. Along with the time circulation and the accumulation, the current splendid culture has been formed. The Chinese culture has a long history and is broad and profound. Traditional Chinese culture includes: ancient prose, poetry, folk music, folk drama, folk art, traditional Chinese painting, calligraphy, traditional festivals, etc.; including the traditional calendar of ancient Chinese natural sciences, and the traditional cultures of various regions and ethnic minorities living in the big family of the Chinese nation. National culture can improve the cohesion and inheritance ability within a nation. [3] Whenever we mention our country's traditional culture, as a Chinese, we are deeply proud. During the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, when we donated Japanese masks, poems with Chinese characteristics were written on the outer package of the boxes, such as: You throw a peach to me, I give you a white jade for friendship. The traditional Chinese culture is our precious treasure and national symbol, and we should love it and inherit it. If our country is compared to a skyscraper, then the splendid culture is the foundation of this building. Only with the support of culture can the country be more stable and cohesive.

#### **2.4 Love your country**

When it comes to patriotism, I thought of the movie "Wolf Warriors II" released in 2017, which broke the record of a single-day box office in the history of Chinese movies and ranked first. The reason why the plot itself can arouse people's inner patriotic enthusiasm is precisely because of the powerful motherland behind it. For example, both the military government and the rebels in the play repeatedly emphasized that "we must not offend the Chinese" and the line: "we are Chinese". And the Chinese flag became amulets. Even in times of crisis, the Chinese treat their African brothers with the same treatment, which can give rise to a sense of national pride and boost the confidence of a big country. At the end of the movie, the passport and the passage on the screen: "Citizens of the People's Republic of China: When you are in danger overseas, don't give up! Remember, behind you, there is a strong motherland." This sentence is a finishing touch. It shows the country's commitment to the people, telling the people that the country is always the most powerful backing, it is said that many people see this sentence inexplicably wet their eyes. Director Wu Jing said: "I have always had a wish that Chinese passports can become the best in the world. Maybe now he can't let you go to all places in the world, but he can take you home from any place." It is precisely because of having a strong motherland that he has the confidence to say this sentence. I am proud that I am a Chinese. With such a strong motherland, I have no reason not to love.

There is an interdependent relationship between individuals and the country, just as the so-called "teeth can't live without lips". Historical experience has proved that it is difficult to guarantee the safety of life and property without the protection of the country. Only a strong country has the ability to protect us. The strength of a country cannot be separated from the support and maintenance of the people. Therefore, every citizen should actively participate in the construction of the country and contribute to the "rise of a great country" together. Patriotism should become an duty that every citizen consciously fulfills.

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