

Foreign Experience Related to the Formation of Patriotic Values of Students of Higher Educational Institutions

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Abstract: *This article explores foreign experiences and best practices in the formation of patriotic values among students of higher educational institutions. Using a comparative and analytical approach, the study examines educational policies, ideological frameworks, and socio-cultural mechanisms applied in countries such as the United States, China, and Russia to strengthen national identity, civic responsibility, and social cohesion among youth. The research is based on the analysis of normative documents, academic literature, and educational practices related to civic and patriotic education. The findings demonstrate that effective patriotism education is achieved through curriculum integration, experiential learning, community engagement, digital platforms, and state-supported programs that emphasize moral values, historical awareness, and social responsibility. The study concludes that adapting international experience to national contexts can contribute to the development of a systematic and sustainable model of patriotic education in higher education institutions.*

Keywords: *Patriotic Education, Civic Values, Higher Education, International Experience, National Identity.*

Introduction

Despite the cultural, historical and geographical differences between countries, they all face similar problems in raising patriotism in youth and in society as a whole. Studying the application of methods for successfully solving emerging problems in other countries can help develop a national strategy for raising citizens in the spirit of patriotism, bringing its practice to high efficiency rates, and flexible response to changes in the world.

Interest in international experience of patriotic education and the possibilities of its application in Uzbekistan has grown especially. The demands of the times, new social and political demands have forced most countries to implement and improve programs aimed not only at instilling in their citizens a sense of pride and love for their country, but also at the need to protect it without taking into account the interests of other countries and peoples.

Educating students in the spirit of patriotism is a multi-level, systematic, targeted and coordinated activity of state bodies, public associations and other organizations regardless of nationality, language and profession, aimed at developing in them a sense of

loyalty to the Motherland, educating them as individuals capable of fulfilling their civic duties and constitutional obligations, protecting the interests of society and the state.

Methodology

Despite the cultural, historical, and geographical differences between countries, they all face similar challenges in fostering patriotism among the youth and in society as a whole. Studying how other countries successfully address emerging problems can help in developing a national strategy for cultivating patriotism among their citizens, leading to more effective practices and enabling a flexible response to changes in the world.

Interest in the international experience of patriotism education and its application in Uzbekistan has particularly intensified. The demands of the time and new social and political requirements compel many countries to implement and improve programs aimed not only at instilling a sense of pride and love for one's country among their citizens but also at protecting it without considering the interests of other countries and peoples.

Educating students in the spirit of patriotism is a multi-level, systematic, targeted and coordinated activity of state bodies, public associations and other organizations regardless of nationality, language and profession, aimed at developing in them a sense of loyalty to the Motherland, educating them as individuals capable of fulfilling their civic duties and constitutional obligations, protecting the interests of society and the state. To cultivate in students an understanding of their responsibility to the state and society, for this "it is necessary to apply in the educational process effective forms and methods of spiritual and moral education of young people, the use of advanced pedagogical technologies, an effective methodological and material and technical base."

We will refer to the experience of patriotism education in major modern countries such as the USA, China, and Russia.

The experience of patriotism education in the USA is particularly beneficial for the theory and practice in Uzbekistan for the following reasons: a) the cultural diversity of our countries, which highlights the issue of "educating and teaching representatives of various nationalities, religions, and cultures as united citizens of the state" (Bessarova,2008); b) the existence of a rich pedagogical experience in fostering patriotism among school-age youth. Today, the position of the USA in the world is quite contradictory. On one hand, the USA aims to achieve a leading position as the "world gendarme," provoking international and military conflicts. On the other hand, the United States is one of the largest economies in the world, ensuring the prosperity and well-being of its citizens. What underlies this trust and belief in its uniqueness and invincibility? Above all, it is the deep feelings of patriotism among its citizens. Many emphasize that American patriotism is a unique phenomenon. American patriotism is not based on ethnicity, nationality, or language. The essence of American patriotism lies in the belief in the superiority of American democratic values, as stated in "Novus Ordo Seclorum" (literally "New Order of the Ages"). It is future-oriented and does not seek ideals in the past.

Regular social surveys conducted in the USA show that approximately three-quarters of Americans are proud of their country (URL://<https://www.statista.com/topics/2482/patriotism-in-the-us/> 2025). About half of Americans decorate their homes with the national flag, and 15-20% of drivers place the

American flag on their cars. In contrast to many countries, patriotism demonstrations in the USA are organized by the citizens themselves, not by the authorities. Participating in such events is voluntary; however, they are quite popular in the USA, attracting dozens and hundreds of thousands of participants.

The central ideas of patriotism include the principles of freedom, equality, and justice. American philosopher M. Adler emphasizes that "the life of our society is built on these three ideas. They express the ideals that humanity is striving to achieve now and wants to pass on to future generations" (Adler,2015). The character traits of a patriotic individual include courage, responsibility, gratitude towards the founders, and dedication to the common good. The self-understanding of the American people refers to a specific form of justice, allowing for the disregard of the opinions of non-Americans in the decision-making process.

From the first grade onward, before the start of classes, American students recite a pledge of allegiance to the flag every day. The pledge is brief and resonates: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." However, as is often the case in the USA, this practice is not widespread. In some states, the pledge is not recited at all; in some instances, it is done monthly, while in others, only elementary school students recite it.

Higher education institutions in the USA hold a special place in patriotism education. There are over 1350 local colleges and about 2000 colleges and universities in the USA. Private educational institutions account for 65% of all educational institutions. The American higher education system is distinguished by a significant variety of curricula, courses, and subjects, constituting a unique social institution that performs essential economic, social, and ideological functions, including the education of youth in the spirit of patriotism.

Result and Discussion

Patriotism education in the USA is carried out within the framework of civic education, which is one of the leading directions of the country's educational policy, as reinforced by laws such as the "National and Community Service Act" (1990), the "No Child Left Behind Act" (2001), and others.

Let us examine the main components of patriotism in the USA:

1. Implementation of rights and freedoms according to the US Constitution. This component constitutes the foundation of patriotism in the USA. V. Kovalevskiy states: "Americans consider the realization of their rights to be a significant aspect of patriotism. This allows for openly criticizing power to change policies and mobilizing other citizens to solve common problems." Such rights are guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution, adopted in 1791, which prevents laws that could restrict citizens' rights to freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion.
2. State symbols (anthem and flag) that are valued and recognized by all Americans. The US anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner," was written in honor of the American flag during the British siege of Fort McHenry in 1812 and was officially adopted as

the national anthem only in 1931. The anthem is traditionally performed at important public and sporting events, often sung live, enhancing the event's solemnity. Many Americans know the words to the anthem and join in singing during its performance (Borger,2005). Each state has its flag, which the population often hangs next to the national flag. Congress members and senators always display their state flags alongside the US flag in their offices, emphasizing their loyalty to their constituents' interests.

Another key symbol is the US coat of arms, which features a bald eagle with outspread wings. The emblem was adopted in the summer of 1782 and symbolizes the nation's great aspirations, independence, and hope for a better future. A. I. Solzhenitsyn assesses American patriotism as follows: "In the United States, patriotism is at a high level. Not only does no one shy away from it, but America breathes with its patriotism, it is proud of it—and various ethnic groups unite within it. In every American school classroom, the national flag is displayed, and in many schools, the pledge of allegiance is recited" (Solzhenitsyn, 2006).

It is noteworthy that American patriotism serves as a unifying force for millions of American citizens who have come seeking a new life, including immigrants from various countries. Without a well-thought-out and effective program for patriotism education, immigrants could have caused the country to fragment rather than become one of the great states. American patriotism is declared to be free from national, ethnic, or linguistic basis. Representatives of all nations live in the USA. For Americans, the opportunity for interaction with other cultures is precious. Many foreign students studying at educational institutions participate in various international days and weeks, where they can showcase their national costumes and talk about their cultural traditions. The healthy patriotism of other peoples commands respect among Americans.

"Serve the People!"

In the modern world, alongside the USA, China plays a distinct role as a key economic and geopolitical player. Every Chinese person is a patriot not only of their country but also of their city and village, even of the house where they were born. They know the status of their country, province, and community, including how many people live there. The idea of an indivisible China took root in the worldview, aided by the popularization of Confucian writings in the late 19th century and the concept of "Dutun" created by Kan Yu-wei ("the great unity and equality"). The inability to reclaim Taiwan or a number of islands currently under Japanese jurisdiction is perceived as a personal tragedy by Chinese people, while the reunification of Hong Kong and Macau is celebrated as a family holiday.

The core values for a Chinese person include their homeland, mother tongue, family, and their hearth. All of this is related to patriotism education, which has been the main idea of Chinese pedagogy. As early as the 1980s, Chinese media noted that "patriotism is the best tradition and the highest moral virtue of the Chinese nation," stating that studying national history is "a form of patriotism education." It was emphasized that "when studying world history books, they should only be used if they do not contain references to foreign countries" (Kalashnik,2014). The ongoing process of promoting everything Chinese and

prohibiting everything foreign is still in motion, and all forms of education are viewed through the lens of patriotism. The dramatic events surrounding the deaths of hundreds of protesters in Tiananmen Square in 1989 significantly boosted the spirit of patriotism in China. After that, Chinese communists recognized the need to strengthen the spirit of patriotism. Schools began to explain to students that China is an ancient civilization that has led to the greatest discoveries. In the ideology of modern China, traditional values are inseparably used to enhance self-awareness and pride in the country. Similarly, the ancient Chinese cosmography's idea of the "Middle Kingdom" surrounded by "barbarians" has evolved into the notion that throughout its history, the country has existed within a ring of enemies and blind neighbors.

The official state policy is implemented by teachers. In higher education institutions, special programs are developed for moral education, including sections on patriotism education, cultivating the spirit of the Chinese nation, and studying Chinese history, traditions, and culture.

According to Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Chinese nation, with a continuous civilization history of over five thousand years, has created its extensive and profound culture and contributed significantly to the development of human civilization. "Our past and present are nourished by the commonality of our ideals and beliefs, to which we remain firmly committed" (Vasilieva,2016). It is noteworthy that using various means, Chinese universities, in collaboration with the Communist Youth League, hold various lectures and events on patriotism education, including celebrations of the Chinese New Year, Youth Day, and the Education Day of the People's Republic of China.

"Through internet resources, patriotism education develops students' interest in the theme of patriotism amid the social network's interactive environment. The spread of the internet, including WeChat, Weibo, QQ, has led to the creation of specialized sites and forums, which are considered very effective tools for fostering patriotism among Chinese students" (SeIlin,2016).

In the author's view, events like "Patriotic Movie Month," "Online Volunteer," and "Memory of Victims of the Nanjing Massacre" in the internet network foster a sense of respect for history among students and contribute to social and economic development. In Chinese schools, various subjects such as music and song are widely used for moral and ideological education. The State Education Commission of the People's Republic of China recommends the study of about 100 different songs, including the national anthem, "About the Motherland," "Unity is Strength," "There is No China Without the Communist Party," and others. The State Education Commission's Department of Moral Education published a methodological manual titled "The Ceremony of Raising the National Flag and Moral-Patriotic Education," which has been recommended for use in all schools in the country (Klepikov,2000).

Patriotism education centers reflect the country's long history, the heroic path of the Chinese people in their fight against enemies, and the high culture of the Chinese nation. The new format, the richness of content, and the demonstrative presentation are increasingly transforming the centers into an essential platform and integral part of

patriotism education. Educational institutions at all levels strive to integrate classroom activities with students' extracurricular activities in patriotism education centers. Familiarization with various materials related to history, culture, and art helps youth understand the deep meaning of patriotism from different perspectives and encourages them to express their emotional experiences.

Experience of Patriotism Education in Russia

After the collapse of the USSR in 1991, unthought-of liberal reforms began in the new Russia, including in the education system. With the transition to market relations using the "shock therapy" method, many educational institutions fell into a state of crisis. The educational component of upbringing was pushed to the background, and education began to be offered as a market service. During those 1990s, patriotism education was simply forgotten.

Since the early 2000s, there has been a renewed interest in instilling patriotic values in Russia, glorifying the country's military past, and forming a sense of patriotism based on love for the Motherland. Today, patriotism education manifests as one of the priority tasks of domestic policy. Additionally, there is a conscious need in Russian society to unite around a national idea and national interests, making the development of patriotism and citizenship an important strategic priority of national security. The state's policies promote moral and ethical values, protect against the distortion of national history, and introduce the younger generation to the culture and traditions of the Russian state.

The role of patriotism education is increasingly rising to the forefront of political agendas. Russian President V. V. Putin has proposed patriotism as a national idea that unites the political, moral, and cultural life of society: "Patriotism is one of the most important values of Russian society and a fundamental part of the statehood of the country." This approach is reinforced in the official doctrine of the "State Program for the Patriotic Education of Citizens of the Russian Federation for 2016-2020," adopted on December 30, 2015. The Presidential Decree of the Russian Federation dated July 21, 2020, on the "National Goals for the Development of the Russian Federation until 2030" focuses on nurturing a developed and socially responsible individual based on the moral and ethical values of the peoples of the Russian Federation, historical and national-cultural traditions.

The concept of patriotism encompasses many components: civic identity, national and social unity, a sense of belonging to the country's fate, and the glorification of military valor and heroes, among others. In this regard, the system of patriotism education should be built on educational and moral activities. As an important direction of state policy, patriotism education should rely on systematic and targeted efforts by state authorities, civil society, and families in shaping love and respect for the Motherland, responsible attitudes toward one's country, and appreciation for one's people's history and culture. It should be understood as fostering a valuable attitude toward family, the homeland, and one's nation (Yolkin,2017).

Conclusion

The feeling of patriotism, first of all, serves to form a strong immunity in a person to prevent internal and external threats to the country. It motivates to take initiative in the struggle for the development of the Motherland, the peace of the country and the well-being of the people, to keep peace as the apple of one's eye and selflessly serve it. The deeper in the heart of a person are the duties and feelings for the nation, the Motherland, the spirit of ancestors, the more national ideas arise instead of restrictions. People with these qualities develop sacred feelings of struggle, initiative, self-awareness, protection of the honor and interests of the nation and the Homeland.

The deeper the feelings of duty and spirit of ancestors are in the human heart regarding the nation and the homeland, the more national ideas emerge instead of limitations. Individuals possessing such virtues develop courage, initiative, self-awareness, and sacred feelings to protect the honor and interests of their nation and homeland

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