

# Explore the Practical Path forward the Spirit of Nanniwan Farming for Self-reliance

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**Abstract.** The spirit of Nanniwan farming for self-reliance is one of the original ecology of Yan 'an spirit, which is an important content of the spiritual pedigree of the Communist Party of China, and plays an important role in the process of China's revolution, construction and reform in China. The spirit of Nanniwan is not only the spiritual support to realize national independence during the war years, but also the spiritual coordinates for the realization of Chinese Dream in the new era. Based on this, During the journey of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, we need to persist in the concept of reform and innovation, strengthen the method of combining theory and practice, with novel forms of publicity and education, Explore the practical path of carrying forward the spirit of Nanniwan actively. Connect with history, and continue to move forward, we should make unremitting efforts to achieve the socialist modernization and strengthen the country.

## 1 Introduction

After the War of Resistance Against Japan entered a stalemate, in order to resist foreign aggression and defeat domestic enemies in the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region, Mao Zedong called on the army and the people supporting ourselves by our own labour, and launched a vigorous mass production and self-rescue movement. In March 1941, the 359 Brigade went to Nanniwan for reclamation. After more than three years, the deserted Nanniwan was transformed into a fertile "Jiangnan" in northern Shaanxi. In this process, it cultivated the Nanniwan spirit with core of "self-reliance and hard struggle", which constituted the spiritual wealth of the Chinese nation. As an important part of a long line of inspiring principles for the Chinese Communists, the Nanniwan spirit embodies and carries forward the glorious traditions and fine styles of self-reliance and hard work, and encourages and inspires people of all ethnic groups across the country to roll up their sleeves and work hard.

## 2 The Connotation of Nanniwan Spirit

"The spirit of Nanniwan is the precious spiritual wealth created by the anti-Japanese soldiers and civilians represented by the 359th Brigade of the Eighth Route Army in the Nanniwan mass production movement."<sup>[1]</sup> Since the 359th Brigade was stationed Nanniwan, for the sake of the revolution, they also worked on farm fields to reclaim wasteland, in addition to their military training. After more than three years, the deserted Nanniwan was transformed into a fertile "Jiangnan" in northern Shaanxi.

<sup>[2]</sup>A great cause breeds a great spirit. The Nanniwan spirit centered on self-reliance and hard work was cultivated and formed, which constituted the precious spiritual wealth of the Chinese nation.

### 2.1 Entrepreneurial spirit of self-reliance and hard work

Under the direct leadership of Zhu, De, soldiers and farmers in Nanniwan tackled difficulties head on, and worked hard. They took advantage of the congenial conditions of abundant water resources in Nanniwan to open up a new situation of grain production in mountainous areas. Xi, Jinping emphasized: "In the face of the unprecedented changes in the world in a century, and the profound and complex changes in the development environment at home and abroad, we must take a higher level of self-reliance, implement a higher level of reform and opening up, and accelerate the construction of a new development pattern with domestic circulation as the main body and mutual promotion of domestic and international dual circulation."<sup>[3]</sup> Continuing to tap the Nanniwan spirit for strength and take a higher level of self-reliance has become the consensus and action of the party and the people in the new era.

### 2.2 The dedication spirit of diligence and frugality, hard work and plain living

Diligence and frugality, hard work and plain living are the fine traditions of the Chinese nation. At that time, even in the case of abundant production, Brigadier Wang, Zhen still called on everyone to produce more, consume less,

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and adhere to the traditional virtues of diligence and frugality. In the process of overcoming difficulties, the officers and soldiers of the 359th Brigade realized the perfect combination of “broaden sources of income” and “reduce expenditure”, helping the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region to successfully overcome the economic crisis and ensuring the safety of the Party Central Committee.

### **2.3 The spirit of hard work with one heart and one mind and sharing weal and woe**

In the arduous revolutionary years, we could defeat any powerful enemy and overcome any difficulties as long as we were uniting and working together. In 1941, when the Anti-Japanese War was at its most difficult time, the supply there was in deep waters. The leading cadres of the Communist Party led the officers and soldiers to carry out production competitions by standing together through storm and stress. Leading cadres led by example to inspire others, and transform the difficulties into strong spiritual motivation, combat effectiveness and cohesion. With such a spirit of one heart and one mind and sharing weal and woe, Nanniwan was infused with vitality and prosperity.

### **2.4 Innovative spirit of being brave to take responsibilities and dare to create**

In the revolutionary era, opening up wasteland was extremely difficult. To overcome all kinds of difficulties, reform and innovation were necessary to solve the problems. The soldiers of the 359th Brigade fought and produced at the same time. Through production, the supplies for life and battle were guaranteed. The soldiers had persistent beliefs as unshakable as the iron and willingness to take responsibilities, and they dared to create, so as to provide an important guarantee for the mass production movement. This spirit of innovation and creativity is the fine tradition and political nature of our party formed in the course of revolution, construction and reform, and it is also a powerful spiritual force for us to overcome all difficulties. At present, the innovative spirit of being brave to take responsibilities and daring to create is the source of wisdom for us to turn crises into opportunities again and again, and it has also made us strongly confident to deal with challenges and difficulties in the new era. Continue to carry forward zeitgeist centered on reform and innovation is the main theme of the development in the new era.

## **3 The important value endowed by the spirit of Nanniwan in the new era**

### **3.1 Carrying forward the spirit of Nanniwan requires adherence to lofty ideals and beliefs and establishing correct values**

Ideals and beliefs are the spiritual pillar and political essence of the Chinese Communists, and of great significance for taking the long march of the new era.<sup>[4]</sup> Inheriting the spirit of Nanniwan is to absorb its wisdom to establish stable faith, and replenish the “calcium” of the spirit. As the youth in the new era, we should establish correct values, strengthen right ideals and beliefs, absorb nutrition and motivation from the party's extraordinary history of a century, develop excellent skills, use ideals and beliefs as the inexhaustible driving force for our careers, respond to risks and challenges, and strive for the lofty cause of the party and the people for life with heart and soul.

### **3.2 Carrying forward the spirit of Nanniwan is the strategic need for China to become the modern and powerful socialist country**

To promote the great cause of the era of national rejuvenation and embark on a new journey to comprehensively build a modern and powerful socialist country, we must have a strong spiritual cohesion of one heart and one mind. The Nanniwan spirit is one of the powerful Chinese spirits. As the essence of rejuvenating and strengthening the country, the value and significance of Nanniwan spiritual strength have become more prominent in the process of achieving the second centenary goal. Therefore, the integration of Nanniwan spirit into modern life is the need to serve the national strategy and a powerful spiritual motivation to promote the great cause of rejuvenation. It is vital to strengthen the importance of spiritual power, and give full play to the positive role of Nanniwan spirit in promoting national economic development, urban and rural construction, social governance, and improvement of people's livelihood.

### **3.3 Carrying forward the spirit of Nanniwan is an objective requirement for enhancing the "soft power" of Chinese national culture**

"A man cannot stand without spirit, and a country without spirit cannot be strong. Spirit is the soul that a nation depends on for its long-term survival. Only when it reaches a certain height spiritually can this nation stand firm in the torrent of history and move forward bravely."<sup>[5]</sup> No matter how the country develops and how the people's lives are improved, the fine tradition of hard work cannot be lost. It is an important guarantee for the development and growth of the Chinese nation along the way. The spirit of Nanniwan is full of the spirit of hard

work. Under today's new historical conditions, we must always adhere to the development of the Nanniwan spirit, especially for young people in the new era, to carry out the fine traditional education of hard work, enhance the "soft power" of the Chinese national culture, and mobilize our working passion and creativity to continue to move forward towards the second centenary goal while overcoming all kinds of difficulties.

## **4 The Practical Path to Carry Forward the Spirit of Nanniwan in the New Era**

### **4.1 Insist on appraising the spirit of Nanniwan from the perspective of reform and innovation**

#### *1. Carry forward the spirit of Nanniwan while insisting on respecting objective facts, and proceeding from reality*

The essence of Nanniwan spirit is being realistic and pragmatic, and dare to break new ground for innovation. At the same time, being realistic and pragmatic is the prerequisite for the latter. In the practice of revolution, reform, and construction, the Communist Party of China has always insisted on seeking truth from facts, combined the principles of Marxism with China's reality, and explored the development path in line with China's reality to achieve glorious achievements today.

#### *2. Carry forward the spirit of Nanniwan, while insisting on the unity of inheritance and innovation*

At the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward a new development concept of "innovation, coordination, green, openness and sharing", in which innovation is placed at the core of the overall development of the country, innovation is regarded as the first driving force to lead development, and the country's economic security in the new era is ensured through independent innovation.<sup>[6]</sup>The innovative development strategy has always been pivotal to overall development of China, taking innovation as the primary driving force for development can ensure China's economic security in the new era through independent innovation. The core element of the Nanniwan spirit is the entrepreneurial spirit of self-reliance and hard work, which is not only a fighting spirit of facing up to difficulties, bravely going forward, and working hard, but also an enterprising spirit of daring to create, pioneering and innovating, and daring to be the first. The revolutionary spirit cultivated during the Yan'an period has transcended time and space, surpassing Nanniwan in space to be expanded in the entire army, the entire party, and the whole country, and extending in time to the present and the future. And because of that, the spirit of arduous struggle should never be discarded, whether it was in times of raging wars in the past, or in the peacetime

today, or even in the future, because it is an important magic weapon for the Chinese people to overcome difficulties and pursue victory. To sum up historical experience and absorb historical wisdom is to transform the study of history into the ability to solve practical problems.<sup>[7]</sup> The Nanniwan spirit is the fusion of the national spirit and zeitgeist, which will never be outdated, with infusion of new connotations to keep pace with the rhythm of the times.

### **4.2 Continuously combine new practices to expand the spirit of Nanniwan**

#### *1.To strengthen research on Nanniwan Spirit at colleges and universities*

Colleges and universities, as the main front for cultivating the backbone, should further strengthen the research on Nanniwan spirit and optimize the educational content of Nanniwan, to vigorously promote the spirit of Nanniwan among college students. The Nanniwan spirit embodies the great qualities of the Chinese Communists such as struggle, dedication, and enterprising, which have been deeply integrated into the blood of the party and the people. College students should continue to learn the excellent qualities of the revolutionary predecessors, gain the majestic power from the spirit of Nanniwan, forge ahead, work hard, vigorously carry out the study and education course of party history, and accurately and comprehensively integrate the great achievements and experience of the century old party history into the teaching of ideological and political theory courses at colleges and universities.

#### *2. Promoting the practice of Nanniwan spirit through various practical activities*

To learn the spirit of Nanniwan, we must also learn from actions of Nanniwan people, so that the spirit of Nanniwan can take root. First, the project of hands-on activities throughout the year should be carried out around the economic development of Nanniwan and Shaanxi to learn the spirit of Nanniwan, such as a series of long-term and systematic practical activities centered around the promotion of Nanniwan spirit to boost the normalized development of learning Nanniwan spirit and practices, and disclosing the project demand information of practical activities in real time on major network platforms to make more people understand Nanniwan spirit. Second, relevant activities related to the cultivation of Nanniwan spirit in enterprises, communities, and campuses should be extensively carried out to make sure learning and practicing Nanniwan spirit to be organized in the community, family, and campus, so as to achieve a good family tradition and creation of a strong social atmosphere. Third, relying on the red education bases, such as the Nanniwan Mass Production Memorial Hall, to carry out affective education and hands-on activities of red spirits covering patriotism and socialist core values, to make the broad masses go to the red base to promote the red gene to be deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. In

particular, the college students must fully understand the knowledge of red culture, carry out educational hands-on activities, cultivate self-confidence in red culture through personal experience, so as to carry forward the Chinese revolutionary spirit from generation to generation.

### 4.3 Continuously innovate the forms of publicity and education of Nanniwan spirit

#### 1. Fully tap and utilize Shaanxi red cultural resources

The spirit of Nanniwan is rich in red cultural genes. To protect and develop red cultural resources, the forms and methods of inheritance must also keep pace with the times and be brave in innovation.<sup>[8]</sup> Therefore, to maximize the potency of red culture education of "cultivating virtue and cultivating people" requires fully tapping the spiritual power value of Shaanxi red cultural resources, highlighting the enormous spiritual power of red genes, and demonstrating the ideological red cultural spirit. Red cultural resources are widely distributed in the spatial dimension, and the historical events contained in it are malleable in the temporal dimension.<sup>[9]</sup> It is necessary to fully tap and integrate new Shaanxi red cultural resources in terms of breadth and depth, enhance the construction of research and publicity teams, and make good use of local red cultural resources. It is also necessary to vigorously develop the spiritual and cultural undertakings of Nanniwan by highlighting the cultural characteristics of Shaanxi, and the charm of red culture in the province, so that red resources can be made into red cultural tourism, so that Nanniwan becomes an education base for Party history learning, clean government, and patriotism. Young students can come to study and visit, and understand stories behind the red revolutionary culture so as to promote its creative transformation and innovative development.

#### 2. Strengthen the international dissemination of Nanniwan spirit

Building a community with a shared future for mankind is inseparable from cultural exchanges and mutual learning. First, we should publicly display our unique red cultural symbols to the world, convey the red spirit, arouse the positive sense of identity with red culture among people, and convey the Chinese spirit, Chinese values, and Chinese wisdom to the world. Second, with the help of diversified new media and the Internet, we should vigorously create new red cultural symbols related to the spirit of Nanniwan. For example, use new media such as short videos to strengthen the implantation of representative cultural symbols such as Nanniwan, present Nanniwan culture and Chinese red culture to the public, narrate Chinese stories and convey Chinese spirit. We should take practical actions to promote the transmission of Nanniwan spirit to the world.

## 5 Conclusions

Deeply exploring this historical process, accurately

grasping the connotation of the Nanniwan spirit, and exploring the practical path to continue to carry forward the Nanniwan spirit have important theoretical value and practical significance for adhering to the original mission of the Party, bolstering the "four-sphere confidence", and realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. If we want to successfully break through difficulties and achieve counterattacks in adversity, we need to rationally respond to complex situations, inherit and carry forward the spirit of Nanniwan, seize the commanding heights of technological innovation, grasp the strategic initiative, and realize the greatness of the Chinese nation.<sup>[10]</sup>

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