

Research on the Image Shaping of Members of the Communist Party of China in *Red Star over China* from the Perspective of the Other

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Abstract: *The Red Star Over China* written by Edgar Snow is the first book written by a foreign author to record the Red Army in the Soviet area. This book not only truthfully and objectively portrays the image of the communists during the Yan'an period through Snow's perspective as the other, but also serves as an effective medium for propagating the real Chinese Communist Party and its members from the other's viewpoint during the period of the Anti-Japanese War. From the perspective of others, Snow used the transformation of narrative perspectives and contrast to show the characteristics of CPC members in political ideology, military affairs, daily life, and other aspects, and creates a series of unique communists who are different from the old and other parties. Male CPC members are firm in faith and invincible in courage, female CPC members are as powerful as men, "red devils" have strong self-esteem and strong ability, and leaders are both wise and brave and empathic with their subordinates. Snow, because of his own unique characteristics and value judgment, creates an objective, real and vivid three-dimensional image from the perspective of the other.

Keywords: Red Star over China, the Communist Party of China members, the perspective of Other, image.

1. Introduction

Red Star Over China by Edgar Snow, who was the first foreign journalist and writer to interview the Red Army in the Soviet Area, is a significant work that offers unique insights into and detailed and truthful portrayals of the Communist Party of China and its members during tumultuous times of internal strife and external pressures. It depicts a series of vivid images of Party members. The author shaped innumerable unnamed Red Army soldiers and some famous leaders of the Communist Party of China, such as Mao Zedong, Zhu De and Peng Dehuai, thereby casting a lucid and compelling illumination upon the authentic visage of Party members. The exposition of these significant historical personae often unfolded through richly detailed retrospectives that reveal their familial roots, educational upbringing, military and political roles, and their revolutionary experiences.

The perspective of the other, unlike self-reflection, is a viewpoint of an outsider observer with a sense of detachment and scrutiny. Regarding the theory of the other, the two most representative French scholars of the early 1990s were Daniel Henri Pageaux and Jean Marc Moura. Pageaux believes that the image of the other acquires the sum of views about the foreign country in the process of literalization and socialization. This perspective in the Red Army holds significant historical value as it diverges from the self-constructed narrative of the Communist Party of China. Snow, being a foreigner from the United States, was detached from the domestic historical and political context of that time. His accounts, on the one hand, debunked the rumors of demonization of the Communist Party of China and the Red Army, which were either fabricated by the Kuomintang or imagined by the outside world due to the strict prohibition imposed by the Kuomintang on journalists; On the other hand, they also effectively alleviated the skepticism surrounding the

party's presentation and exaggeration of its own image.

By first providing a realistic and historically grounded portrayal of the Communist Party of China, its members, and the overall situation in the Soviet area, Snow's Other Narrative carried unprecedented historical significance and had a long-lasting and influential impact on the party and the Chinese revolution. It serves as valuable material for studying the image of the members of the Communist Party of China.

2. Various Images of the Communist Party of China Members

2.1. Male Party Members: Warriors with a Strong Faith.

There are fifty-seven articles on *Red Star over China*, forty-two of which mention the CPC members or the Red Army, most of whom are males. Snow's introduction to them is very extensive, including appearance, politics, life, military, and culture. This objectively and truly reproduces the scene of lives and numerous vivid images of the male CPC members.

In the aspect of politics and spirit, they have strong beliefs and high political consciousness. The CPC attached great importance to ideological and political courses. All the CPC members actively participated in these courses, constantly improving their ideological understanding, and strengthening their beliefs. Snow said that these Red Army commanders were all "loyal Marxists", which shows the influence of Marxism among communists and the depth of communists adherence to Marxism. Lenin clubs, which are recreational and cultural centers for factory workers and soldiers, were established in the Soviet area, with almost every regiment and company having one. There were many propaganda cartoons and pictures of Marx, whom the soldiers respected and loved. The number of Lenin clubs, the care with which the male party members were decorated, and the attitude of them towards Marx manifest the central position of Marxism within

the Party and in the minds of every communist. In this atmosphere of advocating Marxism, every male party member constantly strengthened understanding and commitment to Marxism.

Through their profound understanding of Marxism, male communists gradually grasped the essence and purpose of the Chinese revolution. They always kept in mind who and what they were fighting for. In the session in politics, Snow asked soldiers about the advantages of the Red Army, and they replied that “the Red Army is a revolutionary army, is anti-Japanese and helps the peasants”. When asked the difference between the Red Army and the White Army, they responded that “the Red Army fights for the proletariat, fights to free people”. The positivity with which male communists answered questions is from the confidence and understanding to their beliefs.

Moreover, the soldiers were also deeply aware of the importance of resistance against Japan, since it was crucial for safeguarding national sovereignty, liberating the people, and revitalizing the nation. These words of the soldiers and the willingness to form a united front against Japan clearly demonstrate the party members’ unwavering determination to resist Japan. Therefore, the male communists are a group of brave fighters who fight for the people and for the country.

Under the guidance of Marxism, the male CPC members embraced enlightened, democratic, and egalitarian values. In the face of the hatred of the Han ethnic, Liu Bocheng and his soldiers spared no efforts to win the trust of the Yi leaders with their enlightened national policies. In order to negotiate with Yi people, Liu learned to “speak something of the Lolo tongue”. This encouraged “hundreds of Lolos enlisted with the Red Chinese”. In resolving the question of religion, male communists insisted on freedom of religious belief. Male communists always upheld on equality and justice, no matter what class, nationality, or creed they treat. It was the egalitarianism that promoted harmonious relationships among different ethnic groups.

The male communists, supported by faith, were optimistic. Despite the poor living conditions and the brutality of war, they adhered to the love of life. Snow discovered “the ‘culture of optimism’ of the Chinese communists and the Yan’an spirit”. The optimism of male communists is found in the cheerful singing, the laughter of Mao Zedong who sat casually among the masses, and the figure of Peng Dehuai talking with teenagers. The positive attitude permeated the masses in the Soviet area and rendered the atmosphere of youth and vitality in Yan’an.

The male communists are a group of warriors. The cruelty of the war and the ferocity of the enemy did not deter them from their revolutionary cause. Faced with danger on the battlefield, they did not choose to retreat, but bravely served as the vanguard. They dedicated their lives and energy to the revolutionary cause. The Red Army experienced a lot along the Long March: climbing “18 mountain ranges”, crossing “24 rivers”, passing through “12 different provinces”, occupying “62 cities”, breaking through “enveloping armies of 10 different provincial warlords”, and entering and crossing “6 different aboriginal districts”. Under these extremely harsh conditions, they managed to cross half of China and overcame all difficulties to reach the northwest. This is inseparable from their bravery and determination. Snow’s description of the Red Army on the Dadu River is the best embodiment of their heroic spirit. When volunteers were asked to occupy local bunkers that was an extremely perilous

task, all the Red Army soldiers readily stepped forward, willing to risk their lives. In the pouring rain of bullets, they crawled along a chain one by one to the other side, with many losing their lives in the process. These fearless and intrepid warriors shocked the enemy and ultimately won the victory. Unlike soldiers who fight merely for wages, these male communists fought for their beliefs, so they could be brave.

These male communists led a disciplined life. Although, they ruled over a region with poor economic conditions, they did not exploit the people for personal gain. They upheld strict discipline and lived in conditions like ordinary citizens. “All these activities keep the mass of the soldiers fairly busy and fairly healthy”, and “Opium-smoking was prohibited”, which was different from other troops in that time. Snow’s journey with them shows how disciplined they were. When passing the wild apricot forest, the soldiers picked a sack full of apricots, but when passing the private apricot forest, no one picked. The common people’s evaluation of the communists also reflected that they are a disciplined team.

They did not care about material conditions. Snow was taken aback when he first saw the living conditions of the Red Army. “They had clubs, scholars, ample dormitories—all these, certainly—but in cave houses with earthen floors, no shower baths, no movies, no electricity”. They resided in abandoned houses previously occupied by officials or military forces, with minimal furnishings due to the destruction that occurred after the arduous Long March. In addition, their daily meals were very monotonous and scarce, consisting mainly of millet, cabbage, and meat. The leaders were not exempt from this austere lifestyle. Their room was also very poor with only a few simple pieces of furniture. However, no one complained about the living conditions.

All in all, under the support of their faith, these male party members have continuously deepened their understanding of Marxism, thus improved their ideological realm, and understood the purpose and significance of the Chinese revolution. With faith, they no longer feared death and hardship.

2.2. Female and Teenager Party Members: Brave, Strong and Courageous as Men.

It is worth noting that there are also many excellent female communists and young communists in the book. Although they account for a small amount of space in the book, they leave a deep impression.

The most important feature of their images is the similarity. Like male party members, they with firm convictions were fearless in the face of danger and death and served the people wholeheartedly. In addition, they played their own advantages and contribute their own strength in specific positions. In the past, women and young people faced various obstacles that hindered their participation in the revolutionary cause. However, as communists, they overcame these barriers and dedicated themselves to the mission of national liberation and rejuvenation.

These female communists played great roles both on the front lines and the base areas. They were brave women soldiers with high combat skills. Many female Red Army soldiers demonstrated outstanding performance during the Long March, anti-encirclement and suppression campaigns, and guerrilla warfare. Snow mentioned one notable individual in the book, Kang Keqing, the wife of Zhu De. She not only possessed remarkable physical strength, but also had excellent marksmanship and riding skills, which made her

once serve as a guerrilla leader. There are many other Red Army women as strong and brave as her.

Their diligence and wisdom are further evident in their contributions to the construction of the base areas. These female communists showed exceptional leadership skills. Under the management of Liu Qunxian, the head of the Women's Department of the Red Trade Union, workers enjoyed good welfare policies, including stable wages and humane treatment. Under the leadership of Wei Gongzhi, the president of the People's anti-Japanese Drama club, the troupe presented a series of excellent performances, which not only propagated the revolutionary ideas of the CPC, but also allowed the people to enjoy a rich artistic life. Many of female communists exhibited remarkable talent and unwavering beliefs. When Snow interviewed them, they "proudly informed" him of their works. The harmonious and stable development of Soviet society cannot be separated from them.

There are also many young Red Army soldiers in the book. Although, they were not official members of the CPC, most of them were young pioneers and preparatory members of the party. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze their images.

Firstly, they displayed a strong sense of self-esteem. Once Snow thanked a little soldier for bringing him some water, but the little soldier said "Never mind that. You don't thank a comrade for a thing like that". The little comrades' clothes were faded and there was pudding, but they maintained cleanliness and tidiness. The confident smiles on their faces were rarely seen on the faces of other Chinese children at the time. These show the personal dignity in these Chinese youngsters since they had regarded themselves as true party members.

Secondly, they were courageous and steadfast in their faith. Many of them followed the troops from the south to the northwest during the Long March. They did not complain the march hard at all, because they believed that one person should not always think of difficulties and hardships first, but of the task before them, and that one person should not always think of a comfortable life, but of the importance of the revolution. Their fearlessness and fortitude in the face of manhunt and torture struck Snow.

Thirdly, they worked in different positions in the Red Army and carried out their work diligently and rigorously. They are young, but most of them have been soldiers of Red Army for a long time. They worked as "orderlies, messboys, buglers, spics, radio-operators, water-carriers, propagandists, actors, mafoos, nurses, and even teachers". The performance of these young vanguards was truly commendable.

The vigor, vitality, optimism, and cheerfulness of these little communists infected everyone in the Red Army including Snow himself. Snow saw the future and hope of the CPC and China from these diligent, serious, hardworking, and studious little soldiers.

2.3. Leaders: Talented Military Strategists with Love for Soldiers.

Red Star Over China is called the first international work devoted to the CPC and its principal leaders and generals, which contains many detailed descriptions of the CPC leaders. These characters are present throughout the book. Though they have different images, they have some things in common.

These leaders are well-educated. According to Snow's records, most of the CPC leaders received a cultural and military education. Zhou Enlai "had learned English and got

a 'liberal' education in Nankai Middle School, and later in Nankai University", and worked at the Whampoa Military Academy. Lin Biao and Deng Fa are outstanding representatives of the students at this school. Zhu De went to Germany to study. Mao Zedong had displayed outstanding academic performance throughout his schooling and often been praised and favored by his teachers.

Additionally, they are a group of bookish people. Mao Zedong had been fond of reading since childhood. And, when studying at Hunan First Normal University and working at Peking University Library, he spent his days immersing himself in books. Even when he was being interviewed by Snow, he paused and postponed the conversation to prioritize reading books on philosophy given to him by a friend. Zhu De likes reading too. He mapped out a study plan of reading Russian books. Peng Dehuai had also emphasized the influence of Chinese and foreign books on him. Many of them learned about Marxism and communism by reading books like the *Communist Manifesto*. In Snow's writing, they were the progressive and learned intellectuals of China at that time. These learning experiences laid the foundation for their later success.

These people can be referred to as extraordinary military strategists, owing to their extensive knowledge and practical expertise in combat. People inside and outside the Soviet area, including Snow himself, expressed admiration and appreciation for their talent. Their military talents can be glimpsed from their discussions, combat experiences and summarized laws. Mao Zedong had a deep understanding of the world situation at that time and had unique insights into the political issues in Britain and the United States. For domestic problems, he also put forward good strategies and solutions. Zhu De is crucial to ensure the fighting capacity of the Red Army. While he was in the south, he fought off four sieges, and often defeated enemy troops with a force inferior in number. Peng Dehuai was renowned for his expertise in guerrilla warfare, which was derived from his own experience. It made the Red Army in a passive situation achieve many victories and was more widely used in the war of resistance against Japan. Lin Biao "was never broken in battle". Many of them have also led worker revolutions and established base areas, which all played an important role in the development of the CPC.

Military leadership does not solely rely on talent, but it also requires a leader's prestige among their soldiers. Communist leaders established their prestige by their care for their troops. They did not look down on anyone. On the contrary, they cared about each soldier. When Mao Zedong told his revolutionary experience, his eyes gradually wetted, because he mentioned the sacrifice of a comrade who had accompanied him for a long time. During the Long march, when Mao saw a comrade injured, he took off his clothes for him to wear, and when he noticed other soldiers without shoes, he took off his shoes and marched alongside them. Zhu De is famous for his deep affection for his men. He often walked and communicated with soldiers. Peng Dehuai is also approachable. When he discussed with little red devils, he "treated them with great dignity". It is because of their love and care for the soldiers that loyalty was fostered, enabling all the CPC members to remain united and overcome challenges together.

Even though they hold important positions, they didn't indulge in any special privileges. They live under the same conditions as other soldiers. "The chief luxury" Mao Zedong

"boasted was a mosquito net", and his "food was the same as everybody's". Mao frequently engaged in conversations with the people, which makes him too normal to be recognized. This stands in stark contrast to Chiang Kai-shek's arrival in Xi'an, where the streets were cleared of pedestrians and had been extravagantly redecorated. These leaders always stood with their soldiers through thick and thin.

The leaders possessed exceptional talent and embodied approachability and a lack of greed for luxury, fostering a fine style within the entire party.

3. Writing Techniques for Image-shaping of the Communist Party of China Members

3.1. Transformation of Narrative Perspective

In *Red Star over China*, different events and characters are presented from various perspectives, allowing readers to grasp the unfolding and development of these events in a comprehensive way. In the beginning, the reader will follow the author's perspective from the National District, the white area, into the Red China, the red zone. As he traveled, he documented his direct encounters with members of the CPC, providing insights into their lives and revealing the social landscape. Throughout the journey, there are so many stories about intriguing characters, often recounted by other communists or themselves.

Therefore, the perspective of character construction can be divided into three perspectives, which are first person, second person and third person. The transformation of narrative perspective is attributed to the identity of Snow as the other.

Firstly, the author's perspective, which is the most prevalent in the book, is written in the third person. Although the entire book is told from the perspective of the other, the description of communists from Snow's perspective is undoubtedly the best representation of this perspective.

The character description from Snow's perspective can be further divided into direct evaluation and indirect description. He often directly evaluates communists based on the information and impressions he obtained from interviews and materials, and his value orientation, which was an ideology he had already formed in his homeland. The latter is very important in cross-cultural writing because it determines the writer's likes or dislikes of a certain culture as the other, thus affecting the image of characters in this culture. He provides adjectives and nouns to describe the traits and appearance of these characters, which is easy for readers to construct an image of them.

When he introduced Zhou Enlai, he directly states, "Chou left me with an impression of a cool logical and empirical mind. He seemed genuinely light-hearted and full of the love of life." This direct evaluation helps readers form a more vivid understanding of Zhou's character. Similarly, when describing the life of the Red Army, Snow used words like "dogged endurance" and "ability to stand hardship without complaint" to highlight the resilience of the Chinese peasants who make up a significant portion of the Red Army. These descriptions emphasize the admirable character of the peasants in the face of adversity.

In addition to the description of personality traits, Snow also described some communists' physical appearance. "I met Mao soon after my arrival: a gaunt, rather Lincolnesque figure, above average height for a Chinese, somewhat stooped, with a height-bridged nose and prominent cheekbones". By using

a few simple words and a simile, Snow enables readers who may not have seen Mao Zedong to quickly form a portrait of him. These direct descriptions are concise and clear, but they highlight the most significant aspects of these characters, which are impressive, so that readers can quickly and accurately construct a three-dimensional, complete, and comprehensive image of the communists.

Indirect description also plays a significant role in Snow's book, which offers a more objective, comprehensive, detailed, and persuasive portrayal of the characters. Despite not being as direct and explicit as the direct evaluation, these indirect descriptions provide a broader understanding of the characters. Snow skillfully utilizes the ups and downs of stories, grand historical scenes, and vivid descriptions of natural and cultural environments to create an immersive atmosphere and enhance the depiction of the characters. In the famous historical event of the Long March, Snow's narrative takes readers through the thrilling journey, showcasing the indomitable and fearless image of the Red Army. He exhibited a keen eye for capturing the details of life and using situational narratives to present dynamic scenes of the communists.

It is noteworthy that Snow's descriptions of events are not mere retellings, but a combination of his own emotions and those of the characters in the text. This approach prevented the narrative from becoming empty or detached and infuses it with warmth and humanity. This is possible due to his deep understanding of the "ontology of feeling" within Yan'an spirit. "I remember that his eyes moistened once or twice when he was speaking of dead comrades or recalling incidents in his youth". Only by reading this can readers feel Mao Zedong's love for the soldiers, and his melancholy about the situation in China at that time. It can also be understood why Snow described Mao as a person with profound emotional depth. These carefully observed details served as authentic evidence reflecting the characters' personalities and emotions.

Snow, as a journalist new to the Red Army, knew as much about them as most readers do, so his perspective from the other is more understandable and intuitive.

Secondly, the book also records many introductions of specific characters by others, which are in the second person. As a journalist who has just arrived in the Soviet area, Snow's contact time with communists is very short and his understanding is not deep enough. Therefore, hasty introduction or evaluation may be biased. At this point, citing people who are familiar with the subject will be more accurate and comprehensive.

There is not much space in the book to record this narrative perspective, mainly including Li Changlin's account of He Long, the records of military activities during the United Front propaganda period involving Peng Dehuai, and Wells' interview with Zhu De. These three examples have different forms and meanings. First, the story of He Long is told by Li Changlin to the author on the march, in the form of dialogue, which not only promotes the development of the plot but also inserts background information about He that enriches his character image. Second, the role of military activities recorded in the book is to explain united front strategies and demonstrate how it was implemented. However, objectively speaking, the entire part revolves around how Peng Dehuai carried out the implementation of the united front, showcasing his image in his work. Third, because Snow not seeing Zhu De himself, and the materials collected later also had many inaccuracies, Zhu's part cited the record of Wells,

who came to the Soviet area to interview after Snow. By citing others' descriptions and evaluations of characters, the book improves its descriptive materials, offers varied perspectives, adds credibility, and provides readers with more reference materials to make more accurate judgments about the character's image.

Thirdly, Snow incorporated direct quotes from his interviewees, presenting their perspectives in the first person. Only quoting the interviewee's words in their original form can give emotional power to the text. One of the most impactful direct quotes in the book comes from Mao Zedong. The author uses a part to record what Mao said during the interview with him, which runs through Mao's life including his growth and revolutionary career. On the one hand, this can allow readers to directly experience the emotions and impressions that Snow encountered while listening to Mao's story. On the other hand, it also creates a window for readers to understand Mao independently free from Snow's influence, enabling an objective presentation of Mao's image. The inclusion of numerous direct quotes in the book serves to recount historical events and stories, involving communists' features. By incorporating intertextual texts, Snow not only expanded depth to the historical narrative but also enhanced the narrative tension. Snow "adopts a rational approach to minimize the authority of the author, aiming to avoid any preconceived notions or personalized narrative voices" and "relies on direct quotes to promote objectivity and create a non-personalized narrative effect".

General speaking, Snow achieved a balance between subjectivity and objectivity, literature and journalism, as well as rationality and sensibility through shifting perspectives. Undoubtedly, this skillful transformation, along with his exceptional writing abilities, imbued stories with vividness and romance without compromising historical gravity, engaging readers while maintaining journalistic objectivity.

3.2. Contrast

It is worth noting that there is so much content in the book about the CPC beyond solely focusing on it or its members. One reason is historical. These parts are related to it. But another important reason is for contrast.

"With the existence of social life, there is contradiction and opposition, and writing novels requires efforts to explore the surprising effects of both opposing sides." Contrast is a common technique in writing. It can achieve the effect of highlighting the subject, making their image more vivid. It gives readers a more intuitive feeling through strong conflicts and contradictions, so that they can quickly understand the meaning that the author wants to express. Moreover, the shaping of characters also relies on contrast. By comparing the two or more, readers can have a more accurate understanding of the character and be more convinced of the author's viewpoint. Simply listing and describing characters individually will make them appear shallow and unrealistic.

In a turbulent era, change and dissimilarity became the main theme of the time, and Snow clearly grasped this important characteristic to shape the uniqueness of the members of CPC that sets them apart from the past and other parties. He, as the other, viewed these parties objectively and comprehensively.

The difference between the CPC members and Kuomintang members is mainly reflected in the following aspects:

Firstly, there was a huge difference in their living

environment and habits, highlighting that the communists did not care about material conditions, and their unwavering dedication to the revolutionary cause. The living conditions of the Red Army were extremely poor. The northwest region was a relatively depressed region in China at that time, with a backward economic situation. Even though they are lacking material possessions, they embraced a rich spiritual life. Political classes, passionate discussions on relevant topics, and theater performances were commonplace. On the contrary, the Kuomintang army exhibited decadence and the leaders indulged in extravagance. Most of the army were opium addicts. Their leaders were more wasteful. The Kuomintang received hundreds of times more foreign aid than the CPC. However, instead of investing the funds in the army, the money often found its way into the pockets of officials. Snow pointed out directly that "It was a fact that the Reds had no high-paid and squeezing officials and generals". All these reflect the communists' steadfast pursuit of their ideals and their indifference to material possessions.

The second difference lies in the caliber of the leaders. There is no denying that many of the Kuomintang generals possessed a high level of military and political education, but time and again they were dwarfed by the awe-inspiring accomplishments of the communist leadership. The introduction of Zhu De included that he led the Red Army in the Long March and preserved an army under exceedingly difficult conditions. Snow did not believe that any of the Kuomintang generals, including Chiang Kai-shek, could have achieved such a remarkable feat. Zhu is unrivalled in military strategy and tactical handling in China. And, though the communists were all very talented, they remained humble and dedicated to their respective roles. Zhu and Mao Zedong each did their best in their respective positions. However, within the Kuomintang, there were division and opposition among various factions, which Snow believed was an important reason for its failure.

Finally, the attitude of the two towards the people is different. "The Red Army was good to people and did not rob them and beat them like the White armies." A remark by a young man who wanted to join the Red Army encapsulated this striking difference. The communists demonstrated the commitment to serving the people and understanding their hardships. They actively assisted peasants in cultivating their land, prohibited from taking away the meager possessions of the masses, and continuously worked to improve the living standards of the people. However, the scenes of the people in the White districts were harrowing. The people endured oppressive taxation, persistent famine, disease, and natural disasters. Many were frail and emaciated. Officials here occupied vast lands and looted people who are impoverished. Even in Shanghai, one could witness the plight of enslaved workers toiling day and night, poor individuals searching for scraps, and the tragic sight of starving infants. The most horrific thing was the Kuomintang's ruthless act of massacring an entire village to eradicate the communists. It was the CPC's love for the people and the Kuomintang's cruelty that led the people to join the CPC willingly and actively, while the Kuomintang resorted to forced enlistment.

Similarly, Snow believed that the Red Army was too hard to beat. Compared with the British, American, French, Japanese, Italian and German armies with which he was familiar, he did not think they could withstand the intense and difficult daily conditions of the Red Army.

Snow employed deliberate contrast techniques in order to

emphasize the favorable portrayal of the communists and conveyed his admiration and appreciation for communists to readers.

4. Summary

Red Star over China undoubtedly played a great role in the public opinion and propaganda of the CPC, both then and now. With this book, Edgar snow began a new career of learning about and talking about the CPC. His series of books together build a true and complete history of the Communist revolution and the image pedigree of the CPC members, among which this book occupies a particularly important position.

In this book, there is a group of people who put the interests of the people, the society, and the country first, while ignoring their own interests. The communists had strong beliefs. With the support of faith, they never forgot their original aspiration and mission, and continued to fight for the Chinese nation and the Chinese people. They were not tempted by interests, not beaten down by difficulties, and not scared away by dangers. On the contrary, they remained optimistic. The communist leaders were a group of intellectuals with high military skills but considerate soldiers and simple lives. The female members were a group of warriors as brave as the male soldiers and talented organizers. The little soldiers are young, but they have strong self-esteem and work ability. These communists come from different places, different ages, and different identities, but the good qualities in them have shock Snow and every reader.

Readers can easily understand the image of the CPC members in their own minds thanks to Snow's superb writing skills. He uses the change of perspective to make the images more real and complete. The contrast between the communists and the nationalists and foreign armies highlights the image of the communists and makes their characteristics more obvious.

Snow's unique perspective of the other makes the image of the communists in his works objective, real, vivid, and three-dimensional. These images and their features also reflect the

author's attitude for the CPC and its members that is admiration and praise, with a objective eyes from a journalist and humanist.

Acknowledgment

This work was financially supported by fund from Hunan Provincial Social Science Foundation for Foreign Language Research Joint Project (No.21WLH21) and Scientific Research Project of Hunan Provincial Department of Education(No.22B0449)

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