A Historical Review of the Strategic Development of Military Sports Clubs in the Early Period of New China

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Abstract. This paper firstly analyzes the domestic and foreign situation of the new China, then it further elaborates the reasons for the formation of the strategy of the military sports clubs in new China. After discussing the purpose, task and evaluation of the strategy of the development of the military clubs in the New China period, it finally summarizes the enlightenment of development strategy of the new Chinese military clubs.

Introduction
The military club is based on the former Soviet Union, and the proposition of the military club strategy has laid a solid foundation for our military construction. Under the guidance of this strategic principle, the comprehensive quality of our military soldiers, arms, preparation and other aspects of construction have made substantial improvement. At the same time, military sports have made brilliant achievements. Therefore, it is of great historical and practical significance to review the background of the formation of the strategy of the new China military club and to summarize its internal laws to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Definition of Military Sports
The concept of military sports is not clearly defined in academia. By consulting a large amount of relevant literature, the researcher finds out that military sport refers to a kind of physical training which aims to improve the combat effectiveness and the overall quality of soldiers in a severe environment, thus to help the soldiers master military skills and tactics for national defense construction and military construction services. Therefore, we can consider military sports as a component of physical education.[1] Meanwhile, the researcher also consults a lot of reference about the division of history of military sports since the founding of the new China, and finds no unified standards and basis in the academic field.

From the viewpoint of the military clubs, the division of developmental stages is concluded mostly in accordance with the time sequence of the development of new China, and puts forward the national defense and military strategic approach combining with every period of political, economic, cultural, diplomatic and other aspects of the new China. For example, after the establishment of the new China, the first session of the National Military Games is divided as the initial stage of military sports, and the second session as the vigorous developmental stage. On the basis of the above classification, the researcher considers the first stage of initial exploration of the Military Clubs from 1949 to 1955 in the early days of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, and the second stage of stable development from 1955 to 1960.[2]
Exploratory Stage of Military Clubs at the Beginning of the New China

International Situation

The end of the Second World War and the signing of Yalta Agreement declared the failure of the axis under the leading of Germany.[3] In addition, the United States and the Soviet Union became the biggest beneficiaries of the Second World War victorious nations, thus replacing the traditional superpower international status of French, British, Germany. At the same time, the British Prime Minister Churchill speech called on all English-speaking countries to unite against the Soviet Union, forming two camps of socialism and capitalism led by the Soviet Union and the United States, which declared the beginning of the Cold War.[4]

With the establishment of international Communism, the wave of revolution has been set up around the world, and the national independence has been overthrown by colonial rule and opposing hegemonism, which has become the theme of the development of the third-world countries during this period. Afterwards, the third world countries have gradually joined the socialist camp, seeking assistance from the Soviet Union to promote the national revolutionary movement and national independence.

Domestic Situation

After the three campaigns, the Communist Party of China (CPC) destroyed Chiang Kai-shek’s more than 6 million troops and finally achieved the revolutionary victory, establishing the new China. And the Kuomintang reactionaries fled to Taiwan and contend with the Chinese Communist Party with Jinmen and Mazu as a barrier. Because of the backward economy at the beginning of the founding of new China, peaceful development became the most important issue in front of the new China’s leaders.

Reasons of the Strategy of Military Sports Clubs in the New China

Historical Reasons

China is an ancient country with over five thousand years of civilized history. With the diligence and wisdom, Chinese people have been creating a brilliant civilization and promoting the development of human society. The developmental regularity tells us that everything is constantly changing with a process of vicissitude.

As a great country of the abundance of products, China’s indulge in its own creation of the East Asian political system and its closed-door policy led to the lack of communication and learning with the world. As a result, the arrogant attitude towards Western advanced science and technology resulted in the loss of its leading role. In 1840, after the Opium War broke out, China had been forced to sign more than 300 unequal treaties, making it a decisive and feudal empire, China has become semi-colonial and semi-feudal. Therefore, many people with lofty ideals endeavored to seek the path of revival of the Chinese nation. They put forward the thought of strengthening Chinese, hoping to improve the physical fitness of the people and inspire the national spirit through physical education. However, due to the corruption of the Qing government, it eventually ended in failure.

At the beginning of the founding of new China, the new Chinese leaders deeply realized that only the popularization and promotion of sports can change people’s physical quality and realize the age-old dream of strengthening Chinese, thus to promote the new China economy and national defense construction.[5] Therefore, on September 30, 1949, the first plenary session of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference unanimously adopted the “Common Program of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference”, and in Article 41 of the “Culture and Education Policy”, it clearly stipulates that “Cultural education of People’s Republic of China is for the new democratic, that is, a national, scientific, public culture and education. In the same year, National Sports Workers Congress was held in Beijing, the Vice Chairman of Central People’s Government
Zhu De attended the meeting, and congratulated the General Assembly, and delivered an important speech on behalf of the Central People’s Government and the People’s Revolutionary Military Commission.

Youth League Central Secretary Feng Wenbin gave the report “New Democratic National Sports” to the General Assembly, in which he pointed out: “In order to meet the climax of new democratic economic and cultural construction, we must carry out to promote a wide range of sports in order to widespread improve people’s health, national defense and new democratic economic and cultural construction.” At the meeting, the Chinese National Sports Federation Preparatory Committee was set up. In October, Zhu De said in the Sports Workers’ Congress that Physical education was part of the work of culture and education, as well as health care, and the Central Peoples Government paid much attention to it. He also said that sports must serve the people, and for the sake of national defense and national health. These ideas, not only pointed out the direction from the forward for China’s new democratic revolution and cultural construction, but also the theoretical basis of the construction of “new democratic sports”.

Based on this understanding, according to the policy of the new-democratic sport, in the national sports workers summer study in 2010, Feng Wenbin made a report of “Issues on Developing People’s Sports” and formally put forward the new sports slogan of “enhancing people’s health, developing the construction of new China and consolidating the new China’s defense.” This target was set to develop production, build the motherland and consolidate the national defense by promoting people to have healthy and strong bodies. Sports helps to improve people’s physical quality and develop the ability of working, cultivating wisdom, creativity, tenacity and courage. Only when people are physically strong, energetic and courageous with a dauntless spirit, they can better assume the task of building and defending the motherland.[6]

**Situation at that Time**

At the beginning of the founding of new China on October 1, 1949, China faced the Western military threat and blockade led by America. Although peaceful development is the theme of this period, local wars didn’t stop. On June 25, 1950, after the outbreak of the Korean War, the United States publicly supported the Rising Group, and sent the so-called “United Nations Army” to land from North Korea Incheon according the United Nations resolution. The repulse of the North Korean troops became a serious threat to the national security of China’s northeast Border. Therefore, at a high degree of history, the new China leadership calmly analyzed the situation at home and abroad, and resolutely sent aid troops to North Korea operations. In the same year on June 27, the US Seventh Fleet came into the Keelung and Kaohsiung port, forcing interference in China’s internal affairs. Shortly after the end of the Korean War, in December 1954, the United States and Taiwan signed a “common defense treaty”, and the following year in January, the treaty was approved by the US Congress, the Taiwan Strait situation was extremely tense, which was the first Taiwan crisis. Under the efforts of all parties, on August 1, 1955, the two sides began negotiations between the two countries at the ambassadorial level. For various reasons, negotiation between the two sides on December 12, 1957 was interrupted after 73 talks, resulting in the emergence of the second Taiwan Strait crisis in 1958.

In view of the above international situation, in order not to repeat the repetition of the tragedy of modern Chinese history and to protect the fruits of the new Chinese revolution, the new Chinese leaders attached great importance to the construction work of economy and national defense. Therefore, in order to improve the physical quality and combat effectiveness of military soldiers and build a high-quality army demanded by the war at that time, the Communist Youth League applied to the new Chinese leaders for setting up ports clubs following the former Soviet model.

**Ideology**

With the end of the Second World War and the establishment of the Yalta system, the United States and the Soviet Union became the world’s superpowers, replacing the position of British, French and
Germany. What’s more, the formation of two the camps led by the United States and the Soviet Union marked the beginning of the ideological struggle. In order to eliminate the rapid spread of communism in the world, the United States had a hostile policy towards the socialist countries and adopted economic sanctions and arms embargo policies for the new China, and had been taking a supportive attitude towards Chiang Kai-shek’s opposition forces and providing a large number of weapons and dollars.

Therefore, according to the situation at home and abroad, it was impossible and unrealistic for the new China to take an independent neutral position. Only choosing the socialist camp could the new China eliminate the bilateral policy of the Soviet Union, and unite more socialist countries for more support to jointly resist the US blockade. To create a more favorable national security environment, the new China put more energy into economic construction and national defense construction.

In addition, the Soviet defense sports was established earlier and had some successful experience. From the 1950s, the Soviet Union began to carry out these sports projects extensively in the young people, so that it was a great success in the emergency troops in the Great Patriotic War. Especially in the late period of the war, in the absence of many technical arms, many Soviet youths have been trained in these projects, so they could quickly control the equipment and adapt to the battlefield. At the critical moment of the war instantly, it showed the significance and necessity of these projects. As a result, it has become an inevitable trend to learn and imitate the Soviet defense sports.

In February 1950, the “Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance” was signed. The two sides affirmed to develop and consolidate the economic and cultural relations between China and the Soviet Union under the principle of equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs. The Soviet Union offered economic aid to China from 1950 to 1954 about 300 million US dollars loans. President Mao Zedong talked about the signing of the treaty in January that China’s reliance with the Soviet Union could bring great interest benefits to the new China and render us more political capital to deal with imperialist countries.

From November 1950 to January 1951, the Chinese youth delegation visited the Soviet Union to conduct a comprehensive inspection, and the main objective was to visit the “Soviet support for land, sea and air volunteer association”. After returning home, the delegation proposed to the Central Committee to build similar institutions in China, hoping that young people will accept education of internationalism, patriotism.

Conclusion

The process of the development of new Chinese military sports is from nil to existence and weak to strong. Furthermore, the establishment of the new China Central Military Club marks the Chinese nation from this stand up and no longer a weak nation.[7] After the end of World War II, in the context of the confrontation between the two sides of the Cold War, China adopted the “one-sided” policy to become a socialist country, and faced a serious threat both at home and abroad from the beginning of the founding of new China. The Western powers were reluctant to accept the fact that China was independent and autonomous, and was less willing to see a prosperous new China stand in the world. Thus, various means were taken, including military and economic embargo against China, supporting the defeat of Taiwan’s Kuomintang reactionary forces of continual harassment and retaliation against the Chinese mainland. At the same time, the internal affairs of China’s neighboring countries were often interfered through the use of force, threatening to the Chinese border many times. And long-term air military reconnaissance in mainland China was usually carried out to violate China’s airspace. Moreover, border issues of China’s neighboring countries were supported, and internal ethnic issues in China was utilized to create armed rebellion, etc., which aimed to stifle and overthrow New Socialist China. From the domestic situation, the new China was in a small peasant economy as a support, and there was almost no modern heavy industry, the national economy was very backward as a result of long-term war damage, especially the basis of national defense.
China needs a peaceful environment to develop economic construction.[8] From the situation of the people’s army, the People’s Liberation Army is a heroic warfare army after a long war test. But from the weapons and equipment of People’s Liberation Army, there is still some distance compared with western countries. For example, People’s Liberation Army has paid a great price in exchange for the victory of Korean War. History tells us that our military sports must be under the guidance of the scientific theory and the correct direction to achieve continuous development and innovation. In the new historical period, military sports must adhere to the General Secretary of Xi Jinping’s army building ideas in the new era as a guide, conscientiously implement the important thinking of the “three represents” to build an excellent people’s army, carrying out sports training and barracks sports activities and make it play an active role in the military modernization.

References


