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SOURCES OF LEGITIMACY OF THE CCP RULE: ROLE OF IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN LEGITIMACY BUILDING

INTRODUCTION

My research explores ideology as a source of legitimacy for the Chinese Communist Party rule. The role of ideology has become more important because of the eroding effectiveness of performance legitimacy. In my dissertation research I suggest that one concrete method the party uses to strengthen its legitimacy is through ideological education. Universities and Party Schools are the most important arenas for this.

AIM OF THE WORK

The importance of ideology for the legitimacy of the CCP rule has been given too little notice in contemporary research. Jinghan Zeng (2014 & 2016) and Bruce Gilley and Heike Holbig (2009, 2010 & 2011) have made efforts recently to bring it to the awareness of China scholars.

Despite this, the actual, concrete measures taken by the administration have not been studied before. I aim to fill this gap with my research into how the CCP teaches ideology to university students.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What does the government do to legitimize its rule? How does ideological education help to legitimate the CCP rule? Is it a part of a legitimation strategy? Why is ideological education being emphasized recently? Has there been a change in ideological education since the current administration came to power? Does the ideological education actually influence opinions towards government? Is it really effective?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WORK

It is important to analyse the way in which the government of one of the largest countries in the world legitimizes its rule.

My dissertation will contribute to the debates on legitimation of power in China.

The research will shed light on the concrete measures taken by the CCP to solidify its rule.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

I will conduct a mixed methods study, with multiple case studies, content analysis and qualitative methods.

I will research university course requirements and academic articles concerning ideological and political education (or moral education, *deyu*). I will interview some experts and possibly students. I will also analyse speeches and public statements made by high level government officials.

CASE STUDIES

I plan to conduct case studies of 5-6 universities in different parts of China. If possible, I will also conduct some interviews and research the teaching materials at the Central Party School in Beijing.

I plan to include in my case studies methods such as auditing classes, analysing the content of educational materials, and conducting surveys or interviews.

I want to see if there is an impact on the attitude of the students towards the government to find out how effective the ideological education is.

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

I plan to publish my research findings as articles and conference papers. Finally I will publish my dissertation as a monograph.

References

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