



# Speech at a Ceremony Marking the Centenary Of the Communist Youth League of China

## 在庆祝中国共产主义青年团 成立100周年大会上的讲话

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Members of the Communist Youth League of China (League), young friends, and comrades,

Youth gives rise to infinite hope, and young people are the creators of a bright future. A nation can thrive and prosper only when it places hopes on its youth and maintains its youthful vigor.

Today, we are gathered here at the ceremony marking the centenary of the Communist Youth League of China to encourage League members and young people to forge ahead on the new journey toward realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

First of all, on behalf of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, I would like to extend warm congratulations and sincere greetings to all League members as well as Communist Youth League organizations and staff at all levels.

League members, young friends, and comrades,

The Chinese nation is an ancient nation with a long, enduring history and has experienced many years of vicissitudes. More importantly, it is also a youthful nation that continuously pursues self-improvement and remains vibrant. With a civilization of over 5,000 years, our nation has long cherished the traditional belief that heroes are cultivated from young age and embraces the idea that the waves behind drive on those ahead. We believe a nation will be strong only when its young people are strong and a nation will make progress only when its younger generations make progress. We have always believed that the future of our nation rest on youths. For hundreds of years, the strength, vitality, and creativity of the youth have always been a mighty force that drives our nation forward against all challenges and enables it to stand tall among the nations of the world.

The destiny of the youth is always closely connected with the times. After the Opium War of 1840, China was gradually reduced to a semi-colonial, semi-feudal society and suffered greater ravages than ever before. The country endured intense humiliation, the people were subjected to great pain, and the Chinese civilization was plunged into darkness. Many noble-minded patriots sought to pull the nation together. Many progressive young people were enlightened at this "Awakening Age." The great May Fourth Movement promoted the spread of Marxism in China, ushered in the new-democratic revolution, and marked the beginning of the youth's role as the pioneers advancing social changes in China.

共青团员们，青年朋友们，同志们：

青春孕育无限希望，青年创造美好明天。一个民族只有寄望青春、永葆青春，才能兴旺发达。

今天，我们在这里隆重集会，庆祝中国共产主义青年团成立100周年，就是要激励广大团员青年在实现中华民族伟大复兴中国梦的新征程上奋勇前进。

首先，我代表党中央，向全体共青团员和各级共青团组织、团干部，致以热烈的祝贺和诚挚的问候！

共青团员们，青年朋友们，同志们！

中华民族是历史悠久、饱经沧桑的古老民族，更是自强不息、朝气蓬勃的青春民族。在5000多年源远流长的文明历史中，中华民族始终有着“自古英雄出少年”的传统，始终有着“长江后浪推前浪”的情怀，始终有着“少年强则国强，少年进步则国进步”的信念，始终有着“希望寄托在你们身上”的期待。千百年来，青春的力量，青春的涌动，青春的创造，始终是推动中华民族勇毅前行、屹立于世界民族之林的磅礴力量！

青年的命运，从来都同时代紧密相连。1840年鸦片战争以后，中国逐步成为半殖民地半封建社会，国家蒙辱、人民蒙难、文明蒙尘，中华民族遭受了前所未有的劫难。一批又一批仁人志士为救国救民而苦苦追寻，一大批先进青年在“觉醒年代”纷纷觉醒。伟大的五四运动促进了马克思主义在中国的传播，拉开了新民主主义革命的序幕，也标志着中国青年成为推动中国社会变革的急先锋。



With the youth awakened and advanced ideas disseminated, the dynamic revolution quickly swept across the vast land of China. As Marxism-Leninism was becoming closely integrated with the Chinese workers' movement, the Communist Party of China was born. Since the day of its founding, the Party has paid particular attention to the youth and placed the hopes of revolution on them. At its First National Congress, the Party carried out specific studies into the establishment and development of a youth league as the prep school for the Party. On May 5, 1922, the Communist Youth League of China was founded under the direct care and leadership of the CPC, marking a milestone in the history of China's revolution and youth movement.

Faithfully following the Party and working for the Party and the people constitute the Communist Youth League's original aspiration and founding mission, to which the League has stayed true over the past century. Under the Party's strong leadership, it has organized and guided generation after generation of young people to stay firm in their convictions and loyal to the Party, fight for national independence and the people's liberation, and contribute to the country's strength and prosperity and the happiness of the people. Through these efforts, a stirring chapter of youth was written on our path toward China's national rejuvenation.

In the period of the new-democratic revolution, the Communist Youth League actively engaged in promoting Marxism in China, enlightening young people with advanced ideas and rallying their force. Under the League's leadership, its members and young people devoted themselves to anti-imperialist and anti-feudal movements of workers, peasants, and students, actively served in revolutionary armies led by the Party, and fought in the battles to bring down warlords, resist Japanese invaders, and overthrow the rule of the Kuomintang. They manifested a spirit of fighting bravely without fear of sacrifice. Charging forward through hailstorms of bullets, League members and young people showed their firm faith and passed the test of life and death, dedicating their youth to the victory of China's revolution and making outstanding contributions.

In the period of socialist revolution and construction, the Communist Youth League took an active part in the most extensive and profound social reform in the Chinese history. Its members acted as the spearhead in various campaigns and they were organized to reclaim uncultivated land, educate the illiterate, and learn from the model soldier Lei Feng. Under the League's leadership, its members and young people were empowered by the spirit of "daring to make the sun and the moon shine in the new sky" and shouted out the slogan of "devoting our youth to the motherland." They rose to all sorts of challenges, no matter in scientific researches or the harsh natural environment. They manifested a spirit of daring to struggle and working hard. Pulling through hardships and dangers, League members and young people took the initiative to shoulder responsibilities and braved themselves in the most challenging and demanding missions, dedicating their youth to the country's construction and making outstanding contributions.

In the new period of reform and opening up and socialist modernization, the Communist Youth League adjusted itself to the strategic shift in the focus of the Party and the country's work, freed the mind, and forged ahead with resolve. It launched a large number of creative initiatives, encouraging young people to be "pacesetters of the New Long March," to uphold "five things to stress," "four things to beautify," and "three things to love," to join the Project Hope for children's education in rural areas, to serve as volunteers, to perfect their professional performances, and to work for the envi-

青春力量一经觉醒, 先进思想一经传播, 中华大地便迅速呈现出轰轰烈烈的革命新气象。在马克思列宁主义同中国工人运动的紧密结合中, 中国共产党应运而生。中国共产党一经诞生, 就把关注的目光投向青年, 把革命的希望寄予青年。党的一大专门研究了建立和发展青年团作为党的预备学校的问题。1922年5月5日, 在中国共产党直接关怀和领导下, 中国共产主义青年团宣告成立。这在中国革命史和青年运动史上具有里程碑意义!

坚定不移跟党走, 为党和人民奋斗, 是共青团的初心使命。一百年来, 在党的坚强领导下, 共青团不忘初心、牢记使命, 走在青年前列, 组织引导一代又一代青年坚定信念、紧跟党走, 为争取民族独立、人民解放和实现国家富强、人民幸福而贡献力量, 谱写了中华民族伟大复兴进程中激昂的青春乐章。

新民主主义革命时期, 共青团广泛传播马克思主义, 用先进思想启迪青年觉醒、凝聚青春力量, 团结带领广大团员青年踊跃投身反帝反封建的工人运动、农民运动、学生运动, 积极参加党领导的革命武装, 在打倒军阀、抗日救亡、推翻国民党反动统治的伟大斗争中冲锋陷阵, 展现出不怕牺牲、浴血斗争的精神风貌。刀光剑影, 枪林弹雨, 广大团员青年对党忠贞不渝, 经受住了生与死的考验, 为中国革命胜利贡献了青春、建立了重要功勋!

社会主义革命和建设时期, 共青团积极参与中华民族有史以来最为广泛而深刻的社会变革, 组建青年突击队、青年垦荒队、青年扫盲队, 开展学雷锋活动, 团结带领广大团员青年激发“敢教日月换新天”的豪情, 喊出“把青春献给祖国”的响亮口号, 向科学进军, 向困难进军, 向荒原进军, 展现出敢于拼搏、辛勤劳动的精神风貌。艰难困苦, 千难万险, 广大团员青年主动作为、勇挑重担, 哪里最困难、哪里就有团的旗帜, 哪里有需要、哪里就有团员青年的身影, 为祖国建设贡献了青春、建立了重要功勋!

改革开放和社会主义现代化建设新时期, 共青团适应党和国家工作中心战略转移, 解放思想, 锐意进取, 广泛开展争当新长征突击手、“五讲四美三热爱”、希望工程、青年志愿者、青年文



ronmental project “Mother River Protection.” Under the League’s leadership, a call of the time that “let us unite for national rejuvenation” resonated, and League members and young people rode the waves on all fronts of modernization. They manifested a spirit of daring to explore and setting the trend. Engaging themselves in the modernization drive by destroying the old and establishing the new, League members and young people acted as trailblazers of reform and led the way ahead, dedicating their youth to the country’s reform and opening up and socialist modernization and making outstanding contributions.

In the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the Communist Youth League has pursued a great struggle, a great project, a great cause, and a great dream, made innovation on the basis of what has worked in the past, advanced its work with full strength, and reformed itself comprehensively. Under the League’s leadership, its members and young people did their best in the fight against poverty, in cutting-edge scientific researches, in disaster rescue and relief missions, on the epidemic response frontline, in the Olympic arena, and at posts of defending the motherland, stepping up and responding to the calls of the Party and the people when they were most needed. They have manifested a spirit of self-confidence, self-reliance, vigor, and action. “My pure love is only for China,” a phrase written by a young soldier and martyr, has become the most powerful expression of young people in contemporary China. Bearing a great dream and a great mission, League members and young people have willingly carried the ball on the frontline and demonstrated their brilliance in the course of realizing national rejuvenation, dedicating their youth to historic achievements and changes in the cause of the Party and the country and making outstanding contributions.

Although the times keep changing, young people in China have been committed to the same mission. Over the past century, the Communist Youth League has been of one heart and mind with the Party and followed in its footsteps. It has united and led League members and young people in dedicating themselves to the cause of the Party and the people, devoting their youth to the journey toward national rejuvenation, and thus engraving their glory in the annals of history.

Both history and reality tell us that the Communist Youth League of China is worthy of being regarded as the vanguard of the Chinese youth movement, a loyal aide to the Party, and a reliable reserve force.

League members, young friends, and comrades,

The further we advance and the higher we climb, the better we should be at absorbing wisdom from our past experience, boosting our confidence, and improving our strength. Over the past century, with firm ideals and strong will, the Communist Youth League has amassed valuable experience which should be drawn upon to make new achievements in the future.

The 100-year history of the Communist Youth League has defined that upholding Party leadership is crucial to the League’s success.

The Communist Youth League would not have taken shape without the Communist Party of China. Since the very first day it was founded, the League has shared the same banner, will, and mission with the Party, integrated upholding the leadership of the Party into its lifeblood, and developed its particular character and distinct advantage which differentiate it from other youth organizations. Following the instructions and guidance of the Party remains the political career of the League, and that the League will act upon the

明号、保护母亲河等一大批青春气息浓烈的创造性活动，团结带领广大团员青年发出“团结起来、振兴中华”的时代强音，在现代化建设各条战线上勇立潮头，展现出敢闯敢干、引领风尚的精神风貌。革故鼎新，建设四化，广大团员青年勇作改革闯将，开风气之先，为改革开放和社会主义现代化建设贡献了青春、建立了重要功勋！

中国特色社会主义新时代，共青团积极投身伟大斗争、伟大工程、伟大事业、伟大梦想波澜壮阔的实践，坚持守正创新、踔厉奋发，全面深化自身改革，团结带领广大团员青年在脱贫攻坚战场摸爬滚打，在科技攻关岗位奋力攀登，在抢险救灾前线冲锋陷阵，在疫情防控一线披甲出征，在奥运竞技赛场奋勇争先，在保卫祖国哨位威武守护，在党和人民最需要的时刻冲得出来、顶得上，展现出自信自强、刚健有为的精神风貌。“清澈的爱，只为中国”，成为当代中国青年发自内心的最强音。伟大梦想，伟大使命，广大团员青年自觉担当重任，深入基层一线，让青春在实现中华民族伟大复兴的中国梦中绽放异彩，为党和国家事业取得历史性成就、发生历史性变革贡献了青春、建立了重要功勋！

时代各有不同，青春一脉相承。一百年来，中国共青团始终与党同心、跟党走，团结带领广大团员青年把忠诚书写在党和人民事业中，把青春播撒在民族复兴的征程上，把光荣镌刻在历史行进的史册里。

历史和实践充分证明，中国共青团不愧为中国青年运动的先锋队，不愧为党的忠实助手和可靠后备军！

共青团员们、青年朋友们、同志们！

越是往前走、向上攀，越是要善于从走过的路中汲取智慧、提振信心、增添力量。一百年来，共青团坚定理想信念、矢志不渝，形成了宝贵经验。这是共青团面向未来、再立新功的重要遵循。

——百年征程，塑造了共青团坚持党的领导的立身之本。没有中国共产党，就没有中国共青团。共青团从诞生之日起，就以党的旗帜为旗帜、以党的意志为意志、以党的使命为使命，把坚持党的领导深深融入血脉之中，形成了区别于其他青年组织的根本特质和鲜明优势。听党话、跟党走始终是共青团坚守的政治生命，党有号