

THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPORTANCE OF MARTYRS' SPIRITUAL CULTURE IN RED DANCE*

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Abstract

This paper seeks to address the gaps in understanding the development and importance of martyrs' spiritual culture within the context of red dance. The specific objectives of the study are: Highlight red dance as a unique and dynamic medium for preserving the spirit of martyrs and fostering national pride. Explore the role of red dance in bridging historical revolutionary ideals with modern socio-cultural narratives. Through these objectives, the study aims to demonstrate the critical role of red dance in keeping the values of martyr spirit alive in contemporary society.

The study highlights that red dance, as an evolving art form, has consistently played a significant role in promoting the spirit of martyrs across different historical periods. From the early revolutionary struggles to the founding of New China, and through the reform era to contemporary times, red dance has served as both a celebratory and educational medium. Its ability to convey the sacrifices and values of martyrs has strengthened national identity and reinforced the ideals of patriotism, heroism, and selflessness among the Chinese people. Particularly for contemporary youth, red dance remains a powerful tool for instilling a sense of responsibility, bravery, and solidarity.

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In conclusion, the integration of martyr spirit into red dance offers a unique fusion of cultural preservation and artistic expression, deeply intertwined with the development of Chinese national identity. The study demonstrates that red dance is not only an artistic form but also a significant medium for reinforcing the core values of patriotism, heroism, and sacrifice that the martyr spirit embodies.

Keywords: Red Dance, Martyr Spirit, Contemporary Youth

Introduction

Red dance is an important manifestation of red culture, which is of great value in inheriting red culture and carrying forward revolutionary spirit. During the revolutionary period, the red dance inspired the soldiers' fighting enthusiasm with full emotions and enhanced the revolutionary cohesion; In peacetime, red dance reflects and praises the great course of the construction of new China, and it is an important art form to show the Communist Party of China (CPC)'s hard struggle and selfless dedication in the new period. (Rao Hua, 2022)

The red dance movement was born in the upsurge of revolutionary China, which embodies the unique and powerful integration of cultural expression and political ideology. This dance form is not only an art form; It represents a dynamic carrier for spreading revolutionary ideals and embodying the spirit of martyrs.

Martyrs refer to those who died heroically for the interests of the country and the people. Their spirit represents the national spirit and is a valuable asset of the Chinese nation. Carrying forward the spirit of martyrs is not only the admiration and commemoration of martyrs, but also the responsibility and responsibility for the country and the nation (Ting, & Potiwetchakul, 2023)



Xi Jinping pointed out: "A promising nation cannot live without heroes, and a promising country cannot live without pioneers. All national heroes, including the heroes of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, are the backbone of the Chinese nation, and their deeds and spirits are powerful forces that inspire us to move forward." (Xinhuanet, 2015)

Conclude the research problems of the Red dance, as an embodiment of red culture, holds profound significance in perpetuating revolutionary values and commemorating the spirit of martyrs. However, the integration of red dance with the spiritual culture of martyrs presents several unresolved challenges. The lack of systematic exploration of how red dance movements convey the ideals and sacrifices of martyrs. Limited research on how red dance as an art form bridges historical narratives with contemporary expressions of national identity. Insufficient emphasis on red dance as a pedagogical and cultural tool for educating younger generations about the revolutionary spirit and national resilience. The investigation into these aspects is critical to understanding and enhancing the role of red dance in preserving and promoting the spiritual heritage of martyrs.

This paper seeks to address the gaps in understanding the development and importance of martyrs' spiritual culture within the context of red dance. By examining its cultural, historical, and ideological dimensions, the study aims to: Highlight red dance as a unique and dynamic medium for preserving the spirit of martyrs and fostering national pride. Explore the role of red dance in bridging historical revolutionary ideals with modern socio-cultural narratives. Contribute to the enrichment of red culture by emphasizing its educational and commemorative value. The study underscores the relevance of red dance not only as a form of artistic expression but also as a vehicle for sustaining the moral backbone and cultural legacy of the Chinese nation.

Research Objective

The importance of studying the spiritual culture of red dancing martyrs to contemporary youth.

Literature Review

Red dance, as a vital representation of red culture, plays a significant role in preserving revolutionary ideals and honoring the spirit of martyrs. This art form intertwines cultural expression with political ideology, creating a medium for transmitting historical narratives and fostering national identity. Its evolution and significance have been explored from various perspectives, including its historical roots, cultural importance, and the spirit of sacrifice it embodies.

Historical and Cultural Foundations

The origins of red dance are deeply rooted in the revolutionary period of China, when it served as a powerful tool for motivating soldiers and enhancing collective cohesion. Rao Hua (2022) highlights that during this time, red dance movements not only inspired fighting enthusiasm but also embodied the values of the Communist Party of China (CPC). In the post-revolutionary era, red dance evolved to reflect the achievements of the construction of New China, serving as an artistic tribute to the hard struggle and selfless dedication of the CPC.

Martyrs, as the ultimate embodiment of sacrifice for national interests, form the cornerstone of red dance's spiritual culture. Their heroic deeds and unwavering spirit are celebrated through this medium, transforming red dance into a living monument of the nation's history and values (Ting & Potiwetchakul, 2023). Xi Jinping emphasized the enduring significance of national heroes, stating that their spirit serves as a "powerful force that inspires



us to move forward" (Xinhuanet, 2015). This reinforces the cultural obligation to commemorate martyrs and sustain their legacy.

Red Dance as a Carrier of Martyrs' Spirit

The red dance movement's unique integration of cultural expression and political ideology makes it a dynamic carrier of martyrs' spiritual culture. It is not merely an art form but also a vehicle for spreading revolutionary ideals. According to Rao Hua (2022), the symbolism inherent in red dance movements portrays the heroism and sacrifices of martyrs while fostering collective memory and national pride.

Additionally, red dance serves as an educational tool, bridging past and present by connecting younger generations with their historical roots. The spirit of martyrs, conveyed through red dance, instills values such as patriotism, resilience, and selflessness. Ting and Potiwetchakul (2023) argue that this cultural form has a dual role: as an artistic expression and as a medium for cultivating a shared national identity.

Challenges in Promoting Martyrs' Spirit Through Red Dance

Despite its significance, there are challenges in fully realizing the potential of red dance as a medium for promoting martyrs' spiritual culture. The integration of red dance into educational frameworks remains limited, and there is insufficient academic focus on its role in preserving the revolutionary spirit. These gaps underscore the need for systematic studies and initiatives to enhance the cultural and pedagogical impact of red dance (Rao Hua, 2022).

Conclusion of the literature highlights red dance as a powerful cultural and artistic form that preserves and promotes the spirit of martyrs. By exploring its historical roots, cultural significance, and educational potential, scholars underscore its value in sustaining red culture and fostering national identity. Future research should address the gaps in its integration into educational systems and emphasize its role in shaping contemporary cultural narratives.



Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework outlines the development and significance of red dance, which serves as a cultural and ideological expression throughout various historical periods in China. The framework examines the red dance's evolution across four distinct stages, each reflecting its socio-political context and its role in shaping and preserving red culture. Key Dimensions of the Framework; the conceptual framework serves as a crucial tool for understanding the development and influence of cultural and ideological expressions, particularly the red dance and the martyr spirit. By systematically exploring historical contexts and key dimensions, it provides a comprehensive understanding of how these cultural phenomena evolved, their socio-political significance, and their enduring impact on society and individuals.

1. Preservation of Cultural Heritage: The framework emphasizes the importance of red dance and the martyr spirit as vital elements of national identity and cultural heritage, ensuring their continuation and relevance in contemporary society.

2. Reflection of Socio-Political Evolution: It links cultural practices with historical events, illustrating how red dance adapted to changing socio-political climates and how the martyr spirit reinforced core societal values.

3. Guidance for Modern Society: By highlighting the principles of loyalty, resilience, and selflessness, the framework provides a moral and ethical guide for individuals, especially youth, to navigate challenges and contribute to societal progress.

4. Inspiration for Artistic and Ideological Innovation: It showcases how red dance and martyr spirit act as platforms for creative expression, fostering national pride and unity while adapting to modern contexts.

5. Educational and Motivational Resource: The framework serves as a tool for educating future generations about the sacrifices and values that



shaped national progress, motivating them to emulate these principles in their lives.

Table 1: Significance of the Conceptual Framework

Key Dimensions	Description	Significance
Historical Context	Examines red dance evolution during critical periods like the Northern Expedition and Reform Era.	Demonstrates adaptability of cultural practices to socio-political changes, preserving revolutionary ideals.
Red Dance and Martyr Spirit	Focus on artistic and ideological expressions reflecting patriotism, unity, and resilience.	Provides moral benchmarks for society and promotes national pride through creative and ideological works.
Importance to Society	Highlights martyrs' role in fostering cultural identity, social cohesion, and moral frameworks.	Ensures the preservation of values like loyalty, selflessness, and national unity.
Importance to Individuals	Guides contemporary youth to adopt resilience, patriotism, and ethical behavior in personal growth.	Inspires individuals to overcome challenges and contribute meaningfully to their communities and country.
Educational and Inspirational	Red dance and martyr spirit serve as tools to educate and motivate the younger generation.	Ensures the continuation of cultural and ethical values while fostering innovation and progress.

This structured framework integrates historical evolution, cultural significance, and individual impact, making it a robust model for analyzing and preserving both red dance and martyr spirit.

Methodology

Method

Literature research, the researchers conducted a comprehensive literature search using resources such as the website, <https://www.baidu.com>, www.cnki.net, www.wanfangdata.com.cn/, Chinese and foreign literature is reviewed, including academic journals, dissertations, books and other relevant materials. It focuses on collecting information about the history of red dance and the spiritual culture of martyrs, so as to expand the knowledge.

Operation and Process

The researchers conducted a thorough literature review using a variety of resources, including online platforms such as Baidu, CNKI, and Wanfang Data. This review encompassed both Chinese and international literature, drawing on academic journals, dissertations, books, and other relevant materials to provide a broad and comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

Collection

The primary focus was on collecting information about the history and development of red dance and the spiritual culture of martyrs. This enabled the researchers to expand their knowledge base and contextualize the interplay between these two areas. Additionally, a research analysis was conducted using a document study methodology, employing thematic and content analysis to delve deeper into the collected materials.



Analysis

Through thematic analysis, the researchers identified key recurring themes related to the evolution of red dance, such as its role in promoting patriotism, commemorating martyrs, and embodying revolutionary ideals. Content analysis was used to examine specific textual and visual elements, providing insights into how the spiritual culture of martyrs is represented and conveyed through red dance.

This approach not only enriched the understanding of the historical and cultural significance of red dance but also highlighted its role in preserving and promoting the spiritual heritage of martyrs in contemporary contexts.

Results

1. The history of red dance

1.1 The early stage of the red dance

During the Northern Expedition (1926-1928), in order to inspire the fighting spirit of soldiers and mobilize the support of the masses for the army, the propaganda team often held cultural performances for the purpose of celebrating the victory, which was the initial stage of the red dance. (Zhang Yu, 2018)

During the revolutionary base period (1927-1936), the dance performance that boosted morale showed the characteristics of expressing ideas and educating people as the primary function. "Music, dance, poetry or drama were used, but the educational or propaganda function of art was brought to the extreme, and its aesthetic function was effectively used to serve war and political purposes." (Zhang Yu, 2018)

1.2 Red Dance during the Long March and the Anti-Japanese Base Area

In October 1934, the Red Army led by communist party started a 25,000-Li Long March. During this period, although the development of red dance was greatly affected. However, it never stopped. Literary propaganda teams and amateur theatrical troupes used "propaganda booths" and "cultural propaganda stations" to perform for the soldiers in a short time, inspiring their emotions and morale. Thousands of people became the Red Army and Dancing Cavalry were all plays that were often performed on the way to the Long March. (Zhang Yu, 2018)

During the period of anti-Japanese revolutionary base areas, the people's armed forces were gradually established, and the anti-Japanese national United front was formed. The literary and art propaganda team of the Red Army in northern Shaanxi absorbed a large number of folk art elements and integrated elements such as dance, singing and opera. The mixed literature and art became the main way of cultural and artistic propaganda at that time, and also played a positive role in establishing deep feelings between the Red Army and the people and expanding the revolutionary base areas. (Zhang Yu, 2018)

1.3 Red Dance in the Founding Period of New China

At the beginning of the founding of New China, North China University created a large-scale song and dance "Long Live the People's Victory", which not only celebrated and witnessed the founding of New China, but also led the development of red dance art in China in the later period. The music and dance epic Dongfanghong, which was created and performed in 1964, was developed from this work. The reason why Dongfanghong is called a music and dance epic is that it combines ideological and artistic features. And such a highly representative song and dance art creation was also a long-cherished



wish of Premier Zhou Enlai at that time. The creation of Dongfanghong, from the overall conception to the specific content, every lyric to the explanation was soaked with the painstaking efforts of Premier Zhou Enlai and many creators. At that time, Qiao Yu, the leader of the Song and Dance Literature Group, recalled: "At that time, every draft they drafted was given to him, and Zhou Enlai read it very carefully and carefully." The birth of "Dongfanghong" was not easy with the hard work and hardships behind it. On October 2, 1964, it opened in the Great Hall of the People, and then it was sold out for 14 consecutive performances. In the same year, The Red women soldiers was created by the Ballet of the Central Song and Dance Theatre. The birth of this work is of great practical significance to the exploration of ballet in China, and it is a deduction and interpretation of China's revolutionary history in the form of western art. In 1965, the White-haired Girl, an excellent ballet about the class ideological struggle, was born, which together with Red women soldiers became a "model" of Chinese red theme dance art classics, and was the "double pride" of Chinese dance art in the 1960s. In addition, Du Fu Shan and Ode to Yimeng were also outstanding creations in the red theme dance art in those days. By the Cultural Revolution, although the development of dance art in China had been hit hard, the production of outstanding works such as Fish and Water, Fighting Aśvaghōṣa and Hush was still loved by the broad masses of the people. (Zhang Yu, 2018)



Photo 1: Still of the musical and dance epic "Dongfanghong"

Source: sogou Photo Website 2024.9.28.

1.4 Red Dance during the Reform and Opening-up Period

After the reform and opening up in 1978, great changes have taken place in China's social environment, and China's culture and art have also begun to renew their demands from the inside in the development, and the red dance has also begun a new cognition and development. On the 35th anniversary of the founding of New China in 1984, more than 1,300 creators, actors and staff from the capital, some provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, and 68 units of the People's Liberation Army participated in the performance of the large-scale music and dance epic Song of the Chinese Revolution. This work vividly reappeared many leaders on the artistic stage for the first time, and was called a companion piece of Dongfanghong. The performance of the work was greatly welcomed by the masses. In the same period, there were other red dance art plays, such as Garland under the Mountain, Goodbye, Mom, Deep in Tianshan Mountain, Heroes and Children. In the early 21st century, the performances of red dance dramas such as "Sparkling Red Star" and "Red Plum Praise" opened the curtain of the new

century of red dance art in China, and blew a powerful horn for the further development of red dance art in China. On the 60th anniversary of War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression's victory, the creation of dance art with red theme reached a peak, such as "Nanking, 1937" edited by China Song and Dance Theatre, "Snowflake Snowflake" edited by shenyang military area command Qianjin Song and Dance Troupe, "flying tigers" edited by the General Political Department Song and Dance Troupe, and "Rainy Cotton Tree" by Guangdong Song and Dance Theatre, etc., and all the red theme dance dramas in China are being staged brilliantly. Especially on the occasion of the 60th birthday of the founding of New China, the large-scale music and dance epic "Road to Rejuvenation" has great political and cultural significance, and can be called a masterpiece with distinctive characteristics of the times and profound cultural connotation. (Zhang Yu, 2018)



Photo 2: Still of the music and dance epic "The Road to Rejuvenation"

Source: sogou Photo Website 2024.9.28.



2. The importance of martyrs' spiritual culture to society and individuals.

2.1 Definition of Martyr Spirit

"Martyr" is a praise for the heroic spirit with lofty aspirations, perseverance and heroism. Modern martyrs generally refer to specific groups and individuals who died heroically to defend the motherland and the cause of socialist construction. They are outstanding representatives of Chinese sons and daughters.

Martyr culture is an important part of the Chinese national spirit, the essence of Chinese culture and the backbone of the Chinese nation. Its core connotation mainly includes: the patriotic spirit of being loyal to the motherland and loving the people; The spirit of seeking truth and firm ideals; Hard work and indomitable optimism; Heroic spirit of fighting bravely and daring to sacrifice; Selfless dedication with lofty aspirations and indifferent to fame and fortune. These spirits condense the cognition and feelings of countless people with lofty ideals of the Chinese nation on the world outlook and outlook on life, accumulate the deepest spiritual pursuit and code of conduct of the Chinese nation, vividly reflect the spiritual demeanor of the people of all ethnic groups throughout the country to achieve national liberation and national prosperity, and are the highest embodiment of the national spirit with patriotism as the core, and the concentrated display of the Chinese nation's self-improvement character. (Sun Shaocheng, 2012)

2.2 The importance of martyrs' spiritual culture to society

The spirit of martyrs is an important part of the socialist core values, which bears the fine traditions and core values of the Chinese nation and has strong spiritual cohesion and leading power. Inheriting the spirit of martyrs can inspire people to have love and sense of responsibility for the country, society and people's cause, and encourage people to struggle for the prosperity of the



country and the rejuvenation of the nation. Martyr spirit can also guide people to correctly handle the relationship between individual and collective interests and cultivate good moral character and behavior habits under the socialist core values.

2.3 The importance of martyrs' spiritual culture to contemporary youth

The spirit of martyrs inspires contemporary youth to face difficulties and setbacks bravely. The deeds of martyrs tell contemporary youth that only firm faith and heroic spirit can overcome difficulties and obstacles. The martyrs showed great courage and tenacity, whether they made meritorious deeds by killing the enemy on the battlefield or treated them with justice and fairness in officialdom. In the face of bullets, the martyrs did not flinch, did not fear, and even sacrificed heroically for justice and truth. It is their spirit that inspires contemporary youth. As long as they stick to their own beliefs and principles, they will certainly be able to overcome all difficulties and setbacks and achieve success.

The spirit of martyrs teaches contemporary youth to always maintain their love and responsibility for the country. The martyrs paid a huge price for the independence and liberation of the country and the nation and wrote a magnificent chapter with their lives. Martyrs shoulder heavy responsibilities and devote themselves to all kinds of difficult and dangerous struggles, giving up everything for the benefit of the country. The unselfishness and affection of the martyrs are touching and arouse the deep love of contemporary youth for the country. From the martyrs, contemporary youth can see that at any time, no matter what the situation of contemporary youth is, we should bear in mind that the interests of the country and the nation are above all else and contribute to the prosperity and development of the country.



Photo 3: Contemporary youths salute at the Martyrs Monument.

Source: sogou Photo Website 2024.9.28.

The spirit of martyrs makes teenagers understand that only through unremitting efforts can they become real heroes. The feat of the martyrs never happened by accident, but they were able to achieve it after long-term hard training and unremitting efforts. They can make correct decisions and actions in times of crisis through repeated training, honing and upgrading their abilities. It is precisely because the martyrs have a strong will and a strong sense of responsibility that they can surpass ordinary people and become independent heroes. This can make young people realize that if they want to achieve something, they must study hard and make unremitting efforts. Only in this way can they create their own glory.



Photo 4: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Source: sogou Photo Website 2024.9.28.

The spirit of martyrs teaches contemporary young people to be kind to others and advocate friendship and help. The spirit of the martyrs made us deeply realize that everyone is equal in the face of fate and needs help and care. We can't hurt others because of our own interests, but we should work together to help others. It is the martyrs who pay for others in obscurity that build a harmonious society. The author is convinced that only by being kind to others can we get respect and care from others and realize our own life value.

Conclusion

As a unique dance form in China, red dance started from the early revolutionary propaganda, experienced the hard years of the Long March and War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, developed to the glorious period after the founding of New China, and continued to innovate and develop after the reform and opening up. Its development process not only reflects the track of social and political changes in China, but also witnessed how art forms serve the needs of the country's revolution and construction.



From the initial fighting to the celebration performance in New China, red dance has played an important role in culture and education at every stage.

As the core content of red dance and other related cultural products, the spirit of martyrs has far-reaching influence on society and individuals. This spirit is not only the essence of Chinese culture, but also the embodiment of socialist core values. By inheriting and carrying forward the spirit of patriotism, heroism and selfless dedication, it encourages members of society to make unremitting efforts for the prosperity of the country and the growth of individuals. The influence of martyr spirit lies in that it can inspire people's sense of collective and individual responsibility in different historical stages and urge society and individuals to pursue higher ideals and goals.

Generally speaking, the combination of red dance and martyr spirit not only enriches China's cultural and artistic system, but also provides a vivid practical case for the promotion of socialist core values. Together, they constitute the unique scenery of China culture and show the spiritual outlook and artistic achievements of the Chinese nation in different historical periods.

Discussion

According to the Statistical Communiqué on National Economic and Social Development in 2017 issued by the National Bureau of Statistics, the total population aged 16-59 in China accounts for 65% of the total population. Among these people, especially the young people in the 21st century, they have never experienced war or seen great changes in the world structure. Accustomed to a peaceful society, it is easy for them to forget the significance of the country to individuals, and it is difficult to condense strong patriotic feelings in their hearts, and it is even more difficult to empathize with the martyr culture. (Qu Qingye, Zheng Yueling, 2020)



We never know what will happen in the next second. Judging from the current world situation, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the Russian-Ukrainian war, the Syrian civil war, the US-British Coalition air strikes against Yemen, and the Myanmar civil war. All kinds of signs show that peace is hard-won, and only with strong military strength and strong national defense system as support can we have a truly peaceful era.

Since April 2020, the foreign troops concerned have violated the agreement between the two countries, reached the border and crossed the line to build temporary bridges and roads, and frequently crossed the line at the border to fight for control, trying to unilaterally change the status quo of border control, which led to a sudden warming of the border situation.

In June, foreign troops openly violated the consensus reached with us and flagrantly crossed the line to provoke. According to the practice of dealing with border incidents and the agreement reached between the two sides before, the head of the team, Qi Fabao, took only a few officers and men to the sand in good faith to solve the problem through negotiations, but was attacked by the other side with deliberate violence. Qi Fabao organized officers and men to shout and negotiate, while occupying favorable terrain, and launched a life-and-death struggle with foreign troops several times their own. The reinforcement team arrived in time, and the officers and men fought bravely, and the criminals were defeated and driven away in one fell swoop. The foreign troops were routed and fled, leaving behind a large number of casualties and casualties, and paid a heavy price. In the previous negotiations and fierce struggles, the head of the team, Qi Fabao, took the lead and was seriously injured; Chen Hongjun, the battalion commander, and Chen Xiangge, the soldier, broke into the tight encirclement to rescue, fought back and sacrificed heroically; Xiao Siyuan, a soldier, returned to rescue his comrades-in-arms without hesitation and fought until the last moment of his life; Warrior Wang Zhuoran, on the way out of support before crossing the river, tried his



best to rescue his scattered comrades from danger, but he was submerged in the glacier.

These heroic frontier guards and soldiers left their youth, blood and even their lives on the Karakorum Plateau, and built a boundary pillar (Wang Miao, 2021). Advocating heroes can produce heroes, and striving to be heroes can produce heroes in large numbers. Every review of heroic deeds is the purification of thoughts and the baptism of spirit, as well as the inheritance of initial feelings and beliefs. We can see that when an earthquake breaks out, when a flood strikes, when a mountain fire spreads ... at every moment when the people need it, there are always heroes who step forward and take risks, go to the mission with their lives, and guard the peace of thousands of families with loyalty. This is an example of the heroic spirit that has been passed down from generation to generation on the land of the motherland.

In the future, the combination of red dance and martyr spirit may face new challenges and opportunities. With the continuous development of globalization and cultural diversity, how to introduce modern artistic elements while maintaining the traditional core values will be a problem worthy of attention. In addition, how to spread the red dance and the spirit of martyrs through new media and digital technology will also be an important direction for future development. Through these innovations and developments, Red Dance can not only continue to inherit and carry forward the spirit of martyrs, but also show China's unique artistic charm on the global cultural stage.

In a word, the combination of red dance and martyr spirit is not only a unique expression of China culture and art, but also a vivid embodiment of socialist core values. They have constantly evolved and developed in the long river of history, providing important spiritual wealth for society and individuals.

New Knowledge

1. Historical Development of Red Dance



The evolution of red dance in China is a reflection of its socio-political transitions and cultural heritage. Its trajectory, divided into distinct historical periods, showcases how art serves both as a propaganda tool and a cultural expression of national resilience and unity. Key takeaways include:

1.1 Early Stage of Red Dance: Originating during the Northern Expedition (1926–1928), red dance was a form of revolutionary propaganda aimed at mobilizing soldiers and public support. Its role extended to morale boosting and ideological education during the revolutionary base period (1927–1936), intertwining artistic and political objectives.

1.2 Long March and Anti-Japanese Base Period: Despite challenging conditions, the integration of folk art forms like dance, opera, and song in propaganda campaigns fostered unity between soldiers and civilians, strengthening revolutionary bases.

1.3 Founding Period of New China: Post-1949, red dance became a cultural celebration of national achievements. Iconic works such as *Dongfanghong* and *The Red Women Soldiers* blended ideological narratives with artistic excellence, influencing China's cultural scene for decades.

1.4 Reform and Opening-Up Period: Post-1978, red dance saw a resurgence in creativity, embracing modern themes while retaining its revolutionary essence. Landmark performances such as *Song of the Chinese Revolution* and *Road to Rejuvenation* illustrated the evolving socio-political context of China.

2. Martyr Spirit as a Cultural and Ideological Pillar

The spirit of martyrs is deeply embedded in China's national identity and socialist values, influencing both societal cohesion and individual character development.

2.1 Definition and Core Values: Martyr spirit embodies patriotism, resilience, selflessness, and sacrifice. It reflects the Chinese nation's moral aspirations and acts as a guiding principle for collective and individual conduct.



2.2 Impact on Society

- 1) Cultural Identity: Upholds national traditions and fosters unity.
- 2) Moral Framework: Provides ethical benchmarks and fosters collective welfare.
- 3) Social Cohesion: Strengthens national pride and communal bonds.
- 4) Economic and Social Progress: Inspires dedication to national goals.

2.3 Significance for Contemporary Youth

- 1) Instills resilience, moral character, and responsibility.
- 2) Encourages commitment to ideals and patriotism.
- 3) Inspires personal and professional growth by fostering determination and ethical behavior.

3. Integration of Red Dance and Martyr Spirit

The fusion of red dance and the spirit of martyrs creates a unique cultural framework that:

- 1) Preserves historical memory and promotes socialist values.
- 2) Encourages societal solidarity and individual dedication to national progress.
- 3) Enhances the artistic representation of patriotism and revolutionary ideals through traditional and modern narratives.



Table 2: Summary of Key Knowledge Contributions

Key Themes	Insights	Significance
Historical Development of Red Dance	Tracks socio-political evolution through four stages of red dance development.	Highlights art's role as a tool for propaganda, education, and cultural preservation.
Martyr Spirit	Defines core values of patriotism, resilience, and selflessness.	Acts as a moral and cultural foundation for individuals and society, promoting national unity.
Integration of Themes	Combines red dance with martyr spirit to reflect historical and ideological narratives.	Provides a cohesive framework for cultural and artistic expression in alignment with socialist values.

This knowledge framework offers a comprehensive understanding of how art and ideology converge in China's historical and cultural evolution. It also opens pathways for modern reinterpretation and global dissemination of these cultural treasures.

Recommendation

Based on the study of the development and importance of martyrs' spiritual culture in red dance, the following recommendations are proposed to preserve, enhance, and promote this unique cultural heritage as.

Integrating Modern Artistic Elements with Traditional Red Dance such as;

1. Innovative Choreography: Encourage choreographers to blend traditional red dance movements with contemporary styles to appeal to younger audiences while maintaining the core values of martyr spirit.



2. Use of Multimedia: Incorporate advanced stage technologies, such as augmented reality (AR) and projection mapping, to create immersive storytelling experiences.

3. Global Influence: Include diverse cultural elements to make red dance more relatable in a global context while preserving its essence.

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