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Global Perspectives	Telling China's Story to the World
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Global Perspectives	Telling China's Story to the World
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1

Unit

The Mission of Chinese Youths



There is no orthodox, fixed version of socialism. A blueprint will become a bright reality only when we combine the basic principles of scientific socialism with China's realities, historical and cultural traditions, and contemporary needs, and constantly analyze and summarize the lessons gained from our practice.

Xi Jinping, speech at the ceremony commemorating the bicentenary of the birth of Karl Marx, May 4, 2018

Socialism with Chinese characteristics is a fundamental achievement of the Party and the people, forged through innumerable hardships and great sacrifices, and it is the right path for us to achieve national rejuvenation.

Xi Jinping, speech at a ceremony marking the centenary of the Communist Party of China, July 1, 2021



Lead-in

The May 4th Movement was a critical moment in the course of modern China. As a major student-led movement protesting against the unfair treatment inflicted on China at the Paris Peace Conference, it embodied China's struggle against a feudal warlord government that yielded to foreign imperialism and aroused enthusiastic support of the Chinese people from all walks of life nationwide. The May 4th Movement symbolized the pioneering efforts of intellectuals in pursuit of national salvation and modernization, promoted the spreading of Marxism in China, and prepared the ideological foundation for the establishment of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 1921. Some called the movement the “Chinese Enlightenment,” while others referred to it as a “transformation of Chinese politics, society, and culture.”

The text in this unit is part of the speech made by President Xi Jinping at a conference marking the centenary of the May 4th Movement (April 30, 2019). It reinforces the far-reaching significance of the movement for realizing national independence and prosperity, and conveys the CPC's ardent expectations of contemporary Chinese youths. As China enters the new era, a young generation that embraces and revitalizes the spirit of the May 4th Movement is the guarantee of success in realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

Read and Respond



Read the following text and write an essay of 100-200 words in response to one of the following questions.

- 01 More than 100 years have elapsed since the May 4th Movement of 1919, a movement which left a lasting legacy in modern Chinese history. Choose one aspect of the legacy that you consider most relevant to China today, and explain why.

- 02 President Xi has mentioned the concept of the Chinese Dream in the text several times and on many other occasions. Do some research and explain what this concept means.

- 03 In your opinion, which aspect of the text is the most thought-provoking? Why?

Text

Carry On the Legacy of the May 4th Movement, and Be Worthy of the New Era

- ¹ Under the leadership of the Party, we have opened up the path of Chinese socialism, formed its theoretical framework, established its system, developed its culture, and brought it into a new era. The Chinese people have unprecedented confidence in the path, theory, system and culture of Chinese socialism, and the prospects for national rejuvenation have never been brighter.
- ² In the new era, the theme and direction of the Chinese youth movement and the mission of Chinese youths are to uphold the leadership of the CPC, and work along with other people to realize the Two Centenary Goals¹ and the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.
- ³ Youth is the most active and energetic element among all forces in society. You are the hope and future of our country. Today, in the most promising period of the Chinese nation, young Chinese are endowed with rare opportunities to achieve things, and the mission to shoulder great responsibilities. In this new era, you should continue to carry forward the spirit of the May 4th Movement and take on your mission to realize national rejuvenation. You should meet the expectations of our Party and our people, be worthy of the trust of the nation, and live up to the demands of this great era.
- ⁴ First, Chinese youths in the new era should establish great ideals.
- ⁵ The ideals and beliefs of youths have a bearing on the future of a country. Young people with great ideals and firm beliefs are the driving force that builds an invincible nation. High ambitions can stimulate your potential to forge ahead, so that you will not drift aimlessly like a boat without a rudder. It is said that “a person who aspires to be a saint will become a saint; and

a person who aspires to be a sage will become a sage.”² Young people have different life goals and career choices. But only when you integrate your goals with those of the nation and the people, advance with the times, and share the aspirations of the people will you live up to your values and realize the lofty goals of life. Disregarding the needs of the country and the interests of the people, those who are self-centered will find a narrower path ahead.

- 6 Young Chinese in the new era must have belief in Marxism, faith in Chinese socialism, and confidence in realizing the Chinese Dream. You must go out to the people, embrace the new era and the new world, and realize your ideals and beliefs in building your careers, so that the years of your youth will sparkle with innovation and creation.
- 7 Second, Chinese youths in the new era should love our country.
- 8 Dr Sun Yat-sen said that the biggest thing for a citizen is “knowing how to love one’s country.” Whoever does not love their country—or even worse, deceives and betrays their motherland—is a disgrace and has no place anywhere in the world. Love of our country, the feeling of devotion and sense of attachment to our motherland, is a duty and responsibility for every Chinese. It is the foundation on which young Chinese in the new era can become winners in life. In contemporary China, the essence of patriotism is loving our country, our Party and socialism all and at the same time.
- 9 Young Chinese in the new era should follow the instructions and guidance of the Party, and show concern and affection for our country and our people. You should dedicate yourself to the country and the people, demonstrate patriotism with lifelong sincerity and drive, and let the great banner of patriotism fly high in your heart.
- 10 Third, Chinese youths in the new era must shoulder your responsibilities.
- 11 The times call for responsibility, and our young people must take up the responsibility for national rejuvenation. As Lu Xun the great writer said, young people “have strength to spare; they can turn a dense forest into flat land, plant trees in the wilderness, and dig wells in the desert.” In the new journey towards national rejuvenation, we need to respond to major

challenges, guard against serious risks, overcome real obstacles, and resolve difficult problems. All these urgently demand the will to step forward in the face of difficulties. As long as young people are brave enough to shoulder responsibilities and fight hardships and risks, Chinese socialism will be full of vitality, potential and hope.

- 12 Young people must maintain your courage, fearing nothing and forging ahead in spite of difficulties and dangers. You should stand in the forefront and be the pioneers of national rejuvenation. There are people who are afraid to experiment and try out new things, or treat responsibilities as burdens and losses, or shirk their responsibilities and attend only to their own business. All such thoughts and acts are undesirable and those who entertain them will accomplish nothing and never be able to truly enjoy life.
- 13 Chinese youths must cherish this new era and grow with it. In the new era, you must work hard to perform on the vast stage of reform and opening up and on the journey to realizing the Chinese Dream. And you should endeavor to become morally, intellectually, physically, and aesthetically equipped to join and carry on the socialist cause.
- 14 Fourth, Chinese youths in the new era must work hard.
- 15 Hard work paints a bright backdrop for a young life. As Mao Zedong said, “Should I have 200 years to spare, I will surely swim for 3,000 *li* (1,500 km).” The mission of national rejuvenation must be achieved through hard work, as must the ideals of life. Without an arduous popular struggle, carried out especially by generations of young people, there would have been neither the present new era of Chinese socialism nor a future in which we will realize national rejuvenation. Over thousands of years, the Chinese nation has suffered numerous hardships, but none of them could defeat us; instead, they have lifted our national spirit, willpower and strength. Today, our living conditions have improved, but we, especially our young people, must retain the spirit and fine tradition of hard work. There will definitely be daunting challenges and even perilous storms in the new journey towards national rejuvenation. The spirit of arduous struggle is especially needed during the process. Hard work is not just a ringing slogan; it is about doing small things, completing every task, and fulfilling every duty. The road of hard work will

not be smooth, instead it will be cobbled with hardships and full of ups and downs. The strong can always rise from setbacks; they are never discouraged.

- 16 In the new era young Chinese must forge ahead as brave and devoted pioneers in the forefront of the times against all difficulties and obstacles, and work hard to blaze new trails, achieve successes and create miracles that will astonish the world.
- 17 Fifth, Chinese youths in the new era must have remarkable abilities.
- 18 Youth is a golden age for developing skills through hard work. “If you idle away your youth and achieve nothing, it’s no good lamenting in old age.”³
- 19 In this new era, knowledge updates quickly, the social division of labor is becoming more refined, and new technologies, models, and forms of business are emerging one after another. This not only provides a broad stage for young people to display your talents, but also raises new and higher requirements for your abilities. To achieve your ideals or to shoulder the mission of the times, young people must cherish and do justice to the prime of youth, study hard to acquire scientific knowledge, improve your capabilities, hone your skills, and keep up with new developments around the world in terms of thinking, vision, ideas, and level of understanding.
- 20 Chinese youths in the new era must have a stronger sense of urgency in learning, and work hard on studying the Marxist stance, viewpoint and methodology. You must master knowledge of science and culture and professional expertise. You must improve your attainment in humanities by educating yourselves and tempering your character through study. You must acquire more skills and become more professionally competent at work, so that you will be able to serve the people and make innovative and creative contributions to the country.
- 21 Sixth, Chinese youths in the new era should temper your moral character.
- 22 A person cannot succeed without virtues. This makes morality essential. The Chinese nation has been trying to attain moral qualities that repose in the heights of excellence. To build China into a strong modern socialist

country, we must enrich ourselves not only materially but culturally and ethically. Cultural and ethical progress is more lasting, more profound and more powerful. Young people must integrate sound moral appreciation and conscious moral development with active moral practice, to improve yourselves and maintain moral integrity. This way you will travel further in the correct direction on the path of life.

- ²³ Faced with a complex and changing international landscape, young people must differentiate between truth and falsehood and keep to the right path, and never blindly follow what others say or do. Facing temptation from the outside world, you must remain resolute, strictly abide by rules, create a better life with hard and honest work, and never be opportunistic or become conceited. While enjoying the good times, you should remember those who fought to make the present possible and work to repay them. You should be grateful to the Party, the country, the society and the people. You are expected to go through hardships, understand what life entails, get to know people's concerns and real problems, and identify the true meaning and value of life and work.
- ²⁴ In the new era young people must nurture and practice the core socialist values, draw nourishment from traditional Chinese virtues, learn from heroes and role models of the times, and enhance your moral integrity through introspection. You should recognize illustrious virtue, follow social ethics, and restrict personal desires, while guarding against temptations such as worship of money, self-indulgence, overly self-centered pursuits, and historical nihilism. You should aim high and look far to pursue a more lofty and fulfilling life, so that integrity and vitality will prevail throughout our society.

Notes

- 1 The Two Centenary Goals were put forth by the CPC for building socialism with Chinese characteristics. See Note 5, Page 116 for detailed information.
- 2 Wang Shouren: *Rules for Students at Longchang (Jiao Tiao Shi Long Chang Zhu Sheng)*. Wang Shouren (1472-1529), better known as Wang Yangming, was a neo-Confucian philosopher and educator of the Ming Dynasty.
- 3 Quan Deyu: "A Reflection on My Life" (Fang Ge Xing). Quan Deyu (759-818) was a writer and official of the Tang Dynasty.

Analytical Reading

Understanding the text

1 The following outline presents an overview of the text. Fill in the blanks to complete the outline.

Part I (Paras. 1-3): The mission of Chinese youths in the new era

To uphold the _____, and work along with other people to realize the _____ and the Chinese Dream of _____.

Part II (Paras. 4-24): How Chinese youths can accomplish the mission in the new era

- First, _____.
- Second, _____.
- Third, _____.
- Fourth, _____.
- Fifth, _____.
- Sixth, _____.

2 Discuss the following questions in pairs and share your ideas in class.

1. President Xi says, “Youth is the most active and energetic element among all forces in society. You are the hope and future of our country.” (Para. 3) Find other sayings, proverbs or famous quotes about the importance of youth for society.
2. How do you interpret the spirit of the May 4th Movement?
3. Why should Chinese youths in the new era establish great ideals?
4. President Xi says, “In contemporary China, the essence of patriotism is loving our country, our Party and socialism all and at the same time.” (Para. 8) How do you understand this statement?
5. How can young people “truly enjoy life” according to President Xi?

6. Why does President Xi stress the need for Chinese youths to carry on the fine tradition of hard work in the new era? How might this be interpreted under today's circumstances?
7. In this text President Xi encourages Chinese youths in the new era to develop remarkable abilities to achieve ideals and shoulder the mission of the times. What particular abilities do you think you must develop at college to prepare yourself for future challenges?
8. What particular virtues does President Xi highlight as fundamental for Chinese youths? Which virtue is most relevant to you personally? Why? What else would you like to add to the list?
9. President Xi says, "Faced with a complex and changing international landscape, young people must differentiate between truth and falsehood and keep to the right path, and never blindly follow what others say or do." (Para. 23) What do you think young people can do at college to cultivate such a quality?

Critical thinking

3 Discuss one of the following questions in small groups and share your ideas in class.

1. "Mr Democracy" and "Mr Science" were advocated by the youths of the May 4th Movement period as the two fundamental strategies to save China. In the new era, they are still regarded as pivotal by the CPC. Use examples to illustrate the importance of democracy and science in our pursuit of national rejuvenation.
2. Each generation has its own mission. Great changes have taken place in China and the world since the May 4th Movement. What do you think is the mission of your generation in the new era? How are you going to fulfill your mission personally?
3. President Xi says, only when "you integrate your goals with those of the nation and the people, advance with the times, and share the aspirations of the people will you live up to your values and realize the lofty goals of life." Search for some cases from all walks of life in China to illustrate how to integrate the goals of individuals with those of our nation and the people.

Global Perspectives

Read the following review of the legacy of the May 4th Movement. Write a summary of 200-300 words.



Exhibition Celebrating the Centenary of the May 4th Movement at Renmin University of China

- T**he May 4th Movement occurred on May 4, 1919 when a group of young students protested against the Beiyang Government's weak diplomatic response to the Treaty of Versailles, marking the beginning of China's New Democratic Revolution. It was a significant turning point in modern Chinese history, laying the groundwork for the foundation of the CPC in July 1921. In December 1949, the Chinese government declared May 4 China's Youth Day to honor the patriotic anti-imperialist and anti-feudal May 4th Movement. From then on, China celebrates the Youth Day every May 4.
- Under the CPC's leadership, China is no longer a country at the mercy of the Western colonial powers. Through tenacious struggles, it has achieved the historic transformation from standing up and growing prosperous to becoming strong. According to Benjamin Avichai Katz Sinvany, a scholar from Hopkins-Nanjing Center, Johns Hopkins University, "In many ways, the CPC has achieved the May 4th goal of rebuilding China and becoming politically and economically competitive on the world stage. China can now boast of a seat on the UN Security Council and the second largest economy in the world. Indeed, many Chinese have a lot to be proud of. If this is how China chooses to understand May 4th

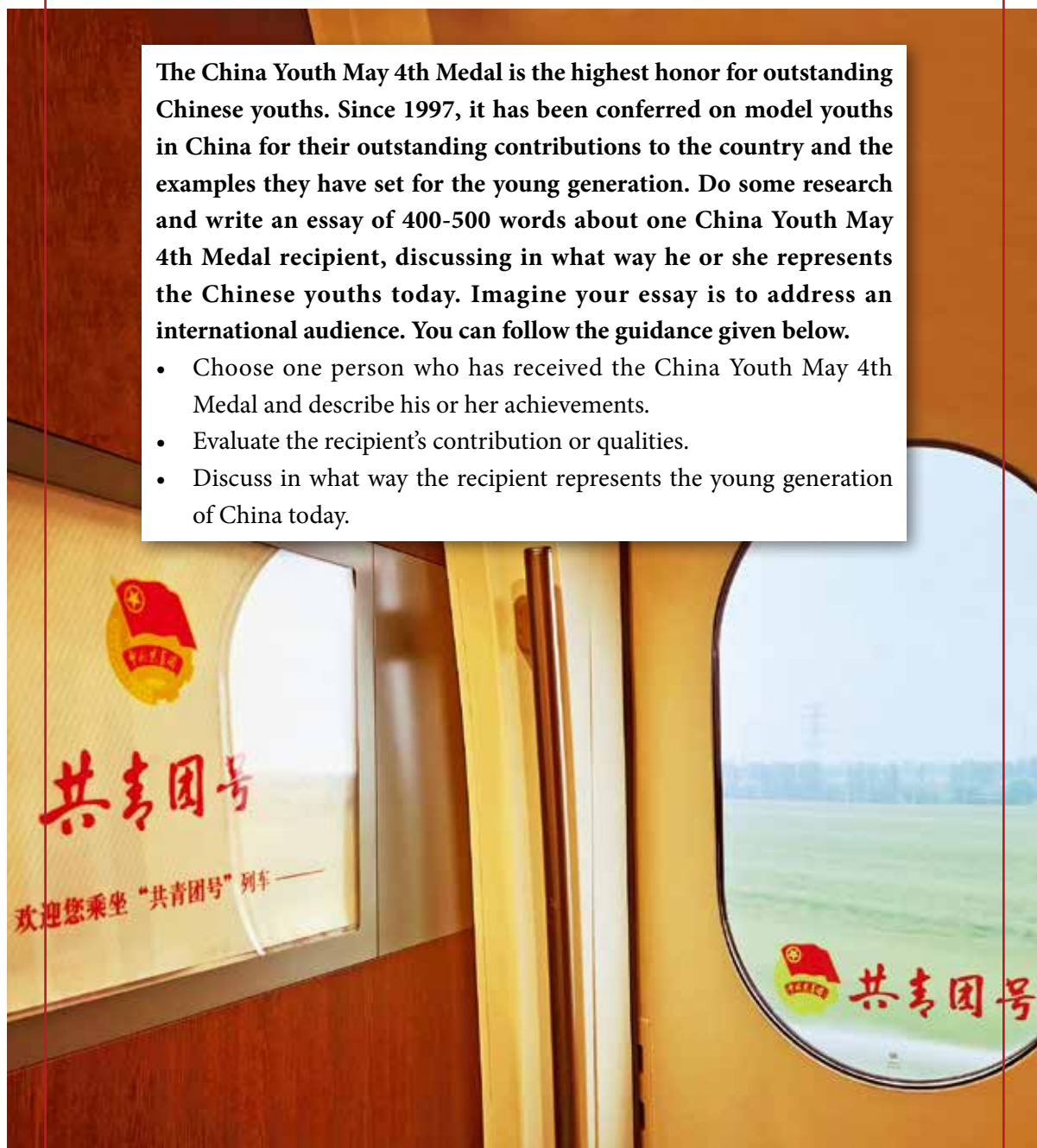
from the vantage point of the 21st century, then its legacy is one of affirmation for the CPC—that in a time of hardship and ideological turmoil, the Communist Party provided sound and steadfast guidance to China and the Chinese people through the tumultuous 20th century.”

- 3 Today, the May 4th spirit—patriotism, progress, democracy and science—has been passed down to the young generation in China.
- 4 The May 4th spirit motivates Chinese youths to uphold patriotism in the new era. For example, Chinese youths have emerged more confident and more patriotic after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a survey by the China Youth Daily, the average score of national pride among young Chinese aged 18 to 35 was 9.57 out of 10 in 2020, up from 9.18 in a similar survey in 2019. In another survey conducted by the Global Times Research Center in April 2021, approximately 90 percent of young Chinese believe China should not “look up to the West” anymore due to multiple reasons, including China’s socioeconomic development and the West’s failure in handling the COVID-19 pandemic. When talking about Chinese youths’ remarkable optimism and increasing national pride, Zak Dychtwald, CEO of Young China Group, said, “There’s the sense that they don’t want to westernize as they modernize. What they witness in their lifetime is this rags-to-riches story without parallel on the world stage. And they feel that exceptionalism. They are proud of that.”
- 5 The May 4th spirit inspires Chinese youths to play a pioneering role in helping realize China’s national rejuvenation. In the new era, Chinese youths are indeed the pioneers in the process of China’s realization of national rejuvenation, making remarkable achievements on the front line in many areas of society. Two typical examples are the Chang’e-4 lunar landing mission team and the Beidou team. The average age of the Chang’e-4 lunar landing mission team was 33 years old. Due to its outstanding achievement of completing the first soft landing on the far side of the moon, the Chang’e-4 lunar landing mission team was awarded the Team Gold Medal by the British Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) in November 2019, making it the first team from China to be awarded the Team Gold Medal since the inception of the RAeS in 1866. The average age of the Beidou team was 35 years old. It is because of this team’s great contribution that China has managed to break the West’s technological monopoly of the Navigation Satellite System.
- 6 Today, Chinese youths are expected to connect their own destiny with the destiny of China and contribute their share to national rejuvenation, at a time when China faces very different challenges and international responsibilities than it did over 100 years ago.

Telling **China's Story** to the World

The China Youth May 4th Medal is the highest honor for outstanding Chinese youths. Since 1997, it has been conferred on model youths in China for their outstanding contributions to the country and the examples they have set for the young generation. Do some research and write an essay of 400-500 words about one China Youth May 4th Medal recipient, discussing in what way he or she represents the Chinese youths today. Imagine your essay is to address an international audience. You can follow the guidance given below.

- Choose one person who has received the China Youth May 4th Medal and describe his or her achievements.
- Evaluate the recipient's contribution or qualities.
- Discuss in what way the recipient represents the young generation of China today.



Language in Focus

Words and phrases

- 1 Complete the following sentences by filling in each blank with an appropriate word or phrase from the box below. Change its form if necessary.

hone	prevail	blaze	temper
embrace	endow...with	live up to	do justice to
aspire to	have a bearing on	ups and downs	forge ahead
attend to	be worthy of	try out	

- The Decision proposes reform measures to improve the mechanisms and institutions for the integrated development of urban and rural areas: One, accelerating the building of a new type of agricultural operation system. Two, _____ farmers _____ more property rights. Three, promoting equal exchanges of factors of production and balanced allocation of public resources between urban and rural areas.
- Let our officials be true and practical, dedicated to work and bold to shoulder their responsibilities, so as to _____ the expectations of history and the people.
- The people _____ a better education, more stable jobs, higher incomes, reliable social security, better medical and health care, improved housing conditions, a beautiful environment, and richer intellectual pursuits and cultural entertainment.
- Maritime peace _____ the safety and interests of all countries, and thus needs to be protected and cherished by all.
- We should have the courage to break new ground and _____ new experiments, and at the same time, make active yet prudent efforts to advance reform swiftly and steadily.
- In implementing this strategy, we should _____ both general planning and specific, critical problems.
- When a gentleman errs, his mistake is as visible as a solar or lunar eclipse, but when he corrects it, he _____ respect again.
- In general, our relations have been improving over the decades, which is a reflection of the trend of history, despite the occasional _____.

9. Writers and artists should take a people-centered approach and draw inspiration from everyday life and the experiences of the people to produce works that _____ our times.
10. After many years of efforts, we have improved people's conditions and _____ a development path suited to China's reality.
11. We will work with our African friends to _____ a new era of mutually beneficial cooperation and common development.
12. We should enhance our ability to distinguish between right and wrong on political issues, maintain our political resolve, navigate political currents, and forestall political risks. A key aspect of this is to _____ the ability to analyze and resolve problems from a political perspective.
13. We need to promote the core socialist values, strengthen political and moral education, improve the nomination and commendation of role models who act bravely for justice, and let integrity and justice _____ in the whole society.
14. Young people should aim high, acquire more knowledge, _____ their will, and make their formative years richly rewarding ones in an era of progress.
15. Throughout his 70-year political career, he exhibited the indomitable courage to _____ with reform and an innovative spirit to think ahead and lead the way forward.

Translation

2 Translate the following sentences into English, paying special attention to the meaning of the expressions in bold.

1. 新时代中国青年要自觉**树立和践行社会主义核心价值观**, 善于从中华民族传统美德中汲取道德滋养, 从英雄人物和时代楷模的身上感受道德风范, 从自身内省中提升道德修为。
2. 勿忘昨天的苦难辉煌, 无愧今天的使命担当, 不负明天的伟大梦想, 以史为鉴、开创未来, 埋头苦干、勇毅前行, 为实现第二个百年奋斗目标、**实现中华民族伟大复兴的中国梦**而不懈奋斗。
3. 新中国成立 70 年来, 我们党领导人民创造了世所罕见的两大奇迹。一是**经济快速发展**奇迹……二是**社会长期稳定**奇迹。
4. 在中国共产党领导下, 我们开辟了**中国特色社会主义道路**, 形成了**中国特色社会主义理论体系**, 建立了**中国特色社会主义制度**, 发展了**中国特色社会主义文化**, 推动**中国特色社会主义进入了新时代**。

Discourse and rhetoric

3 Complete the following passage by choosing an appropriate sentence from the box to fill in each blank.

Facing the mighty tide of the times and the great expectations of the people for a better life, we must not become complacent or slacken off in the slightest. We must redouble our efforts and forge ahead relentlessly to advance the cause of building Chinese socialism and endeavor to realize the Chinese Dream of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

—1. _____ It is not an easy path. We are able to embark on this path thanks to the great endeavors of reform and opening up made in the past 30 years and more, the continuous quest made in the 60-plus years of the PRC, a thorough review of the evolution of the Chinese nation in its 170-plus years of modern history, and carrying forward the 5,000-plus years of Chinese civilization. 2. _____ The Chinese nation has extraordinary capabilities, with which it has built the great Chinese civilization and with which we can expand and stay on the development path suited to China's national conditions. 3. _____

—To realize the Chinese Dream, we must foster the Chinese spirit. 4. _____ This spirit unites the people and pools their strength, and it is the source for rejuvenating and strengthening the country. 5. _____ Our people of all ethnic groups must foster the great national spirit and follow the call of the times, strengthen our inner bond of unity and perseverance, and vigorously march towards the future.

- A. Patriotism has always been the inner force that binds the Chinese nation together, and reform and innovation have always been the inner force that spurs us to keep abreast of the times in the course of reform and opening up.
- B. The people of all ethnic groups in China should have full confidence in the path, theory and system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and steadfastly forge ahead along the correct Chinese path.
- C. It is the national spirit with patriotism at its core, and it is the spirit of the times with reform and innovation at its core.
- D. This path is deeply rooted in history and broadly based on China's present realities.
- E. To realize the Chinese Dream, we must take our own path, which is the path of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

4 Identify the rhetorical and stylistic devices employed in the Chinese sentences and their English translations. Comment on the effects of the rhetorical or stylistic devices in each pair.

1. 青年志存高远，就能激发奋进潜力，青春岁月就不会像无舵之舟漂泊不定。

High ambitions can stimulate your potential to forge ahead, so that you will not drift aimlessly like a boat without a rudder.

2. 奋斗是青春最亮丽的底色。

Hard work paints a bright backdrop for a young life.

3. 在实现中华民族伟大复兴的新征程上，必然会有艰巨繁重的任务，必然会有艰难险阻甚至惊涛骇浪。

There will definitely be daunting challenges and even perilous storms in the new journey towards national rejuvenation.

Ancient Chinese Wisdom

Explain the following quote and reflect on its contemporary relevance.

Just as heaven keeps moving forward vigorously, a man of virtue should strive continuously to strengthen himself.

Just like the earth, which is generous and peaceful, a man of virtue should have ample virtue and accommodate all things.

(天行健，君子以自强不息。地势坤，君子以厚德载物。)

From *The Book of Changes* (《周易》)



Further Reading

- 1 “Uphold and Develop Socialism with Chinese Characteristics”, *The Governance of China* (Volume I, Pages 23-26)
《毫不动摇坚持和发展中国特色社会主义》，出自《习近平谈治国理政》（第一卷，第 21—24 页）
- 2 “Achieving Rejuvenation Is the Dream of the Chinese People”, *The Governance of China* (Volume I, Pages 37-39)
《实现中华民族伟大复兴是中华民族近代以来最伟大的梦想》，出自《习近平谈治国理政》（第一卷，第 35—37 页）
- 3 “Develop and Popularize Marxism in the Modern Chinese Context”, *The Governance of China* (Volume II, Pages 68-70)
《继续推进马克思主义中国化时代化大众化》，出自《习近平谈治国理政》（第二卷，第 65—68 页）