

A Study on the Rectification Movement in the Jiaodong Revolutionary Base Area During the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression: Centering on Criticism and Self-Criticism

Yunze Zheng

Department of Marxism, Shandong Normal University, Jinan, China
15610175519@163.com

Abstract. Criticism and self-criticism in the rectification movement in the Jiaodong Revolutionary Base Area during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression were important practices of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to strengthen its own construction in the anti-Japanese struggle behind enemy lines, and are of great significance for understanding the laws of Party building in the enemy-occupied areas during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. From the background perspective, with the intensified expansion of international fascism and the domestic War of Resistance entering a difficult stage, Jiaodong faced not only external pressures from Japanese military "mopping-up operations" and attacks by die-hard elements, but also internal problems such as the interweaving of subjectivism, sectarianism, and Party stereotyped writing within the Party, as well as insufficient education for new Party members, making the rectification movement highly urgent. Combined with the specific practice of the central deployment in 1942 transmitted through the Northern Bureau and the establishment of the General Inspection Committee for Rectification in the Jiaodong area, the rectification movement in Jiaodong innovated ways to link hierarchical learning, wartime mobile criticism with mass supervision, achieving remarkable results in purifying the work style and enhancing organizational combat effectiveness. It was characterized by wide coverage of participation, targeted criticism, democratic and interactive process, and practical transformation of results. Continuously studying and attaching importance to this practice in the new era can provide a historical mirror for understanding the Party's self-renewal and empirical reference for comprehensively and strictly governing the Party.

Keywords: Jiaodong Revolutionary Base Area, Rectification Movement, Criticism and Self-Criticism, Party Building

1. Introduction

During the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, the Jiaodong Revolutionary Base Area, as an important part of the Shandong Anti-Japanese Base Area, occupied a strategic position in the

anti-Japanese struggle behind enemy lines. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that "the style of the Party is the image of the Party, bearing on the hearts of the people and the survival of the Party [1]." The rectification movement in the Jiaodong Base Area was a key measure to strengthen Party building and enhance combat effectiveness, providing a typical sample for exploring the CPC's ideological, organizational and work style construction in a complex environment. As the core mechanism of the rectification movement, criticism and self-criticism are of great value for understanding the essence of the rectification movement and the laws of Party building in the base area. The theoretical value of this study lies in deepening the understanding of the regional characteristics of the rectification movement and enriching the historical research on the Party's ideological construction; the practical significance is to provide historical reference for comprehensively and strictly governing the Party in the new era.

In terms of research status, existing achievements have explored the value of the rectification movement from different dimensions: Shan Lianchun pointed out that criticism and self-criticism are important magic weapons for the CPC's success in its century-long struggle, revealing their fundamental role in Party building [2]; Shen Chunsheng's research on the rectification movement in the Shandong Anti-Japanese Base Area provided a macro background for understanding regional rectification [3]; Huang Jiangjun analyzed the operational mechanism of criticism and self-criticism in the rectification movement from the perspective of the history of technology [4]; Zhang Wenzhen focused on the CPC's fine style of criticism and self-criticism during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, providing reference for grasping the formation of this tradition [5]. However, on the whole, most existing studies focus on the rectification movement as a whole or other regions, and there are few special discussions on the Jiaodong Base Area centering on criticism and self-criticism. In particular, research on how Jiaodong transformed the principles put forward by Mao Zedong in the Yan'an Rectification Movement, such as "Our task is to oppose subjectivism in order to rectify the study style, oppose sectarianism in order to rectify the Party style, and oppose Party stereotyped writing in order to rectify the writing style [6].", into regional characteristic criticism practices in combination with the actual situation of coastal combat and resource allocation is still weak. Although some studies mention the experience of carrying out criticism and self-criticism by the base areas behind enemy lines in the intervals between battles, they do not delve into Jiaodong's unique explorations in mass participation, the combination of military struggle and rectification, etc.

In summary, this study takes criticism and self-criticism in the rectification movement in the Jiaodong Revolutionary Base Area during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression as the core, explores its normative role in intra-Party unity and Party members' behavior in organizational construction, the path of closely linking the Party and the masses with the help of mass supervision in mass mobilization, and the practice of improving combat effectiveness in combination with actual combat needs in military struggle. By sorting out these specific measures, this study reveals the internal connection between this mechanism and the consolidation of the base area and the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, which can not only provide a regional perspective for understanding the CPC's rectification tradition in the environment of local governance, but also enrich the relevant research on the rectification movement in the Jiaodong Revolutionary Base Area.

2. The origin of the rectification movement in the Jiaodong Base Area

2.1. Historical background of the rectification movement in the Jiaodong Base Area

In the 1940s, global fascist forces continued to expand. As an extremely aggressive militarist country, Japan regarded China as a key springboard for dominating Asia. Against the background of the full-scale invasion of China, Japan launched heavy military attacks and strict blockades on the Jiaodong area. At that time, the Jiaodong Base Area, as an important part of the Shandong Anti-Japanese Base Area, was a strategic hub connecting the enemy-occupied battlefields in North China and East China. Japan attempted to cut off the connection between the Shandong Anti-Japanese Base Area and the outside world by controlling Jiaodong, thereby disintegrating the entire Shandong anti-Japanese system behind enemy lines. As the main eastern battlefield of the world anti-fascist war, the Chinese battlefield assumed the important mission of curbing Japan's expansion. The stability and combat effectiveness improvement of the Jiaodong Base Area were directly related to the overall situation of the anti-Japanese struggle behind enemy lines. Under such circumstances, the Party organization urgently needed to eliminate internal ideological obstacles and unite the fighting forces through the rectification movement, so as to lay a solid organizational foundation for coping with the complex war situation.

From the perspective of the domestic situation, the full-scale War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression entered a difficult stage, and the national government suffered successive defeats on the frontal battlefield. The Jiaodong Base Area not only faced frequent "mopping-up operations" by the Japanese army, but also was attacked by Kuomintang die-hard elements and local puppet troops, resulting in an extremely complex survival environment behind enemy lines. The economic blockade and military harassment by the Japanese army intertwined with the sabotage activities of die-hard elements led to a severe shortage of materials in the base area and a sharp increase in the survival pressure of the military and civilians. If the Party organization could not quickly strengthen its combat effectiveness, it would be difficult to lead the masses to resist multiple threats. This severe domestic struggle environment made it an urgent need for the Jiaodong Base Area to rectify the Party style and enhance organizational cohesion through the rectification movement to continue to adhere to the anti-Japanese struggle behind enemy lines.

2.2. Intra-party ideological and style problems and the urgency of rectification

During the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, the Party organization in the Jiaodong Base Area achieved rapid development with the advancement of the anti-Japanese struggle, and the number of Party members increased from less than 2,000 in 1938 to more than 60,000 in 1945 [7]. The rapid expansion of the Party organization scale made some ideological and style problems of Party members and cadres gradually exposed, becoming potential hidden dangers affecting the combat effectiveness of the base area.

First, the tendency of subjectivism was obvious among some cadres. Some cadres were used to mechanically copying superior instructions and lacked research on the actual situation of the Jiaodong Base Area - facing the complex combat environment of mountain guerrilla warfare and coastal defense, they still used fixed models to formulate strategies; when dealing with military-civilian relations, they were divorced from the actual production and living conditions of the masses, and even the phenomenon of "thinking of ways while sitting in the organ" appeared. Mao Zedong once pointed out sharply: "Subjectivism is the mortal enemy of the Communist Party, of the working class, of the people, of the nation, and a manifestation of impure Party spirit. With this mortal enemy

before us, it is necessary for us to overthrow it. Only when subjectivism is overthrown can the truth of Marxism-Leninism prevail, Party spirit be consolidated, and the revolution triumph. This style of being divorced from reality, if allowed to develop, will directly affect the effective implementation of the anti-Japanese war strategies in the base area [6]."

Second, the remnants of sectarianism were intertwined with the problem of insufficient education for new Party members. Individual cadres in some areas had a tendency of "small circles", giving priority to local interests in the deployment of troops and the distribution of materials, which hindered cross-regional coordinated operations. At the same time, most of the new Party members were farmers and young students. Although they had anti-Japanese enthusiasm, they lacked systematic theoretical education of the Party, had a one-sided understanding of policies such as the "Anti-Japanese National United Front" and "Protracted War", and even showed a bias of "emphasizing military affairs over the masses". Loose work style and weak sense of discipline occurred from time to time, affecting the cohesion of the Party organization.

Third, the breeding of Party stereotyped writing weakened the effectiveness of publicity and mobilization. When criticizing Party stereotyped writing, Mao Zedong pointed out its drawbacks such as "being full of empty words and having no substance" and "listing items like a Chinese medicine shop with A, B, C, D [6]". This judgment was reflected in some documents of the Jiaodong Base Area. Some publicity documents and work reports were full of "empty slogans", lacking targeted guidance for the specific work of the Jiaodong Base Area, which not only prevented the masses from accurately understanding the core of the policies, but also made grassroots cadres lack clear guidelines in implementation. For example, in the implementation of the policy of reducing rent and interest rates, the documents only emphasized principled requirements, but did not refine the implementation standards in combination with the economic characteristics of Jiaodong's "semi-agricultural and semi-fishing" economy; in mass mobilization, the publicity content was mostly abstract calls, without considering designing mobilization methods in combination with Jiaodong's folk customs and the characteristics of different groups. This style of being divorced from reality led to "layered" policy transmission and "weak" mass mobilization, which urgently needed to be completely reversed through rectification.

3. The practical course of criticism and self-criticism in the rectification movement in the Jiaodong Base Area

3.1. Guided by central deployment and implemented at all levels in Jiaodong

The practice of criticism and self-criticism in the Jiaodong Base Area was always promoted under the unified deployment of the Party Central Committee, forming an orderly transmission pattern from the central to local levels. In February 1942, Mao Zedong delivered the reports *Rectify the Party's Style of Work* and *Oppose Stereotyped Party Writing* in Yan'an successively, clarifying that the rectification movement centered on opposing subjectivism, sectarianism and Party stereotyped writing, and criticism and self-criticism were the key methods to implement the rectification of the "Three Styles", providing ideological and methodological guidance for the whole Party's rectification. Following the central deployment, the Jiaodong Regional Party Committee responded quickly and established the General Inspection Committee for Rectification Work in May 1942, with Lin Hao as the director, to coordinate the rectification work in the entire region; prefectural and county Party committees then set up corresponding working institutions, building a three-level linkage organizational system of "Regional Party Committee - Prefectural Party Committee - County Party Committee". This system not only ensured the comprehensive implementation of the

central rectification spirit in Jiaodong, but also laid a solid organizational foundation for the subsequent conduct of criticism and self-criticism in combination with the actual situation of the anti-Japanese struggle behind enemy lines, showing a clear promotion logic of "the central government sets the direction and local governments implement it".

3.2. Jiaodong adapts measures to local conditions and implements rectification in an orderly manner

Within the framework of the central deployment, the Jiaodong Base Area built a practical rectification implementation system based on the war environment behind enemy lines, promoting the transformation of criticism and self-criticism from principled requirements into specific practices. In view of the cognitive and work characteristics of Party members at different levels, the base area established a hierarchical learning mechanism: cadres at or above the county level focused on intensive reading of the rectification documents designated by the central government, and grasped the spiritual essence of criticism and self-criticism through in-depth discussions; grassroots cadres studied under the leadership of rectification instructors assigned by the regional Party committee, and interpreted the core requirements of rectification in combination with local work cases to help cadres understand how to integrate the spirit of criticism into daily work. To strengthen demonstration and guidance, in May 1943, the Jiaodong Regional Party Committee opened a "Rectification Special Edition" in its organ newspaper Dazhong Bao (Mass News), publishing typical cases of carrying out criticism and self-criticism in various places, and providing practical samples for the entire region through the sharing of public reflection and rectification experience; at the same time, the Jiaodong Party School selected and transferred prefectural and county-level cadres in batches for centralized training, advancing the process of "document learning - self-examination - group mutual evaluation - rectification publicity", and guiding leading cadres to take the lead in practicing the spirit of criticism and play an exemplary role.

Considering the high mobility of cadres caused by frequent Japanese "mopping-up operations", the Jiaodong Base Area innovated the forms of rectification: when the situation in the base area was relatively stable, large-scale reflection conferences were held to organize Party members to carry out criticism and self-criticism in a centralized manner; during intervals between battles, small-scale study discussions were organized in hidden places to carry out immediate criticism. In addition, carrier such as grassroots wall newspapers and villagers' assemblies were used to link intra-Party criticism with mass supervision, making criticism practices closer to the work scene behind enemy lines and avoiding the interruption of rectification due to environmental restrictions.

3.3. Innovating practical paths and deepening the effect of criticism

In specific practices, the Jiaodong Base Area broke through the limitations of formalism, transformed criticism and self-criticism into means to solve practical problems, and formed a multi-level and combat-oriented path. The rectification movement was closely combined with military struggle, and ideological rectification corrected deviations such as "emphasizing combat over people's livelihood" and "rigid tactics", promoting the improvement of the combat effectiveness of the army. It not only smashed the enemy's "mopping-up operations" and "nibbling" attempts, but also launched local counterattacks against the enemy from the second half of 1943. The rectification movement was closely combined with other work: work inspection was emphasized in the rectification, and the spirit of rectification was implemented in the work, making "the deep integration of military work and ideological rectification" an important feature of Shandong's

rectification [8]. Grassroots Party members combined criticism with production and combat tasks, reflected and discussed issues such as rent reduction disputes and lagging maritime intelligence in field labor and daily work, identified loopholes and formulated countermeasures through mutual criticism, and promoted the resolution of problems at the front line. The fine style of criticism and self-criticism of the Party during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression was originally aimed at avoiding empty reviews divorced from specific work, taking solving practical problems as the orientation, and taking the linkage between style construction and business advancement as the core. The grassroots practice in Jiaodong was a direct embodiment of this style. Mass supervision improved the closed loop of criticism: the base area collected mass opinions to promote the refinement of rent reduction rules and the optimization of the mechanism for land cultivation on behalf of military dependents, making the effect of criticism perceptible to the masses. The mass-participated criticism mechanism in the rectification movement provided an external reference for intra-Party innovation, made rectification meet the needs of the people, and formed a two-way circular law.

4. Distinctive characteristics of the practice of criticism and self-criticism in the Jiaodong Base Area

4.1. Extensiveness and full coverage of participation

First, the full participation of Party members, covering all levels from senior cadres to ordinary Party members. The Jiaodong Base Area adhered to the principle of "equality for all within the Party". At the expanded meeting of the Jiaodong Regional Party Committee in 1943, Lin Hao, Secretary of the Regional Party Committee, took the lead in making self-criticism, and the chiefs of various departments carried out mutual criticism on issues such as unbalanced resource allocation and poor policy transmission, forming a positive transmission chain of superiors taking the lead in demonstration and subordinates taking the initiative to follow up [8]. Grassroots Party members participated in criticism through daily mechanisms: rural Party members carried out criticism in the fields, focusing on practical affairs such as farm tool allocation and autumn defense patrols; organ Party members implemented a "weekly reflection system", self-examined work deficiencies and sorted out problems to establish rectification accounts. At the same time, differentiated guidance was implemented according to the characteristics of new and old Party members to ensure the accurate implementation of the criticism mechanism.

Second, the in-depth integration of the mass forces in the base area promoted the masses to shift from passive awareness to active participation in the supervision of Party members. The Jiaodong Base Area broke the closed nature of intra-Party criticism and incorporated the masses into the supervision system. Starting from 1943, the Jiaodong Base Area built a channel for expressing mass opinions with the help of Jiaodong Dazhong (Jiaodong Masses), collecting critical suggestions from the masses on the work of Party members through columns, covering areas such as policy implementation and material distribution. Some opinions directly promoted work adjustments, providing a normalized platform for mass supervision. At the grassroots level, face-to-face supervision was realized through "Party-mass meetings" and "deliberative assemblies", and regular evaluations of Party members were organized to conduct on-site inquiries on issues such as the distribution of materials for supporting the front and land cultivation on behalf of military dependents. Reasonable criticisms put forward by the masses were included in the assessment of Party members, and "mass satisfaction" became one of the core indicators, which was quantitatively scored by the "Peasants' Association for National Salvation" and "Women's Association for National

"Salvation", promoting the masses to transform from onlookers of supervision to in-depth participants and strengthening the effectiveness of Party member supervision.

Third, the comprehensive coverage of the regional scope, extending from the central area of the base area to all areas of the guerrilla zones. The Jiaodong Base Area set up criticism mechanisms according to geographical environmental differences: the central area established fixed mechanisms relying on "rectification study institutes", implemented a "weekly meeting + monthly summary" system, organized Party members to carry out criticism and self-criticism, and identified problems focusing on policy implementation and mass services. From the spring of 1943 to the autumn of 1944, the central area of Jiaodong strictly implemented the requirement of the Shandong Sub-bureau that "rectification must be combined with actual work". In 1944, the participation rate of Party members in criticism in stable areas reached more than 95%, and the rectification rate of problems such as "delayed policy transmission" and "lagging response to mass demands" exceeded 83% [9]. In the guerrilla zones, the Jiaodong Base Area innovated the form of "mobile criticism". During intervals between anti-"mopping-up operations", Party members held group meetings in hidden places such as caves and dense forests to immediately discuss and rectify problems such as "delayed intelligence transmission" and "unreasonable mass transfer routes". Adapted forms were also available in special areas such as coastal fishing villages and the Lushan mountainous area to ensure the all-round coverage of criticism practices.

4.2. Profundity and targetedness of criticism

The practice of criticism and self-criticism in the Jiaodong Base Area took "touching the essence, precise efforts, and serving practice" as the core, effectively avoiding formalism. When criticizing subjectivism, cadres did not correct superficial mistakes. For example, at the rectification meeting of the East China Sea Special Administrative Region in 1943, aiming at the problem of "dispersed troops in anti-mopping-up operations", they dug deep into the root cause of insufficient understanding of guerrilla tactics in the hilly terrain of Jiaodong, and formed a rectification idea of "concentrating troops and ambushing in mountainous areas". In response to sectarianism, Jiaodong eliminated the idea of "regional interests first" through "cross-regional cooperation review" - in some areas, material waste and poor intelligence due to insufficient cooperation were addressed, the importance of cooperation was clarified through review, and the requirements of rectifying sectarianism in the Shandong Base Area were implemented.

Criticism strategies varied according to different objects, achieving precise "targeted treatment". For leading cadres, criticism focused on overall planning capacity and practical implementation results. For example, in the economic review of the Party committee in Jiaodong in 1944, prefectural Party committee secretaries were required to reflect on "insufficient output of textile mills", dig deep into the root cause of "failure to coordinate raw materials and skill training", and build a "production and sales coordination" mechanism [10]. Grassroots Party members focused on improving style details in rectification practices, conducting in-depth reflections on issues strongly reflected by the masses such as "harsh tone in labor assignment" and "uneven grain distribution". In some areas, such as rural Party members in Rongcheng County, they collected mass opinions through a "mass satisfaction reverse evaluation" mechanism, forcing themselves to change their work style and effectively solving specific contradictions related to the production and life of the masses [11]. This differentiated criticism promoted the work of the base area, which was particularly prominent in the practice of reducing rent and interest rates - when the West China Sea Prefectural Party Committee formed a work group to carry out pilot projects in Ye County and Yenan County in July 1942, in response to the food shortage of the masses, it took "borrowing grain" as a

breakthrough to launch the movement of reducing rent and interest rates. According to statistics, "in 1942, 99 rent reduction struggles were carried out in Ye County, reducing grain by 19,900 jin; 13 interest reduction struggles were carried out, reducing interest by 58,200 yuan; landlords were also forced to return 256 mu of pledged land withdrawn from tenant farmers", accurately solving the survival problems of the masses, which was an important embodiment of the effectiveness of the rectification movement [4].

Criticism always closely followed practical needs, taking solving problems as the fundamental orientation. In the great production movement, in response to the problem of "slow land reclamation progress", the Party organization of the base area did not talk empty about "labor enthusiasm" in criticism, but directly pointed out the specific crux of "unreasonable grouping of mutual aid groups and uneven distribution of farm tools". During the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, in the face of practical difficulties in land reclamation and production in the Bohai Reclamation Area, the CPC carried out production support through mutual cooperation in production. In response to the disconnection between labor organization and material allocation, it relied on the Peasants' Association to coordinate the construction of mutual aid groups, promote the reasonable matching of labor and farm tools, and gradually solve the problem of low efficiency [12]. In response to the phenomenon of "declining enthusiasm of the masses to join the army", criticism in-depth analyzed practical problems such as "poor implementation of land cultivation on behalf of military dependents" and "delayed distribution of preferential care grain". In the preferential care work in the Jiaodong Anti-Japanese Base Area, due to unclear responsibilities for land cultivation on behalf of military dependents and cumbersome procedures for the distribution of preferential care grain, the living difficulties of some military dependents affected the willingness of the masses to join the army. The Jiaodong Party organization actively carried out criticism and rectification, not only improving the preferential care system by clarifying the responsibilities of village-level teams for land cultivation on behalf of military dependents and simplifying the distribution procedures of preferential care grain, but also strengthening the demonstration effect by selecting and commending model supporters of the army, effectively solving the worries of military dependents and re-stimulating the enthusiasm of the masses to join the army. This "problem-oriented" criticism model directly transformed the effectiveness of rectification into the combat effectiveness of base area construction.

The combination of profundity and targetedness made criticism not only touch the ideological soul, but also solve practical problems, becoming the key to the effective implementation of the rectification movement in the Jiaodong Base Area, and demonstrating the practical wisdom of the CPC in daring to carry out self-revolution.

4.3. Democracy and interactivity of the process

The practice of criticism and self-criticism in the Jiaodong Base Area took democracy as the background and interaction as the link, building a dynamic system connecting up and down and linking the military and civilians, making the rectification process a practical carrier for gathering consensus and stimulating vitality.

First, intra-Party criticism was always carried out in an equal atmosphere, completely breaking hierarchical barriers and identity boundaries. The base area clearly stipulated that "there is no difference in position in the face of criticism". Leading cadres accepted criticism as ordinary Party members, and ordinary Party members had full right to speak. In the rectification work of the Jiaodong Regional Party Committee in 1944, grassroots Party members spoke bluntly about the problem of leading cadres being divorced from the masses, and cases where clerical clerks criticized

superiors for insufficient research were common. The Party organization emphasized the "supervision right of grassroots Party members", requiring leading cadres to regularly go deep into rural areas and fishing villages to listen to opinions and rectify bureaucratic tendencies. For example, at the military democratic meeting held by the independent battalion of Ye County, soldiers could directly put forward revised suggestions on the battalion commander's tactical deployment. After the suggestion of "adding a feint unit during night attacks" was adopted, the success rate of ambush battles increased significantly, which was consistent with the tradition of the Jiaodong anti-Japanese armed forces to absorb soldiers' opinions to optimize tactics. Both the hierarchical breakthrough in the Party and government system and the absorption of opinions in military units transformed the institutional requirement of equal intra-Party criticism into practical actions, injecting democratic vitality into the rectification movement.

Second, the criticism process formed a complete chain of two-way interaction and closed-loop rectification, avoiding formalism of "only criticizing but not solving problems" from the mechanism. Grassroots Party organizations in the base area generally established registration books for critical opinions, and through process management of "clarifying rectification responsible persons, delimiting completion time limits, and setting acceptance standards", ensured that every criticism received a response, and the rectification results needed to be fed back to the critic face to face, forming a closed loop of "criticism - rectification - feedback". For example, the Party branch of Hetoudian Village in Laixi County re-calculated the distribution plan and invited villagers' representatives to supervise in response to the criticism of "public grain distribution favoring Party members' families", forming a scoring method based on population, labor force and difficulty level, which significantly improved mass recognition. Such practices were widely promoted in Jiaodong. For example, Ye County solved the problem of distribution fairness through "villager supervision of rent reduction" and "grain borrowing publicity", with 108 households in 17 villages providing 24,361 jin of grain to relieve 1,189 people [4]. This closed-loop rectification model was widely promoted in the region: the Beihai Special Administrative Office also ensured the fairness of resource allocation through villagers' representative supervision in the implementation of beneficial policies, truly making criticism a powerful tool to solve practical problems and improve work effectiveness.

Third, mass participation built a democratic and interactive pattern of joint supervision by the military and civilians, extending the democracy of criticism from within the Party to the social level. To close the connection with the masses, Dazhong Bao in Jiaodong irregularly published columns such as "Readers' Mailbox" and "Red Board and Black Board" according to mass needs, and collected opinions through door-to-door communication; these measures fully considered the reading and expression characteristics of groups such as rural elderly and women, lowered the threshold for opinion feedback, and enabled more masses to participate in the supervision and suggestions on the work of the base area, becoming an important carrier for connecting intra-Party criticism with mass supervision [13]. In 1945, Jiaodong Dazhong set up a column "Voice of the Masses", and after publishing the criticism of villagers in Penglai County on "unclear accounts of village cooperatives", the county Anti-Japanese Federation, together with the township Party committee, conducted verification and rectification, returned materials and publicized the results. Weihai and Yantai also collected opinions through the "Chinese National Liberation Vanguard" organization and the Anti-Japanese Salvation Association, covering everything from the accuracy of grain distribution scales to the distribution of materials for supporting the front, all of which were included in rectification. This down-to-earth approach not only laid a broad democratic foundation for criticism, but also made the effectiveness of rectification stand the test of the masses.

Equal intra-Party criticism, two-way rectification interaction and mass participation in supervision together outline the democratic characteristics of criticism practices in the Jiaodong Base Area. The unity of this democracy and interactivity not only improved the effectiveness of the rectification movement, but also tempered the Party organization's ability in mass work, injecting lasting vitality into the consolidation and development of the base area.

4.4. Pragmatism and transformability of results

The practice of criticism and self-criticism in the Jiaodong Base Area took "solving practical problems" as the core orientation, promoting the in-depth transformation of criticism results from the ideological level to the practical level, forming a complete closed loop of "criticism - rectification - consolidation", showing distinct pragmatic characteristics.

First, ideological rectification formed long-term constraints through institutionalization, avoiding short-term rectification of "a gust of wind". In response to the problem of "superficial research", the Jiaodong Regional Party Committee clearly required in the second "streamlining administration and reducing personnel" in 1943 that cadres at all levels should "go deep into the grassroots to verify policy implementation", and establish a "regular inspection and mass feedback" mechanism around people's livelihood work such as rent reduction, preferential care for military dependents, and the construction of mutual aid groups. Among them, district-level cadres should strengthen on-the-spot research on the villages under their jurisdiction, and county-level cadres should regularly organize mass forums, transforming "seeking truth from facts" into quantifiable criteria, which was consistent with the practical logic of the Jiaodong Party organization to "strengthen style construction" and "close the relationship between cadres and the masses". In political power construction, it ensured the implementation of policies and prevented bureaucracy through the standardization of cadres' work [4]. The criticism of sectarianism gave birth to a cross-regional cooperation system: clarifying the procedures for material allocation and military support, significantly improving the response efficiency of cross-regional operations, and completely changing the state of "fighting separately". This was in line with the traditional armed cooperation in Jiaodong - "after the Tianfushan · Weihai Uprising, the Jiaodong Special Committee established a military and political committee and a headquarters of the Third Army, clarified the command system, formulated rules for cross-regional military and material cooperation, and changed the scattered state of local armed forces [14]". This idea of "institutionalizing the solution to ideological problems" ensured the long-term effectiveness of rectification and made the results of criticism become long-term work norms to follow.

Second, practical shortcomings were transformed into work achievements under the impetus of criticism, directly serving the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the construction of the base area. In response to the criticism of "disorganized organization of the great production movement", various places integrated labor into "labor-exchange teams" and "mutual aid groups", followed Mao Zedong's policy of "organizing the masses' forces" in Organize the People, optimized the structure of mutual aid groups and allocated farm tools. The Jiaodong Base Area established mutual aid organizations to alleviate the shortage of labor and farm tools, with grain output increasing by 25% in 1944, exceeding the military supply reserve target. Reflection on "rigid tactics" in the military field gave birth to innovation: Haiyang County combined "sparrow warfare" with "mine warfare" according to the terrain, and used the tactic of "luring the enemy into positions - piecemeal harassment" in anti-"mopping-up operations" in 1945, with a success rate of 82%, which was in line with Mao Zedong's strategic judgment on guerrilla warfare - "Thus, the Chinese anti-Japanese guerrilla warfare has stepped out of the tactical scope and knocked on the door of strategy, demanding that the issue of guerrilla warfare be examined from a strategic perspective

[15]." The Jiaodong militia upgraded guerrilla tactics to strategic practice through tactical innovation, improving combat effectiveness. The problem-oriented improvement was in line with the needs of the struggle, demonstrating the value of the rectification movement.

Third, mass opinions were transformed into the foundation of governance through governance mechanisms, making pragmatic results tangible and perceptible. In response to the problem of "poor implementation of land cultivation on behalf of military dependents" reflected in Dazhong Bao, various places established a "land cultivation responsibility card system for military dependents", which was checked and publicized monthly by the Peasants' Association for National Salvation. The Jiaodong Base Area once guaranteed the production of military dependents through methods such as "fixed land cultivation on behalf of others". For example, Yang Zhenkuan, a model supporter of the army, actively promoted the fixed land cultivation model of "one person cultivating three mu of land on behalf of others", ensuring the production and living of military dependents through land cultivation on behalf of others. His deeds drove 22 young people around to join the army; after the implementation of the land cultivation mechanism on behalf of military dependents, the living difficulties of military dependents were significantly alleviated, and their recognition of the land cultivation work led by the Party organization was greatly improved [16]. In response to the rectification of "unfair tax measurement", a "mass supervisor system" was implemented. Five counties including Ye County reduced complaints through "unified calibration of measuring tools + on-site supervision by villagers' representatives". The Party organization in the Bohai Reclamation Area solved the problems of "lack of grain and seeds and no guarantee for production" in land reclamation and production through measures such as "providing grain and seeds on loan before production, mutual cooperation during production, and reasonable burden after production", clarified the distribution principle of "military dependents and industrial dependents having priority in obtaining production support", and relied on the Peasants' Association to solve land disputes and resource inequality problems. These measures significantly improved the "enthusiasm of the masses for production, with the number of people taking the initiative to participate in land reclamation nearly doubling compared with 1942". Many masses said, "The Communist Party helped us cultivate land and have enough to eat, so we should support the base area", and responded to the organizational care by paying more public grain and participating in supporting the front, effectively reflecting the rectification results [17].

The transformation of mass opinions in the Jiaodong Base Area, from institutional consolidation to practical breakthroughs and then to the cohesion of popular support, not only reflected the transformation logic of "ideological criticism - practical improvement", but also confirmed the fundamental purpose of the rectification movement of "transforming ideology for better practice", making criticism and self-criticism truly a "practical weapon" to promote the development of the base area, and providing a solid guarantee for the consolidation of the Jiaodong Base Area and the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

5. Historical influence and important significance of criticism and self-criticism in the Jiaodong Base Area

5.1. Consolidated the anti-enemy foundation of the Jiaodong Base Area

First, the combat effectiveness of the Party organization improved systematically. After the rectification movement in the Jiaodong Base Area cleared up the remnants of sectarianism in 1944, the cross-regional cooperation mechanism was significantly optimized: the response speed of reinforcements between the East China Sea and West China Sea regions in anti-"mopping-up

operations" doubled compared with 1942, breaking the problem of lagging cooperation caused by "priority to regional interests" previously [16]. The Jiaodong Military Region abandoned empiricism and formulated mountain defense and sea-land coordinated strategies in 1944 according to the terrain differences between Yashan and the Bohai Sea, effectively resisting the Japanese army. Second, the sense of discipline of Party members was significantly strengthened. In response to the rectification requirements, the Bohai Reclamation Area implemented a "publicity and accountability system for land reclamation tasks" in 1943 for problems such as "unfulfilled indicators, misappropriation of farm tools, and labor slack" among Party, government and military personnel in land reclamation and production, clarifying that each organ cadre had a land reclamation indicator of 1 mu and each military personnel had an indicator of 0.5 mu; those who failed to complete the tasks needed to submit a written review and rectify within a time limit; at the same time, it was stipulated that farm tools should be uniformly registered and allocated, and private misappropriation was strictly prohibited [13]. After implementation, the completion rate of land reclamation by organ personnel in the second half of 1943 rose from 65% in 1942 to 92%, the number of irregularities such as misappropriation of farm tools and labor slack decreased from 28 to 5, and the allocation cycle of land reclamation materials was shortened from 10 days to 4 days, ensuring that all materials were in place before spring ploughing [13]. Third, the joint efforts of the military and civilians were transformed into anti-risk potential energy. "In 1944, with the gradual improvement of the situation of the anti-Japanese struggle behind enemy lines, the Shandong Anti-Japanese Base Area took the lead in launching a local counterattack, and through a series of operations and base area expansion actions, the area of the liberated areas increased by 40,000 square kilometers compared with before, with an increase of nearly 10 million in population, laying a spatial and human foundation for the subsequent full-scale counterattack [18]." From May to July 1945, the Shandong Anti-Japanese Base Area launched a summer offensive, focusing on attacking Japanese and puppet army strongholds and traffic lines. During this period, a total of more than 300 Japanese soldiers and more than 30,000 puppet soldiers were annihilated, further compressing the scope of enemy-occupied areas, consolidating the counterattack achievements of the base area, and promoting the contiguous development of sub-regional base areas such as Jiaodong, Luzhong and Binhai [18]. The military and civilians in the Shandong Base Area were integrated into one, laying a solid foundation for the victory of the counterattack.

5.2. Promoted the all-round development of the base area

Criticism, oriented to solving problems, boosted the coordinated development of economy, culture and education, building a dual material-spiritual support: at the economic level, it broke through the blockade bottleneck. In 1942, the Jiaodong Regional Party Committee stabilized the order with "currency struggle + trade regulation", promoted policies to eliminate the French currency and protect the Beihai currency, and organized personnel to go to enemy-occupied areas to purchase urgently needed materials; the 5th Brigade of the Eighth Route Army ambushed Japanese and puppet army convoys, seized military supplies and gold concentrate powder trucks, and frustrated their economic plunder [4]. These measures broke the blockade and enhanced economic strength. The cultural work in the Jiaodong Base Area was closely in line with the rectification requirement of "opposing formalism". The organ newspaper Jiaodong Dazhong opened columns such as "Praise and Criticism" and "Literary and Art News" in 1943, regularly publishing readers' opinions and suggestions on cultural publicity work [19]; in 1944, it adjusted the content direction according to mass feedback, strengthened reports on the theme of production and supporting the front, and literary and art workers adapted folk songs and compiled local operas to condense the masses with

popular expressions; at the educational level, it returned to practicality. The Jiaodong Regional Party Committee promoted innovation with Dazhong Bao, published On New Democracy in full text as teaching materials in January 1940, radio personnel copied and received information despite enemy situation to ensure learning, and the newspaper trained more than 30 journalists into cadres through practical training, sending hundreds of talents in the fields of journalism and telecommunications to various places, becoming a wartime educational position.

5.3. Enriched the practical path of party building

Jiaodong explored rectification innovations based on the situation behind enemy lines, providing a practical paradigm for Party building. The core innovations were in three aspects: in terms of rectification methods, it innovated the "wartime rectification" mechanism, holding "field criticism meetings" in intervals between anti-"mopping-up operations". For example, Laidong County once reviewed tactical deviations in sweet potato cellars, and this model was promoted by the Northern Bureau as the "rectification work method in guerrilla zones", solving the problem of ideological construction during the war; in terms of mass participation mechanism, it formed a closed loop of "self-examination - evaluation - rectification" with "Party-mass evaluation meetings". The "three-day settlement system" in Zhaoyuan County in 1945 was affirmed by the Central Party School. In promoting the transformation path of rectification from intra-Party affairs to the joint construction of the Party and the masses, it institutionalized the problems of "administrative redundancy and scattered military command" found through criticism: in August 1942, Jiaodong issued a directive on streamlining administration and reducing personnel, standardizing the establishment of the three-level government; in March 1943, it merged the 5th Brigade with the Jiaodong Military Region to implement cross-regional cooperation. In 1945, the Central Government affirmed its "avoidance of formalism in rectification" [4]. After the rectification through the rent and interest reduction struggle, the militia team in Longbo, Wulong County had 47 members, including 21 Party members, 32 poor peasants, 15 middle peasants and 1 worker; the supporting self-defense team had 87 members, and the 9 rifles equipped were all controlled by Party members, ensuring the long-term effectiveness of rectification results through institutional guarantees [20].

5.4. Influenced the development process of the Chinese revolution

The rectification in Jiaodong during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, with criticism and self-criticism as the starting point, was not only a driving force for the revolution behind enemy lines, but also a regional sample of the localization of Marxism in China, confirming the fine style of "integrating theory with practice" and demonstrating the practical wisdom of the CPC in combining universal truths with the actual situation of regional struggles. Faced with enemy and puppet "mopping-up operations" and governance problems, mechanical application of experience was difficult to break the predicament, while the normalization of criticism and self-criticism enabled Jiaodong to achieve the integration of theory and practice: in response to the problem of some local militias "emphasizing quantity over quality" and being manipulated by undesirable forces, the base area reflected on deviations in combination with the Marxist viewpoint of the masses, cleared impure elements and absorbed active masses through democratic evaluation, making grassroots armed forces take root among the basic masses; facing the contradiction between armed training and agricultural production, the base area examined the tendency of "emphasizing combat over people's livelihood" with Marxist dialectical thinking, and innovated the "combination of military service and labor" model to balance wartime mobilization and mass production; in

response to the chaotic command of grassroots organizations, it filled the loopholes in the system according to the Marxist theory of Party building, built a vertical management system of "county - district - township - village", clarified powers and responsibilities, and improved executive power. This practice of finding problems through criticism and promoting innovation through self-criticism, based on the actual situation of Jiaodong, transformed Marxism into governance solutions, not only consolidating the foundation of the anti-Japanese struggle behind enemy lines, but also verifying with regional practice that "integrating theory with practice" is the key path for the localization of Marxism in China, providing a valuable practical sample for the whole Party.

6. Conclusion

General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that "criticism and self-criticism are a good medicine, a true love for comrades and oneself". Criticism and self-criticism in the rectification movement in the Jiaodong Revolutionary Base Area during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression were vivid practices of the CPC to rectify the Party's style and deepen self-revolution in the complex environment behind enemy lines. Starting from the urgent needs of the base area, to the practice of hierarchical classification and military-civilian linkage, and then to the distinctive characteristics of wide participation and pragmatic efficiency, this mechanism not only promoted the Party organization in the Jiaodong Base Area to purify its style and enhance combat effectiveness, but also helped the coordinated development of economy, culture and education, laying a solid foundation for the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. Its explorations such as "rectification while fighting" and "opening the door to accept advice and supervise reform" not only added fresh experience to the theory and practice of Party building, but also provided specific examples for the deepening of the localization of Marxism in China at the regional level. Standing in the new era, revisiting this period of history can not only deepen the understanding of the laws of the Party's self-renewal, but also provide a historical mirror for comprehensively and strictly governing the Party and consolidating the connection between the Party and the masses, enlightening the whole Party to always temper its style with the spirit of criticism, practice its original aspiration with pragmatic actions, and constantly gather forging ahead forces on the new journey.

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